

---

## Croix de Beaucaillou 2011

CSPC# 763558

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot

### Appellation

St. Julien

### Website

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

### General Info

'Appellation d'origine contrôlée' of Saint-Julien. This is the second wine of Château Ducru-Beaucaillou, a 'grand cru' classified in 1855. The La Croix de Beaucaillou wines come from the Château Ducru Beaucaillou vineyard. Château Ducru-Beaucaillou is named after the beautiful, stones found in its unique wine-growing terroir. This exceptional ecosystem produces fine, elegant, tasty wines, with a long finish – in short, archetypal Saint-Julien wines.

The origins of Château Ducru-Beaucaillou date back to the beginning of the XVIII century, 1720 to be precise. 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 Médoc.

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.

The notion of Second growth is difficult to figure out. Most of the vineyards, from the greatest to the more modest ones, now produce a second growth. It is therefore essential to consider the soil's possibilities as well as the quality requirements of the wine owner. Indeed, the quality level of the second wine is directly derived from the first of these elements.

Croix Beaucaillou, like a first growth, is therefore submitted to careful selection. Most of the wines coming from the plots of young vineyard as well as the lesser batches will incorporate the third growth which will be sold or... drunk at the chateau. Croix de Beaucaillou is thus subjected to a reasoned blending aimed at producing a wine which will of course reveal its assets earlier than Ducru B but also the characteristics of a great Saint Julien: elegance, finesse and of course its ability to age. It is worth noting that this wine is far superior to the connotation of 'second wine'. It is a great, noble wine, which we are sure will play a prominent role in the Saint-Julien appellation. La Croix de Beaucaillou has been bottled on the property since 1995. Until then, it was sold in bulk to Bordeaux wine merchants.

### Vintage

Winter 2010-2011: This year again, winter was dry, one of the driest in the decade. The winter chill was indeed present from December to February... for the benefit of our ecosystem.

Spring 2010-2011: The sharp rise in temperature in March resulted in an early budding of the vines at the beginning of April. Then, Bordeaux enjoyed a quite exceptional spring from April to June, with a severe drought and historically high temperatures. We thus experienced 40 days with maximum temperatures exceeding 25°C and a heat wave (with temperatures of 37 to 39°C i.e. +/- 100°F) on the 26th and 27th of June.

At first, the spring conditions

- promoted a precocious growth cycle (budding, flowering, fruit setting)
- limited the vegetative expression of the vines in favour of the fruits.

In summer, however, we returned to more traditional Atlantic conditions with a few wet and cool days between the 14th July and the 15th August. Ultimately, rains, throughout, the cycle remained within the seasonal average for Bordeaux.

An important fact: if, at the outset of summer, the vegetal cycle was three weeks ahead in comparison with 2010, the mediocre weather conditions at midsummer



<b>Vintage</b>	slowed down the process and erased much of the precocity acquired in the spring. This extension of the cycle was an undeniable qualitative element.
<b>Vineyards</b>	The 75 hectares of the Château Ducru-Beaucaillou vineyard are planted with 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot. The average age of the vines is 35 years. With age, the vines become less fertile and at the same time develop a deep root system (up to 6 metres deep) to better attenuate the impact of extreme weather conditions as well as better exploit the qualities of the terroir. By meticulously probing the poor, arid soil to find the moisture and nutrients they need, the roots retrieve the original elements that will give the wine its uniqueness: this is the essence of the terroir of Ducru Beaucaillou. The high plantation density (10,000 vines per ha.) has many advantages. It reduces the production of each plant while creating competition between the vines that will search deeper down into the soil to find their nutriment ("vines must suffer in order to produce").
<b>Harvest</b>	The grapes are all harvested manually. They are sorted in the vines on mobile tables to avoid contact between unhealthy and healthy grapes during transport to the vat room.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	The vinification of each plot is done individually to optimize the choice of blends. Moreover, the fermentations are carried out separately and customized to take account of terroir, grape variety and vintage characteristics. We generally operate gentle extraction and keep the must at traditional temperatures with moderate lengths and frequencies of pumping-over. The press drains off continuously into barrels to facilitate the selection of the press-wine batches. Malolactic fermentation is managed in vats for optimal control. The wine is barreled in duly identified individual batches immediately after malolactic fermentation. Blending takes place during the first racking operation; for La Croix de Beaucaillou, between 20 and 40% of new barrels are used according to the richness of the vintage. The barrels (225L Bordeaux barrels, French oak) are supplied by 5 carefully selected cooperages giving every guarantee. The wine is matured for 12 months. Bottling is performed with special care in regard to both oenological controls and homogenization of the overall batch. The 5 cork makers supplying the estate have signed a detailed and stringent quality charter.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Dark violet in colour. Aromas of black cherries and black berries. Imposing structure on the palate; full-bodied, unctuous and of dark berries. Fleshy, very dense, and fresh with a very persistent finish.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2014-2024
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>90 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2014</p> <p><b>90-91 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2014</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012</p> <p><b>16.5+ points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 20, 2014</p> <p><b>90-91 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 13, 2012</p> <p><b>15.5+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - March 2012</p> <p><b>88- 91 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>15 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>14.5 points</b> - Gault &amp; Millau (score only)</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Offers a vivid bolt of dark currant and blackberry fruit, lined with briar, ganache and tar notes that drive the finish along. Packed but sleek, showing good energy overall. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2016 through 2027."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

*"The selection process under proprietor Bruno Borie is so severe at Ducru Beaucaillou that readers should be giving serious attention to the second wine, Croix de Beaucaillou, which sports a dramatic black and gold label. The 2011 exhibits attractive black currant and black cherry fruit, medium body, silky tannins and a lush, round, up-front appeal. Enjoy it over the next decade. "*

*- RP, Wine Advocate*

*"The opaque ruby/purple-tinged 2011 Croix de Beaucaillou (80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot) exhibits copious aromas of incense, Christmas fruitcake and red and black currants presented in a richly fruity, opulent style that is almost atypical in a vintage such as 2011 (which generally emphasizes acidity, delineation and more traditional structure and freshness). This beauty is clearly a sleeper of the vintage. It should drink well for 10-15 years.*

*If you haven't noticed yet, it's time to jump on Bruno Borie's bandwagon for the two wines being produced from separate parts of the Ducru Beaucaillou vineyard."*

*- RP, Wine Advocate*

*"The 2011 La Croix de Beaucaillou is a blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot. It has fine delineation on the nose that is dominated by creamy new oak at the moment, although it is completely in synch with the ebullient ripe blackberry and briary fruit. The palate is medium bodied with quite succulent tannins. There is a keen thread of citrus lemon and a touch of orange rind, with fine delineation and poise towards the tensile finish. This is a very fine second wine for the vintage, fresh and lively. Tasted April 2012."*

*- NM, Wine Journal*

*"This is juicy and fruity with mineral and currant character. It's full-bodied with silky tannins and a fresh finish. Structured. Second wine of Ducru. Try in 2017."*

*- JS, JamesSuckling.com*

*"Aromas of plums and berries with hints of chocolate and spice. Medium to full body, with firm tannins and a chocolate and berry undertone. Well done. Second wine of Ducru. 7% Petit Verdot, 20% Merlot, and 73% Cabernet Sauvignon."*

*- JS, JamesSuckling.com*

*"No longer a second wine of Ducru Beaucaillou but a growth in its own right, this is a powerful wine, very dense and muscular. Rich berry fruits push through the firm structure to give a wine that will become opulent as it develops. Drink from 2018."*

*- RV, Wine Enthusiast*

*"91-93. Barrel sample. This is big and solid wine, with firm tannins and juicy fruit. It shows spice and intense acidity followed by black-currant freshness."*

*- RV, Wine Enthusiast*

*"Now with its Jade Jagger label (Rolling Stone and Beaucaillou, get it?). 'Planned to ask Christian Lacroix but he was working on beer', said Bruno Borie. 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot. First year for the Petit Verdot. 60% new oak. Deep bright cherry. First year for the Petit Verdot. Exotically spiced, black fruit, even a little leathery. Purest phase of ripeness. Then more savoury on the palate. Both earthy and juicy. Very rounded but rich in the mouth, too, good amount of flesh – more flesh than many – filling out the tannins so that they are well hidden."*

*- JH, JancisRobinson.com*

*"Good density of quite restrained fruit, elegantly seductive style. Drink 2015-2022."*

*- SS, Decanter.com*

**Reviews** *“Easy to drink, soft, medium bodied wine with a lighter, early drinking style and a ripe, black raspberry and cocoa finish. Drink this young.”*

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

*“Blending 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.2% alcohol. Using 60% new oak, the wine will spend 12 months in barrel. Oak, truffle, tobacco and earth notes are found in the nose. The wine is soft, round and finishes with boysenberry, cherry and cocoa. 90-91 Pts”*

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

*“This is the second wine of Ducru, but it's an impressive effort in a year like 2011, benefiting from the addition of Petit Verdot. Vibrantly coloured with violets and Asian spices on the nose, sweet oak, plush, yet grippy tannins and structured flavours of liquorice and blackberry. 10+ years.”*

- TA, [timatkin.com](http://timatkin.com)

*“Bruno Borie's relentless pursuit of excellence at Ducru Beaucaillou has resulted in the production levels of the grand vin falling by around 50%. The chief beneficiary of the draconian selection process here is this - the second label - which contains fruit that was once always used for Ducru itself. Another wine - Lalande Borie is made from the vineyards further inland from the estuary near Talbot and Lagrange. Really a single vineyard separate wine. 60% new oak. Very much a rival for Clos du Marquis. This is now a wine of classed growth quality with a trendy label designed by Jade Jagger. Strongly cassis in style, this is a serious wine in its own right and certainly not made in a "second wine" style. Ripe, crushed black fruit and a generous silky texture. Flashy, fleshy and impressive.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The ripeness on the nose fills it out all quite black fruited. Black cherry and cassis intermingle on the palate the ripe feeling fruit supported by quite firm tannins. There is a good depth and weight of fruit on the finish.”*

- Derek Smedley MW

*“Since 2005, this is a single vineyard wine in the centre of the vineyard that doesn't change. There is a depth in this wine which Bruno Borie says comes from the 7% Petit Verdot included here which is new. Deep purple colour. Great depth and concentrated fruit with a range of flavours including blackberries, Chinese red dates and cedar notes. It is aged in 66% new oak and aged for 12 months. The new label was designed by Jade Jagger (Mick Jagger's daughter). This is a serious, tannic, young wine that will require several years at least for the tannins to soften. The tannins were as high as the 2010.”*

- JCL, [asianpalate.com](http://asianpalate.com)

---