

# Château Ducru Beaucaillou 1982

CSPC# 831604

750mlx6

13.95% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% 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.

## Vintage

The winter was mild and rainy. After a warm and dry spring, flowering began at the end of May and continued into June. A very hot summer allows a spectacular grape development. Occasional thunderstorms brought just the required amount of water. The first two weeks of September were particularly hot stressing plants on gravelly soils. At the time of picking the grapes were very ripe with low acidity levels and fine tannins. The harvest began September 16th and lasted for 17 days.

## 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 harvest started with the picking of the Merlots on the 29th of September and ended on the 14th of October with that of the last Cabernet Sauvignons. After all the mixed berry-sized clusters (especially the Merlots due to poor flowering) were eliminated in the vineyard, only perfect fruit as brought into the cellars. The berries, ideally matured and perfectly wholesome, were famously small, sweet to the extreme, and tasty at will. The skins were firm and very ripe, and the relatively small pips reached a fair level of maturity.

## 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

The colour is dark and voluptuous. The bouquet outstandingly rich, displays aromas of blackberries and cherries. In the mouth, the wine is full-bodied, rich and velvety. The palate is long developing aromas of berries. It is well-balanced.

## Cellaring

Drink 1995-2020

## Scores/Awards

**91 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - November 30, 1998

**91 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - July 31, 1997

**90 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - October 15, 1992

**93 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - August 31, 1992

**92 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 1985 (no review)



**Scores/Awards** **96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #183 - June 2009  
**94 points** - Robert Parker, Bordeaux Book 4<sup>th</sup> Edition - January 2003  
**94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #129 - June 2000**94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #102 - December 1995  
**96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #95 - October 1994  
**96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #88 - August 1993  
**91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2013  
**90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2011  
**90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2010  
**90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2010  
**88-89 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2003  
**87 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - July/August 2002  
**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - August 2007 (no review)  
**96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2012  
**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 7, 2012  
**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - November 15, 2011  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 1, 2011  
**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 17, 2004  
**94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 20, 2004

**Reviews** *"This Ducru '82 has always been a beauty. Dark ruby in color, with a slight amber edge. Very fresh and floral, with loads of berry and rose character. Medium-bodied, with a good balance of soft tannins and a caressing finish. --1982 Bordeaux horizontal. Drink now."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"True to the vintage; exotic and ample, with licorice, tar and plum aromas and ripe, rich plum and coffee flavors. Still very young. Drinkable now, but better after 1995. --Ducru-Beaucaillou vertical."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Supple and generous in flavor, with lovely layers of smoothly polished berry, earthy mushroom, sweet smoke and spice notes. A classic Ducru, with perhaps a little extra power. --1982 Bordeaux horizontal."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Wonderfully proportioned, with captivating violet and berry aromas and excellent fruit flavors, medium body, silky tannins and a long-lasting tobacco finish. A lovely glass of wine now, but better from 1995 to '98. --1982 Bordeaux horizontal."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"At a charity dinner in Charleston, SC, the 1982 Ducru Beaucaillou from my cellar was the only corked bottle out of twenty-two. A subsequent tasting revealed one of the all-time great Ducru's, probably matched or eclipsed by several recent vintages (i.e., 2003, 2005, 2006, and 2008). The 1982 is still 5-8 years away from full maturity, but it exhibits a dense ruby/plum/garnet color to the rim as well as a sweet perfume of forest floor, spice box, cedar, and copious quantities of black fruits. Medium to full-bodied and beautifully pure with sweet tannins, this wine has aged more slowly than I initially expected. It is the finest Ducru Beaucaillou produced after the 1961 and before the 2003. With respect to the 1990, I do not own any of this wine, but it was the last of a series of vintages between 1986 and 1990 that were affected by the TCA-like contamination in the estate's chai, which was completely destroyed and then rebuilt, eliminating the source of these smells. Not every bottle is affected by this, but I do not have any source for this vintage."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"One of the few top Médoc's that seems to be close to full maturity, the 1982 Ducru-Beaucaillou shows a dense, almost inky, plum/garnet color, a striking nose of minerals intermixed with cedar, black currant, autumnal leaves, and spice box. The wine is chewy and opulent, particularly for a Ducru-Beaucaillou, with a lot of flesh and concentration. The tannins are still there, but are sweet, and the velvety finish is suggestive of a wine that has entered its plateau of maturity. A gorgeous effort, and certainly the best Ducru-Beaucaillou until the mid- to late nineties. Anticipated maturity: Now-2016. Last tasted, 9/02."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*"A wine of extraordinary aromatic complexity and finesse, this sweet effort possesses a dark ruby color with a pink rim. Once past the gloriously complex aromatics (blueberries, black currants, minerals, and underbrush), the wine reveals terrific fruit intensity, excellent harmony, medium body, sweet tannin, and a long finish. This superb, elegant 1982 has achieved full maturity, but it promises to last for another 15+ years."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Flawless from cask, the bottled wine has finally emerged from a long dormancy when it was forbiddingly backward and impenetrable. It is unquestionably the finest Ducru-Beaucaillou following the 1961. I do not think the estate has produced any wine since that can be said to be as complete and concentrated as the 1982. Although the 1982 is beginning to reveal some lightening at the edge, it still exhibits an impressively saturated ruby/purple color. The wine offers a classic St.-Julien/Pauillac aromatic profile - intense cedar, some blackcurrants, a touch of oak, and good spice. Rich and more full-bodied than normal, this chewy, concentrated, moderately tannic Ducru can be drunk with considerable pleasure, but ideally it should be cellared for another 3-4 years. It should last through the first two decades of the next century. Tasted 9 times since bottling with inconsistent notes."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted 11 Times Since Bottling with Consistent Notes. Just beginning to blossom and open, the 1982 Ducru-Beaucaillou is unquestionably the finest wine made at this estate since 1961. The concentrated, viscous, dark ruby/purple color is followed by explosive aromas of spring flowers, blackcurrants, minerals, and toast. It is fuller-bodied than normal, with remarkable delineation, great richness, and that wonderful sweetness that is a hallmark of this vintage. This long, exceptionally well-focused, classic Ducru should reach its peak in 3-5 years and last through the first two or three decades of the next century."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at Pebbles/Zachy's 1982 dinner in Hong Kong. I have never been a huge fan of this Ducru Beaucaillou, although this is definitely one of the better bottles that I have encountered. It is less dusty and austere on the nose than I expected, less subdued here with mulberry and mint notes informing the lifted black fruit. The palate is nicely balanced and slightly animally (a touch of Brettanomyces making sure this Saint Julien loses it concentration for a moment.) There is good length here, but it does not really "take off" in the way that Leoville Poyferre '82 or Gruaud Larose '82 does, the burly tertiary finish resolutely foursquare. It is just a little sullen and conservative. Tasted November 2012."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted from magnum at Farr's Ducru-Beaucaillou dinner at the Ledbury. I maintain my view that this is a decent but not remarkable Ducru and here it has a conservative nose with an odd hint of light fuel that seems to dissipate with aeration. I just the fruit a little subdued considering the vintage. The palate has a sweet entry with touches of bitter cherry and earthy red fruits. Surprisingly tart and linear this is an odd showing (88). A second magnum purloined from an adjacent table is better, showing more harmony and less piquancy. It has good structure and a firm backbone, perhaps more like Leoville Las-Cases '82 in style with a tertiary finish. I feel this is more representative. Tasted October 2010."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Served at the Ducru offline in London. A very similar note to the month before, very foursquare and conservative on the nose, dark berried fruits, quite austere, correct but what you might describe as a "no frills" '82, perhaps this example more tertiary than before. The palate shows good structure, earthy and with a stiff backbone, quite linear towards the finish but it does not muster the pizzazz that you yearn for. Drink now-2020. Tasted September 2009."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"1982 Ducru Beaucaillou is packed with explosive, spicy aromatics, cedar wood, truffle and wet earth. Intense, rich and powerful, the wine offers soft, round textures and a silky, cassis and spice box finish."*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

## Reviews

*"Tasted at the 1982 dinner at The Square. The Ducru '82 is adorned with a conservative bouquet: red-berried fruit, leather, dried meats (Italian salami), cedarwood and smoke. There is an austerity here, very strict and not as flamboyant as either Gruaud Larose or Ducru Beaucaillou. The palate is medium bodied with firm tannins, leather dark fruit, a touch of black pepper and tobacco, undergrowth and 'damp moss' scent inflecting the finish. It has a stately quality that is carried off better by the Grand-Puy-Lacoste, but this is still better than other bottles I have encountered. Drink now-2020. Tasted August 2009."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"First tasted in July 2001 at dinner at the chateau: a brick coloured rim. Nose is tight and earthy. Cigar box. Not as opulent as Cos d'Estournel 1982. More rigid and less flamboyant. Autumnal. Needs a little more time. This did not move me. Tasted at a gala dinner at the chateau. Then at the Ducru vertical in November 2003: Quite a deep garnet core. The nose has moderate intensity with some wild strawberry. But like the palate lacks vitality and complexity. The palate is foursquare, devoid of the hot summer fruits and raisins that are often found in this vintage. A leathery finish. It's just too conservative for me."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Full ruby-red. Slightly musty aromas of currant and cigar box. Fat and full, but with an intrusive dry edge suppressing the wine fruit and verve and repeating on the finish. I've had a couple of better bottles of this wine, but it apparent that the cellar pollution problems that plagued this chateau between 1985 and the early '90s were already an issue as early as '82. (A second sample showed a more perfumed nose of cherry, cedar and earth but also a distinctly dusty character. This sample showed a bit more mid-palate sweetness, but here, too, the fruit was somewhat dried by the wine dusty character, and the finish was likewise dry-edged; I scored this sample 89.)"*

- ID, International Wine Cellar

*"This looked like a perfect bottle. High fill, spinning capsule and the wine had great, deep color. But with all that, and a nose of smoke, truffle, blackberry, cedar wood, caramel, cassis and earth, this bottle did not open as well as expected. There was a tart character and more of a rustic, masculine quality to the wine that is not typical, for this normally, charming Bordeaux wine. Even with a few hours in the glass, the wine never developed well. I've tasted better bottles."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Light ruby in color, with tobacco, earth, cedar wood, lead pencil, earth and black cherry scents. Full bodied, soft textured and silky, this bottle is fully mature. The wine ends with a refined, spicy, cherry finish. This bottle was better in texture, but less interesting on the nose than other bottles I've had. That old saying is proven true once again. After 20 years, there is no such thing as great wines. There are only great bottles."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"At close to 30 years of age, this remarkable St. Julien is still young, vibrant and fresh! Tobacco, cedar chest, truffles, cassis, Asian spice and damp forest floor scents exude from the glass. Powerful, full bodied and packed with juicy, ripe, blackberries, the wine fills your mouth with sweet, spicy, ripe, black and red fruits. This is a great Bordeaux drinking experience and it's only going to get better over the 10-20 more years, provided the wine is well stored."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Vanilla, eucalyptus, licorice, and black currants jumped from the glass after 10 minutes. This full-bodied wine delivers an elegant finish that coats your mouth with ripe, black fruit. No hurry to drink this as it has a long future ahead."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Dark, purple, ruby with light edges. The nose sports herbs, cassis and earthy truffle scents. The wine is elegant on the palate with a beautiful finish."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

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