

Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2017

CSPC# 756595

750mlx6

13.51% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

CSPC# 844657

750mlx6

13.51% 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.

Winemaker

Rene Lusseau

Vintage

Saint Julien is perhaps the second most consistent appellation in the 2017 vintage. The wines have character, soft tannins, complexity and early approachability, which is a winning combination.

2017 St. Julien wines are quite good. As you would expect, Cabernet Sauvignon is the king of the vintage and takes over the preponderance of the blends. This is a good thing because that led to a vintage character with freshness, silky tannins, length and a focus on purity of fruit. The freshness is not overwhelming, but it is a present part of the wines character and style. Most of the 2017 St. Julien wines are going to drink well young, which is good thing, as you can enjoy them while waiting for the 2016 and 2015 wines to come around.

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

Picked 18-30th September

Vinification/ Maturation

Already reduced by shot berries, millerandage and a difficult flowering, the net yields (after green pruning and thinning as well as different degrees of manual, mechanical and optical sorting) were extremely low: 30 hectolitres/hectare. Together with the 2011 vintage this is the smallest crop at Ducru Beaucaillou during the last 25 years.

Tasting Notes

Deep, dark purple. A stunning and tight bouquet, very compact, which opens with airing to give a fine fruit with floral notes and a touch of violet. Later, after swirling, there is a touch of graphite. The palate is juicy, tasty, and supported by a fine freshness. A captivating wine; a lot of body, very high standard, remarkable length. A very academic construction.

Serve with

Pair this wine with whole chicken roasted with herbs, lamb sausage with rosemary new potatoes, or veal in an olive oil-based sauce.

Production

6,666 cases made.

Cellaring

Drink 2023-2038

Scores/Awards

95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020

93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018

96+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020

95-97+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018

98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020

97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018



Scores/Awards **96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2020
94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018
17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018
96 points - Decanter.com - April 2018
96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018
97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018
92-94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018
16.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2018
92-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - May 2018
94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018
96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020
93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018
98 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020
94-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018
19+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018

Reviews *"A suave and seductive wine, with a beautifully caressing mouthfeel to the layers of warmed plum, steeped boysenberry, and blackberry compote flavors. Licorice snap, mesquite, wood spice and black tea notes swirl around as the fruit plays out. A graphite spine carries the finish effortlessly. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2023 through 2038. 6,666 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This has a warm and inviting feel, with mocha, Christmas pudding and blackberry and plum compote aromas and flavors flowing through atop fleshy, velvety structure. There's a graphite edge along with some alluring spice accents, and this stays polished and lengthy in the end. 6,666 cases made."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Deep purple-black in color, the 2017 Ducru-Beaucaillou slowly unfurls to reveal beautifully fragrant notes of warm kirsch, wild blueberries, fresh red and black currants, and violets with wafts of underbrush and Earl Grey tea. Medium-bodied, the palate has great freshness and elegance, with very well-played, plush tannins and bags of perfumed fruit, finishing on a lingering spicy note. The wine was aged for 18 months in 100% new French oak barrels. The blend is 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot. 2022-2048."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"There was no frost at Ducru-Beaucaillou in 2017 due to its proximity to the estuary. This barrel sample comes from the final blend, which was made in early 2018. Composed of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot and sporting a deep garnet-purple color, the 2017 Ducru-Beaucaillou is intensely scented of blackcurrant cordial, blackberries, and lavender with hints of crushed rocks, iron ore, rose hips and Provence herbs plus touches of wood smoke and sandalwood. Medium-bodied, very firm, and grainy in the mouth, it possesses lovely freshness, lifting the intense flavors, finishing long and minerally. Sporting an incredible core of muscular mid-palate fruit, this wine should age incredibly."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Attractive, intense aromas of ripe blueberries, currants, and more savory, tarry notes, as well as iodine, violets and cassis. The palate has a supple and succulent feel. This is cabernet in outright seductive mode, offering such fluid tannins and mouth-filling length. A blend of 90% cabernet sauvignon and 10% merlot. One of the stars of the vintage. Drink or hold."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Holy... This is so powerful and dense with amazing depth of fruit and beautifully ripe tannins. Full body, layers of fruit and tannins. It's has a long finish but then kicks off at the end. Remains classic in style."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"While the dense and dark tannins are prominent, they can't mask the exuberant fruit that wants to burst out. Blackberry flavors are impressively ripe and rich, shot through with acidity that gives the wine salinity as well as freshness. At the back, those tannins will allow the wine to age over many years. Don't drink before 2024."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *“94–96. Barrel Sample. While this is a dense wine packed with tannins, they never threaten to overwhelm the fruit. The blackberry notes and swathes of ripe fruit give the wine its opulent, ripe, and generous character. While the wine will certainly age, it is going to be drinkable relatively soon, certainly by 2024.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Very dark with black core. Super-refined dark fruit on the nose, ripe but not overly. Just a touch – and nicely – smoky. Chewy, deep tannin texture shot through with lovely juicy fruit, red and black. Lots of energy and the oak well in the background. Firm and chewy tannins and need time but has a long fresh finish – lovely fresh fruit to the end that is entwined with the tannins to keep them moving across your palate. Drink 2027-2040”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“A little less intense and concentrated than the 2016, this focusses more on rich, smoky, finessed aromatics. The overall feel is gourmet and well textured, with some welcoming rich spice. A serious contender for the top St Julien in 2017, this has wonderfully fleshy blackberry fruits, a screech of graphite adding some mineral overtones, and a great dash of grilled oak. 7,500 cases of Ducru this year instead of 10,000 - they weren't affected by frost, but the Cabernets were just less generous this year, down to around 30hl/ha. This is accomplished winemaking, with great energy and poise. 100% new oak. 3.79pH. Drinking Window 2027 – 2040”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Deep ruby in colour, the tannins are confident and there is a good building of layers and power despite the still-evident austerity. As it opens up, you get cigar box, vanilla bean, liquorice, black chocolate and layers of gourmet flavours after a carafe (we tried it with and without). No need to worry too much about that, as you're not going to want to be drinking this yet, but it gives a good indication of the fact that this is going to progress well and steadily, and is an excellent example of the vintage. Bottled in July. It will be ready significantly before the 2016 but probably after the 2015. This has clear tension and a sense of purity to the fruit flavours. 100% new oak.”
- Decanter.com

“Freshness and accessibility are the hallmarks of this wine. The customary level of density is improved with added grace, elegance, pliability, and an upbeat, spicy core of attention seeking fruits. This is not to say that the wine is light. It is to explain that power has been refined with approachability, brighter fruits, and exceedingly silky tannins. The wine reached 13.51% alcohol with a pH of 3.79. The harvest took place from September 18 to September 30.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Incredibly dark purple black colour. Very intense aromas. Purple aromas. Spicy black fruit, coffee, clove, and liquorice flavours. Very rich ripe tannins, no greenness. Good but not strong acidity. Balanced and approachable with raspberry compote fruit flavours, spices, and great length. Very classic St Julien style.”
- TA, timatkin.com

“This is a strongly Cabernet Sauvignon wine in 2017 - 90% - with 10% Merlot. Picked 18-30th September and to be aged for 18 months in 100% new oak. Bruno Borie believes this to be a cross between the style of the 2014 and 2015 vintages. The deep purple colour and ripe blue fruits certainly show elements of 2015, though there is much more freshness. The notes of violet and cool red fruits certainly show this, though they are bolstered by the notes of vanilla and roasted coffee. The palate is more similar to 2014, with fresh acidity and elegant blue and black fruits. Dark chocolate notes give a cocoa-like perception for the refined silky and ripe tannins, working wonderfully with the sweet vanilla from the new oak. The fruit core is compact and pure through to the finish. This is a wine of freshness, purity and precision with flecks of exuberance and hedonism that add to the complexity.”
- Farr Vintners

“Brooding richness depth of fruit the black fruits are sweet and ripe. Fine tannins support the mid palate has suppleness and richness yet an underlying freshness that gives balance and harmony. Drink 2026 - 2040.”
- Derek Smedley

Reviews

"The 2017 Ducru-Beaucaillou was bottled around 15 July 2019 after 18 months in 100% new oak. It offers seductive red and black fruit on the nose that is seamlessly integrated with the oak, touches of pressed iris flower and potpourri emerging with time and lending complexity. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannins and wonderful acidity. This is classic Ducru through and through, quite effortless in style with a persistent, slightly lactic finish that might lack the ambition of a great vintage like 2016. For sheer drinkability, this hits the spot. Thus, it will be a Ducru that should drink earlier than other vintages. Tasted twice with consistent notes."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Ducru Beaucaillou was picked from 18 to 23 September for the Merlot, and from 25 to 30 September for the Cabernets. It is matured in 100% new oak over 18 months. It offers copious black fruit, violets, bay leaf, and Asian spice notes on the nose that gathers momentum in the glass after a deceptively understated opening. The palate is medium bodied with quite firm tannin, the oak nicely integrated, not quite as harmonious as the 2016 but then again, few 2017s are. There is a rigid structure to this Ducru Beaucaillou underneath the carapace of ripe black fruit with touches of tobacco and spice lingering on the aftertaste. It is probably going to require more cellar age than many of its peers, but it will be worth the wait. Drink 2024 - 2045."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Ducru-Beaucaillou is racy, deep, and opulently beautiful. In 2017, Ducru is very red-fruited and floral, with tons of inner sweetness and nuance to match its sumptuous, exotic personality. Mint, spice, chocolate and licorice accents add character as the 2017 gains brightness, aromatic purity and detail with a bit of air. Bruno Borie gave the 2017 18 months in 100% new oak. Along with Beychevelle, Ducru is the most flamboyant wine in Saint-Julien. Tasted two times. Drink 2025-2047."
- AG, Vinous

"The 2017 Ducru-Beaucaillou is distinctly sleek and polished, with a real air of sensuality. Finessed and racy to the core, the 2017 is all about elegance rather than the power that informed both the 2015 and 2016. Red-toned fruit, plush texture and silky tannins all contribute to the wine's restrained feel. A host of floral notes add brightness as the wine opens up in the glass. There is so much to like in the 2017. The blend is 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot."
- AG, Vinous

"One of the wines of the vintage in the Medoc, the 2017 Chateau Ducru-Beaucaillou comes from 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot from tiny yields of 35 hectoliters per hectare. Brought up in new barrels, it offers stunning notes of pure creme de cassis, unsmoked tobacco, lead pencil, and crushed rocks. Showing a touch of spring flowers with air, full-bodied richness and depth, awesome tannin quality, and a laser-like level of precision and purity, it's going to need a decade of cellaring yet will have 40-50 years of prime drinking. Hats off to proprietor Bruno Borie for another magical wine."
- Jeb Dunnuck

"Unquestionably one of the successes in the vintage is the 2017 Château Ducru Beaucaillou, which reminds me of the 2014, with perhaps a touch more oomph. As always, it's a Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated blend (90/10 Cabernet and Merlot) brought up in new barrels. Its vibrant purple color is followed by a terrific bouquet of crème de cassis, blueberries, violets, and exotic flowers. It has medium to full-bodied richness, plenty of mid-palate, and fine tannin as well as a great finish. It's going to need 3-5 years of cellaring and keep for two decades. Count me in as a huge fan."
- Jeb Dunnuck

"Being forced to harvest in only five days at the end of September on account of rain on the horizon, this hand was played by the elements, and it benefitted Ducru immeasurably. This is an extremely energetic wine with fabulous flavours, and the nose alone is terrific. The edge of slight 'under-ripeness' is thrilling. There are herb and spice notes here that I have never encountered in Ducru before. The finish has seriously impressive length and also spice, and I venture that this will be a remarkable wine in years to come. This is an identity wine for Ducru and this property. Only 7500 cases were made, so this will come to be a very sought-after wine. I have given this wine a huge score in this vintage because I am completely mesmerized by its magical charms."
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
