

Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2001 (sold in a 3pk 1999/2000/2001)

CSPC# 758955

750mlx1

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Julien

General Info

Classified 2nd growth in 1855. Château Ducru-Beaucaillou is named after the beautiful, large stones found in its unique wine-growing terroir. The exceptional ecosystem produces fine, elegant, tasty wines, with a long finish - in short, archetypal Saint-Julien wines. Perched on an exceptional site with incomparable views over the Gironde estuary, in the centre of a hundred-year-old park, Ducru Beaucaillou is a majestic Victorian-style castle which has, over time, become one of the great symbols of the Medoc. Unusually for Bordeaux, it is built directly above the barrel cellars, enveloping its owners, who have lived here for over sixty years, in the sumptuous aromas of their wine. Today, the estate is managed by the company Jean Eugène Borie SA, which is owned by Mrs. Borie, her daughter Sabine Coiffe and her son Bruno-Eugène, CEO since 2003, the third generation of the Borie family to head the estate.

Vineyards

Soil: Günz gravel dating from the early quaternary period; Area: 75 hectares

Average age of the vines: 35 years; Density of the vines: 10000 feet per hectare:

Maturation

Aged for 18 months in 95% new French oak barrels, other 5% of barrels are one year old. Lower yields (down by about 20%) have led to increased concentration compared to previous vintages. The barrels are all made from oak of French origin that is dried naturally outdoors. Regular topping-ups are carried out during the first six months of ageing. The wines, which are racked every 2 to 3 months, undergo a total of seven rackings during their élevage. They are fined in barrel by the traditional method. Bottling takes place under sterile conditions using inert gas. Only carefully selected first quality 54 mm-long natural corks are used. Our bottles, engraved Ducru-Beaucaillou, are laser marked and bear a label protected by a hologram.

Tasting Notes

One of Bordeaux's shining lights in terms of both quality and consistency over the last decade, the 2001 is no exception. As with the other wines in François-Xavier Borie's care the beautiful, pure ripeness of fruit and vanilla oak hints immediately win you over. But Ducru is in another league to its stablemates. Viscous yet deliciously silky, it boasts blackberries and cream, spices, leather and firm ripe tannins on the palate. With a generous 30% Merlot in the blend, this is as well-balanced, elegantly structured and rewarding as ever. Drink 2008-2025.

Cellaring

Drink 2008-2025

Scores/Awards

92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2004

92-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2002

89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #153 - June 2004

89-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003

90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #140 - April 2002

92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2011

91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2008

91 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2004

19.5 points/5 stars - Decanter.com - April 2010

93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 29, 2012

17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

16.5 points - La Revue du Vin de France (score only)

2 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2005 (score only)



- Reviews** *“Loads of crushed berries on the nose, with hints of flowers and minerals. Very aromatic. Full-bodied, with fine tannins and a long, cappuccino and berry aftertaste. Really refined. Best after 2009.”*
- JS, Wine Spectator
- “Chewy and racy, with firm tannins and a long mineral, fruity finish. Very solid and typical in style. Score range: 92-94”*
- JS, Wine Spectator
- “Somewhat light-bodied for a Ducru, with a 1999-like personality, this blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet Franc is a forward, medium-bodied, pretty effort revealing notes of cranberries, black cherries, cassis, and earth. Full of finesse, but lacking concentration as well as depth, it should be consumed over the next 10-12 years.”*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- “A quintessentially elegant effort, the 2001 offers notes of liquified minerals intermixed with raspberries and a hint of vanilla. This medium-bodied, moderately tannic, stylish wine recalls the excellent 1999 as well as the under-rated 1981. It is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet Franc. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2015.”*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- “The 2001 is a medium-bodied, pure example displaying notes of red and black currants intermixed with minerals, spice box, and hints of cedar as well as toast. A late harvest (October 1-12) produced a surprisingly fruit-driven, pure, up-front 2001 Ducru. Xavier Borie thinks this blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet Franc is “better than the 1999, riper, denser, and fuller.” When tasted next to the 1999, the only difference is a firmer style of tannin in the 2001, whereas the 1999 is pure charm and elegance. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2016.”*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- “Tasted at Farr’s Ducru-Beaucaillou dinner at the Ledbury. The 2001 Ducru is showing very well, better than I expected given its performances a few years ago. Here, it has a warm, rounded, almost sensual bouquet with black fruits, bay leaf and cedar – certainly more generous and expressive than the 2000 but without the same level of complexity or delineation. The palate is just entertaining the notion of secondary flavours with some intriguing gamey notes infusing the dark black fruit with the finish seasoned by the Cabernet Franc. This should drink well over the next decade. Tasted October 2010.”*
- NM, Wine Journal
- “This is very closed on the nose: cigar box, gravel, blackberry and sous-bois. Broody and reticent. The palate is full-bodied, well-balanced with good fruit concentration on the blackcurrant and strawberry flavoured middle. Cohesive, slightly furry finish that just lacks a little persistency. Fine. Tasted October 2007.”*
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Moderately saturated ruby-red. Aromas of redcurrant, cedar and tobacco. At once juicy and soft, with currant and tobacco flavors. Offers a silky texture and lovely volume but not quite the structure or grip of the 2002. But this is lush, captivating claret.”*
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- “Very big wine with a huge colour, smooth, tobacco-y fruit, fine intensity of extraction with silky tannins, a wine with superb texture and great depth.”*
- Decanter.com
- “Coffee, truffle, wet earth, black cherry and spice aromas lead to a soft, round, open, medium bodied, polished style of Ducru Beaucaillou. This is ready for prime time drinking today.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
-