

Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2019

CSPC# 844657

750mlx6

14.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot

Appellation

Saint Julien

Classification

Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

Website

<http://www.chateau-ducru-beaucaillou.com/site2006-va/index.html>

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.

Winemaker

Rene Lusseau

Vintage

It looks like the 2019 vintage was, once again, a winegrower's vintage.

Season after season, this vintage demanded observation, analysis, rigour, advance preparation. The winegrower, at one with nature, before benefiting from the exceptional summer conditions, knew how to deal with the mixed spring weather, how to assess the risks, how to understand the temperament of each plot. Without doubt, we can't say often enough how much talent is brought together in our rows of vines, to work this beautiful material cleanly, sustainably, passionately.

A radiant wine-growing summer after a spring of twists and turns. Excess rainfall in April, fine weather in May, a sharp return to cool temperatures in early June; heatwaves at the end of June and July (and therefore with no risk of sunburn at this stage of the cycle), almost no rain over the whole of the summer and until the end of harvest, very moderate temperatures in August and September (again avoiding the risk of burning exposed berries).

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.

Harvest

The very good weather in August and September, combined with mild temperatures, allowed the grapes to flourish calmly. At the end of September, when the Merlot offered itself complacently to our secateurs, the Cabernet Sauvignon was still not ready... The light rains on Sunday 22, Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 September restarted the ripening process. At the turn of the month, the Cabernet Sauvignon finally underwent its transformation to excellence.

Vinification/ Maturation

To produce the wine of Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou, the grapes are allowed to macerate for close to 7 days. Vinification takes place in stainless steel vats of various sizes allowing for a plot-by-plot vinification. The entire process takes about two weeks, with frequency of pumping over and exact temperature tailored to each individual vat. Malolactic fermentation takes place in concrete vats. Aged 18 months in 100% new barriques.

Tasting Notes

Deep, intense, brilliant purple-black color. Vivid and attractive. Aromas redolent of black fruits, hint of graphite and violets. Powerful and elegant structure, fleshy, rich, polished tannins, remarkable length risen by a wonderful freshness. A new standard.

Serve with

Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.

Production

7,000 cases made.

Cellaring

Drink 2029-2065



Scores/Awards **96+ points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022
97-100 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020
98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022
99-100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020
97-99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020
98 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020
98 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022
99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022
98-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020
95-97 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020
98 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022
96-98 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020
97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022
94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020
100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022
97-100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020
98-99 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020
19 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022
16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020

Reviews *"Powerful and muscular, the 2019 Ducru-Beaucaillou offers up aromas of cassis, raspberries and cherries mingled with notions of violets and iris, framed by a generous application of creamy new oak. Full-bodied, velvety, and concentrated, it's rich but lively, with a deep core of fruit and an ample endowment of ripe, powdery tannins. Fuller maturity and a more rigorous selection over the last two decades have brought what proprietor Bruno Borie characterizes as additional "punch" to this wine, in the form of unprecedented levels of anthocyanins and tannins, but all that substance and structure will require some patience before we'll see if Ducru is still Saint-Julien's most elegant wine. (WK) 96."*
- WK, Wine Advocate

"This year the blend is 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot. The alcohol weighed in at 14.2%, while the pH is 3.8 and the IPT is 88. It will mature for 18 months in French oak barrels, 100% new. Opaque purple-black in color, the 2019 Ducru-Beaucaillou explodes from the glass with bombastic notes of crème de cassis, blueberry pie and plum preserves plus hints of candied violets, dark chocolate, licorice, wild fungi, crushed rocks, and tilled soil with a touch of mossy bark. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is a tightly wound coil poised to spring out with layer upon layer of minerals, rich black fruits, and floral notes, framed by very firm, exquisitely ripe tannins and electric freshness, finishing long and incredibly layered. WOW!"
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"This is so seductive on the nose, with perfumes of violets, blackcurrants, raspberries, and orange peel. Subtle. Ethereal. Full-bodied with such fine tannins and delicacy, with great length and beauty. Sophisticated and refined. Really amazing purity and depth. Great length, too. Leave this for at least five or six years"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A very powerful Ducru with intense tannins and backbone, showing blue fruit, black tea, and tobacco. Full-bodied with impressive structure and so much tannin. It goes on for minutes. Very traditional. Owner Bruno Borie said it is a wine to last forever and I have to agree. 80% cabernet sauvignon and 20% merlot."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Dark and firm, this grandiose wine is powerful and dense. One of the best vintages from this estate, it has major black fruit flavors that are layered against a massive structure. Spice, tannins, and black plum skin flavors are coming together into an impressive wine that will age for many, many years."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Inky depths to the concentrated ruby colour, the Cabernet Sauvignon imposes itself strongly from the first moment. No question that we are slap-bang in St Julien here, in the heart of this appellation's signature, with its elegance, balance and hidden power. At first the wine feels taut and austere but performs the trick of changing as it travels through the palate, and by the end of play the texture is almost creamy, with blackberry, bilberry, black chocolate, cigar box, slate, and liquorice. A big accomplishment, making this an unmissable Ducru."
- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

"This is brimming with personality, with inky depths to the colour and clear austerity on the opening beats. As it opens, the concentrated cassis and blueberry fruits switch from being stretched taut to a softer creamy texture. Full of precision and skillful blending of liquorice, cigar box and bitter dark chocolate with fresh acidities that hold right through the core of the wine. Signature St Julien elegance but with uncompromising swagger, one of the wines of the vintage. Blends are exactly as they were during En Primeur, with even the press wines added before the En Primeur tastings, and it is delivering on promise. 100% new oak (with the staves unusually seasoned for six years before being made into barrels), 3.8ph. 300th vintage of Ducru."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Inky, deep, shiny purple in color, the wine looks just great in your glass. From there, the nose with its potent bouquet of creme de cassis, blackberries, and blueberries, along with complexities of licorice, smoke, espresso, cigar box, tobacco leaf, flowers, spice, and lead pencil begin to reel you in. There is depth, concentration, and richness, yet the wine is fresh, balanced, pure, and vibrant. The almost seamless finish resonates with layers of mouth-filling, opulent, sensuous, creamy black and blue fruits that stick with you for over 50 seconds. It is going to be a treat to taste and compare the 18, 19, and 20 for the next generations. Give this beauty sometime in the cellar and you will have one of the wines of the vintage. Drink from 2030-2060."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep, dark almost opaque in color, the wine is packed to the gills with smoke, flowers, black currants, bitter chocolate, and black cherries, Full-bodied, intense, concentrated and palate coating, everything is in perfect harmony here, Long, lush, opulent, and most importantly, with this gorgeous sense of purity to the fruits and chocolate overtones, the finish passes the 60-second mark with ease. The blend was made with 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot and is aging in 100% new, French oak barrels. The wine reached 14.2% alcohol with a pH of 3.8. The harvest took place from September 20 to October 3. A nice tidbit for you, the Cabernet was harvested in only 3 days, October 1-3 with 180 pickers. The Grand Vin was produced from only 27% of the harvest with yields averaging 35 hectoliters per hectare."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep ruby purple in the glass with oily, rich blueberry and blackcurrant fruit on the nose. The palate is tightly wound and dense, unfurling with notes of tobacco, dark chocolate, and rich cassis. Grippy with waves of chewy but ripe tannins, this is a structured vin de garde that will need time in the bottle - but there is great potential here. The long, incense and bramble finish is testament to this. A powerful Ducru Beaucaillou."

- Farr Vintners

"The 2019 Ducru Beaucaillou, which was matured in 100% new oak for 12 months, has a glorious bouquet of cigar humidor, cedar, black fruit, and a touch of black truffle, very complex and quite compelling. The palate is still very Pauillac-inspired in style, and finely proportioned, with chiseled tannins. Displaying superb clarity and salinity on the finish, this feels very persistent and utterly charming. It will repay a decade in bottle and then last several more. I believe this will outperform the 2018 in the long run."

- NM, Vinous

"I tasted the 2019 Ducru Beaucaillou four times in 12-hour intervals from opening. It has a splendid bouquet centered around black fruit laced with graphite, Montecristo cigars and hints of sage and cedar. This is one of the most Pauillac-like Ducru's that I have encountered at this stage. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannins, pitch perfect acidity and a sensual, satin-like texture that could seduce from miles away. There is a sense of completeness surrounding this Second Growth, charming you surfeit with nobility and outstanding in terms of persistence. Fabulous. 2026 – 2060"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Ducru-Beaucaillou is a seriously impressive wine. Seamless and yet potent, the 2019 is so alluring. Even so, readers should not plan on opening a bottle anytime soon. A wine of tremendous gravitas and power, the 2019 possesses explosive energy to play off its seamless personality. I can't wait to watch the 2019 develop over the coming years and decades, as it possesses notable energy and a compelling interplay of opulence and elegance. Drink 2029-2059."

- AG, Vinous

Reviews

“The 2019 Ducru-Beaucaillou is fabulous. Inky and beautifully textured to the core, the 2019 possesses tremendous density and volume. Crème de cassis, chocolate, licorice, spice, menthol, and lavender all build in the glass. A wine of noble beauty and depth, the 2019 Ducru has so much to offer. The 2019 is a bit higher in Merlot than has often been the case. It will see about 18 months in new French oak.”

- AG, Vinous

“The wine of the vintage in Saint-Julien, if not all of the Médoc, the 2019 Château Ducru-Beaucaillou is based on 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot, aged in 100% new French oak, that hit a natural alcohol of 14.2% with a monster IPT (number of tannins) of 88. It's certainly one of the most concentrated Saint-Julien, revealing a dense purple hue to go with a stacked bouquet of crème de cassis, freshly sharpened pencils, damp clay, tobacco, and hints of spring flowers. Concentrated, full-bodied, and powerful, it has incredible tannins, flawless balance, and a gorgeous finish. While most estates today are playing it safe and producing more ethereal, elegant wines that drink well right out of the gate, thankfully, this estate continues to make concentrated, powerful, age-worthy wines, and this heavenly beauty is as good as it gets! It will need a decade of bottle age to hit the early stages of maturity and will evolve for 50 years or more. Bravo to Bruno Borie!”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Just as concentrated yet more elegant, the flagship 2019 Château Ducru-Beaucaillou checks in as a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot raised in new French oak. It offers a gorgeous bouquet of pure crème de cassis and blueberry fruit that just screams of Cabernet Sauvignon. Deep purple-hued, with plenty of lead pencil, graphite, and floral notes, it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, a deep, layered mid-palate, straight-up awesome tannins, and a monster of a finish. It's another magical wine in the making from this château. Give bottles a decade in the cellar if you can (it's going to be incredibly enjoyable in its youth as well), and it will evolve for 40-50 years or more.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The nose is elegant and offers power (in finesse/controlled), a beautiful racy grain and a good definition. It reveals notes of boysenberry, fleshy/juicy strawberry, small notes of small wild fruits associated with fine touches of cornflower, pulpy/juicy violet plum as well as fine hints of tobacco, very discreet hints of Cuban pepper, tonka bean, caramelized almond, and an imperceptible hint of coffee (in the background). The palate is elegant, very finely tight, racy and offers a good definition, complexity, a beautiful silky/delicate touch, a beautiful finesse of the suavity/fat, tension, a racy power (in finesse/controlled) as well as a good guideline and finesse of the tension. On the palate this wine expresses notes of blackberry, cassis, small notes of wild strawberry associated with small touches of small ripe/crushed red berries as well as hints of mild tobacco, tonka bean, mocha, cardamom, a subtle hint of zan, juicy violet plum, discreet hints of coffee, vanilla, and an imperceptible almost saline hint (in the background). Tannins are precise, structuring, coating. Good length. Like a square of silk, we perceive thousands of small grains/threads that melt in the mouth.”

- Vert de Vin
