

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

CSPC# 758955

750mlx1

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot

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

Located to the south-east of the appellation, plantings consist of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. All grapes are harvested manually and vinified by plot. Large pebbles with alluvial soil deposits and clay characterise the terroir of this 75-hectare estate. Average age of the vines: 35 years; Density of the vines: 10000 feet per hectare:

Maturation

Aged for 18 months in 80% new French oak barrels, other 20% of barrels are one year old. 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 deep concentrated fruit is still masked by some very high-quality oak. Very subdued this is a brooding wine and one that will require some years before opening out. Just as good as you would expect from this flourishing super-second growth.

Production

17,500 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2004-2018

Scores/Awards

91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
89 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2002
88-90 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2000
91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #140 - April 2002
90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001
90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #128 - April 2000
92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2010
92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2009
91 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only)
16 points - Decanter.com - April 2002
90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 18, 2013
15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)
15 points - La Revue du Vin de France (score only)
2 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2003 (score only)



Reviews

"I love the aromas of chocolate, walnut, dark berries and flowers. Full-bodied, with super silky tannins and a fresh, fruity finish. The mouthfeel is wonderful. Really silky. Just coming around now. Yes. —'89/'99 Bordeaux blind retrospective (2009). Drink now. 17,500 cases made."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Firm and silky red, with spices, berries and cinnamon. Medium-bodied, with firm tannins and a medium finish. Very good Ducru. Best from 2003 through 2007. 17,500 cases made."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Solid core of ripe fruit and tannins in this wine. Interesting aromas of spices, berries and cinnamon. Medium-bodied, with firm tannins and a medium finish. Score range: 88-90"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"The deep purple-colored 1999 Ducru Beaucaillou, which represents 60% of the crop, offers aromas of crushed stones, raspberry liqueur, and black currants. This sweet, pure, and harmonious wine possesses elegance, finesse, and multiple nuances rather than power, concentration, and structure. This is Bordeaux at its finest."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Superb raspberry/blueberry aromas combine with floral/mineral notes to create a nuanced bouquet in this classic, measured, subtle, graceful effort. Medium-bodied as well as beautifully rich and textured, this is Bordeaux at its finest and most delicate. Anticipated maturity: 2004-2020."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Ducru-Beaucaillou is always elegant and complex. The 1999 exhibits an evolved character. This property has been making superb wines since the mid-nineties, and the 1999 is a complete, open-knit offering that depends more on its finesse, multiple aromatic dimensions, and sheer delicacy than power. Ripe, medium to full-bodied, with excellent density, sweet tannin, and delicious symmetry, it will undoubtedly close down after bottling, and require 3-4 years of cellaring. It will keep for two decades."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Served at the Ducru offline in London, the '99 is a Saint Julien that over-achieves in this mediocre growing season. Although it is slightly muffled on the nose at first, it opens up nicely with red-berried fruit, sandalwood, leather, cedar and a touch of spice. Good vigour and delineation. The palate is medium-bodied and very well balanced, gentle grip, almost Burgundian in texture thanks to its lovely, fleshy finish although that does not detract from its structure. This is a lovely, caressing '99 in context of the vintage, one for medium-term drinking."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the 1999 horizontal at Bordeaux Index. The Ducru-Beaucaillou is more expressive on the nose compared to the Las-Cases with lifted raspberry, gravel, sandalwood and Asian spice. Lively and exuberant. The palate is medium bodied with firm, grippy tannins, quite masculine but superb concentration and certainly much more generous than the aforementioned. Well-balanced, a little sappy towards the finish although the bottom line is that it is not a complex Ducru, but it is an enjoyable, joyous Saint Julien to savour. Drink now-2017. Tasted June 2009."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Big colour and quite extracted, even for Ducru, very deep fruit and elegant despite the power. Full-fleshed, supple, expressive and graceful, packed with the typical blueberry and blackberry fruits of the year, with liquorice stick and mineral flavours etched into the finish."

- Decanter.com

"Medium bodied, this lighter, finesse style of Ducru Beaucaillou is dominated by spicy, red berries, freshness, tobacco, herbs and earth. Already close to fully mature, drink this over the next decade, as it's not a wine that was produced to make old bones."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
