



2018 La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou

The story:

This Grande Réserve is produced on the portion of Ducru-Beaucaillou situated in-land, on the Günz Terroir in the heart of the Saint Julien Appellation. Our labors in the vineyards, as well as those in the vat-house and cellars, reflect our unequivocal ambition to produce the very finest wines.

Cellar Master Tasting Notes (March 2019):

Color : deep, vivid, intense purple-black and brilliant

Nose : open, generous and hamonious. Redolent of pure, ripe, healthy fruits, rich and warm bouquet.

Palate : truly remarkable, energy and vivacity, wonderful polished tannins. Deep-fruited and delicious. Very long persistence.

The blend:

- 62 % Cabernet-Sauvignon
- 35 % Merlot Noir
- 3 % Petit Verdot

Technical details:

2018 La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou	
Alcohol by volume	15 %
Total acidity (H ₂ SO ₄ g/l)	3,5
pH	3,75
Phenolic index	96

Our commitment:

The sample shown was taken from the final selection carried out in the first quarter of 2019.

*This Grande Réserve 2018 will be aged for **12 months** in Bordeaux barrels, **60% new**, the rest in barrels which have been used for only 12 months.*

The barrels are of certified French oak, aged naturally outdoors for a guarantee minimum of three years.

Regular topping up during the first six months, rackings from the bottom of the barrel every two or three months for a total of four rackings.

Sterile bottling under inert gas. First choice natural corks 49 mm.

by Jeff Leve

JEB DUNNUCK

matthewjukes

THE BORDEAUX REPORT



Wine Spectator

by James Molesworth

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WINE ENTHUSIAST

by Roger Voss

Decanter

by Jane Anson



Jeannie Cho Lee

Master of Wine

vinous

by Antonio Galloni

2018 La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou – The polish to the fruits and tannin is apparent from the get-go. Medium-bodied, elegant, ripe, fresh and extraordinarily juicy, you'll also find elements of espresso bean, ripe plum, blackberry and earth. There is depth of flavor and length. The wine is age-worthy so give it at least a few years before popping a cork and enjoy it over the next 12-15 years. From a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 3% Petit

Verdot and reaching 15% alcohol. **92-94**

While the 2018 La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou is often thought of as the second wine of Ducru-Beaucaillou, it's actually from a separate parcel on the northern part of the estate and is a stand-alone wine based on 55% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 3% Petit Verdot that will spend 12 months in 60% new French oak. Offering terrific purity of fruit as well as notes of graphite, lead pencil, cassis, and blackberries, it's medium to full-bodied, has a distinct sense of minerality, good structure, and outstanding length. I'd be thrilled to drink bottles over the coming decade or more.

La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou (Ducru-Beaucaillou)

(62 Cabernet Sauvignon, 35 Merlot, 3 Petit Verdot) | 70% new oak for 12 months | 15% alc | 35 hl/ha | 96 IPT

This is a super-dark wine with the highest IPT they have experienced at Ducru. La Croix has pretensions of the throne and it clearly wants to depose the King. The tannins are awesome and dense and dark, but it is also fruit-rich and chocolately and the overall experience is breath-taking. Very over the top in one respect, but also incredibly focussed and concentrated this is a massive and slightly scary wine. **17.5+**

La Croix de Beaucaillou 2018: This wine, from Bruno Borie, comes from between the vineyards of Ducru-Beaucaillou and Lalande-Borie, and it was created in 2005. The yield was just 35 hl/ha. The *assemblage* is 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot, with 3% Petit Verdot. The alcohol is a little higher here than either of those two wines, coming in at 15%, with a pH of 3.75. It starts off with a beautiful nose, perfumed with black cherries and black violets, with nuances of black bean and black olive. The palate is correspondingly luscious and yet taut and sinewy, and it comes absolutely loaded with black cherry and currant, with a floral note, soft and plush, yet sinewy and substantial. The finish is a flourish of complexity, all black bean and black olive, spiced with fine and tightly grained tannins, very fresh and vigorous, with bright acidity. This is a wine of excellent quality. The *élevage* will be for twelve months in barrel, using 60% new French oak. 95-97/100

CHÂTEAU DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU St.-Julien La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou 2018 Score: 90-93

The solid core of kirsch and plum sauce flavors is laced with apple wood and graphite notes. Direct and well-built.—*J.M.*

LA CROIX DUCRU- BEAUCAILLOU ST.-JULIEN 2018

This is so savory and delicious with dark-berry and mushroom character and cedar undertones. Lavender and smoke as well. Full body, firm and silky tannins and a flavorful finish.

94-96. Barrel Sample. A mix of well-structured tannins and bright acidity contrast with the perfectly ripe fruits in this beautifully balanced wine. The wine's richness is impressive and will ensure a long life.

The 2018 Croix has an IPT of 96 that comes from the unusually small size and thick skins of the Merlots, Cabernets and Petit Verdots. It's a huge wine filled with deep, vivid and intense pencil lead, cassis and sweet black cherry, with a silky texture. It's aged in 70% new oak but this is already well integrated, and the wine is wonderfully stretched out through the palate. An impressive La Croix. 3.75pH.

Drinking Window 2026 - 2038

A rich, ripe, sumptuous wine with lots of tannins but also concentrated flavors. This is the highest IPT/tannin figures on record for this wine! It is velvety, lush, intense and powerful with great concentration - worthy of cellaring for a few decades easily. 1/3 Merlot and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and touch of Petit Verdot.

The 2018 La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou is an outrageously beautiful, vivid wine. Gravel, crushed rocks, menthol, lavender, espresso, licorice and dark spice all infuse a racy, sumptuous Saint-Julien loaded with personality and class. In 2018 La Croix is especially fine. Ample, voluptuous and racy to the core, the 2018 is stunning in its beauty. I can't wait to taste it from bottle. The 2018 is 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. Tasted two times.