



CHÂTEAU
DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU
2016
PRIMEURS





Château Ducru-Beaucaillou 2016 Reviews

James Molesworth, [Wine Spectator](#)

« **It's an elite wine putting in an elite performance in this vintage. ... remarkably polished. A huge, undeniable wine, overt in style.** »

James Suckling, [Jamessuckling.com](#)

« **Full and refined. This is highly intellectual and unique. Great finish.** »

Roger Voss, [Wine Enthusiast](#)

« **This wine is so stylish ... all balance and elegance. A great Ducru.** »

Chris Kissack, [The Wine Doctor](#)

« **This is an intense, savoury, polished, creamed, concentrated joy.** »

Jeannie Cho Lee, [Jeanniecholee.com](#)

« **A powerful, dense, velvety Ducru with great structure and intensity.** »

Jeff Leve, [The Wine Cellar Insider](#)

« **The best Ducru-Beaucaillou ever!** »

Jane Anson, [Decanter](#)

« **Hugely intense and concentrated ... utterly beautiful wine.** »

Markus Del Monego, [Tastingbook.com](#)

« **... well structured and balanced with excellent fruit and great length.** »

Matthew Jukes, [Matthewjukes.com](#)

« **Ducru has a magnificent nose ... wonderful density with admirable focus. Lovely and pure ... the tannins are so refined.** »

Olivier Poels, [La Revue du Vin de France](#)

« **Au sommet du raffinement et de la classe. Il joue une partition parfaitement équilibrée entre un fruit éclatant et suave, des tanins de soie et une longueur prométhéenne. Un modèle pour Ducru et le Médoc.** »

Antonio Galloni, [Vinous](#)

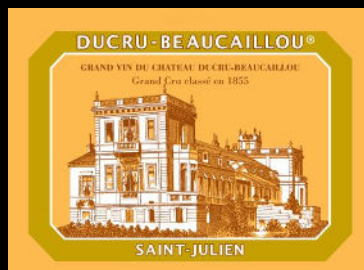
« **A gorgeous Ducru. One of the highlights of the vintage, simply magnificent. A wine of spectacular balance and pure class** »

Yves Beck, [Beckustator](#)

« **... tannins d'une puissance exceptionnelle, aux grains très fins ... grâce, crémeux, profondeur ... exceptionnelle aptitude à aller très loin dans le temps.** »

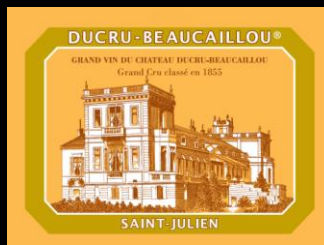
Bettane et Desseauve, [mybettanedesseauve.fr](#)

« **Arôme parfait de cèdre, texture d'une race de premier cru, finale précise, un des sommets du millésime en Médoc.** »



Ducru-Beaucaillou 2016 Ratings

Critics	Publication	Rating
James Molesworth	<i>Wine Spectator</i>	97-100
Olivier Poels	<i>RVF</i>	19-20
Yves Beck	<i>Yvesbeck.com</i>	97-100
Jeff Leve	<i>The Wine Cellar Insider</i>	98-100
James Suckling	<i>Jamessuckling.com</i>	97-98
Neal Martin	<i>The Wine Advocate</i>	96-98
Bettane & Desseauve	<i>Bettane&Desseauve.com</i>	98
Roger Voss	<i>Wine Enthusiast</i>	97-99
Jancis Robinson	<i>Jancisrobinson.com</i>	17
Jane Anson	<i>Decanter</i>	97
Markus del Monego	<i>Tastingbook.com</i>	97
Antonio Galloni	<i>Vinous</i>	94-97
Jacques Dupont	<i>Le Point</i>	18
Jeannie Cho Lee	<i>Jeanniecholee.com</i>	96
Matthew Jukes	<i>Matthewjukes.com</i>	18.5+
Tim Atkin	<i>Timatkin.com</i>	96
Yohan Castaing	<i>Gault et Millau</i>	17-19
Chris Kissack	<i>Winedoctor.com</i>	97-99



Château Ducru-Beaucaillou 2016

The Story:

The harvesting of the Merlot on the Ducru-Beaucaillou plateau started September 24th and ended October 1st, those of the Cabernet-Sauvignon started October 7th, ending on October 14th.

Cellar Master Tasting Notes (March 2017):

Color: deep dark purple wine

Nose: a bouquet very composed, very pure, subtle and delicate, much fruit with floral shades, a touch of violet. After swirling, dry black ink with a touch of graphite.

Palate: sensual, majestic, juicy, precise & tasty, black fruits, mocha, spices, Cedar and liquorice notes. Bewitching, almost absolute persistence.

Meteorology: 2016: A biblical vintage

In this testing year, we first had the Flood (a wet spring with permanent humidity and temperatures distinctly lower than the average), then the Plagues (attacks of excoriose, then the perfidious mildew and finally a burst of oidium), the time in the wilderness (severe drought) and, finally, the arrival in the promised land for optimum picking, Jerusalem the celestial (the Indian summer suits the vine so well...irrecognisable, generous, haughty).

The Blend:

- 85 % Cabernet-Sauvignon
- 15 % Merlot Noir

Our Commitment:

The samples tasted during the en-primeur week were taken from the final blend done during the first three months of 2017.

This wine will mature for 18 months in 100% new oak barrels. Our barrels are certified French oak, naturally cured in open-air drying parks during a minimum of 3 years.

Regular topping-up is done during the first 6 months of maturation. The wine is racked through the bung holes every 2 or 3 months and undergoes a total of 7 rackings during its barrel maturation.

The traditional fining with egg white is done in the barrel. Bottling is carried out under sterile conditions with inert gas. Only first quality natural corks are used and measure 54mm in length. Our bottles, engraved with the name Ducru-Beaucaillou and laser marked, have labels incorporating holograms.

Wine Spectator

By James Molesworth

CHÂTEAU DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU St.-Julien 2016 Score: 97-100

Offers a scintillating display of roasted apple wood, incense and warm ganache before the core of cassis, plum preserves and raspberry reduction starts to step forward. The finish, loaded with grip but remarkably polished, pulls everything together. A huge, undeniable wine, overt in style.—*J.M.*



By Olivier Poels

19-20/20 CHÂTEAU DUCRU-BEAU-CAILLOU Au sommet du raffinement et de la classe. Il joue une partition parfaitement équilibrée entre un fruit éclatant et suave, des tanins de soie et une longueur prométhéenne. Un modèle pour Ducru et le Médoc.

CHÂTEAU DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU ST.-JULIEN 2016

Friday, March 24, 2017



Very focused and reserved with a mineral, blackberry, licorice and blackcurrant character. Full and refined. Walking a tightrope between steely tannins and and dark fruit. This is highly intellectual and unique. Great finish. Remake of the extraordinary 2014? Stronger than the 2015, for sure.

Decanter

By Jane Anson

Château Ducru-Beaucaillou, St-Julien, 2ème Cru Classé, 2016



Another exceptional success for St-Julien in 2016, following the longest growing season in the recorded history of the property. Reasonable alcohols, because of the slow maturation, emphasise the juiciness of the fruit. Hugely intense and concentrated black brambly fruits, with layer upon layer of stunning liquorice, dark chocolate, rich black cherry and graphite. This is an utterly beautiful wine and it approaches the essence of what owner Bruno Borie must want for this estate, I am sure. It is easy to imagine uncorking this with excitement in 10 or 15 years. The final blend is 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot, with a high tannin index of 80IPT and a 3.71pH, aged in 100% new oak for 18 months.

Drinking Window 2027 - 2050



By Neal Martin

2016 Ducru Beaucaillou

Rating:

(96 - 98)

The 2016 Ducru Beaucaillou is a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot cropped at 36 hectoliters per hectare between 24 September and 14 October and matured in 100% new oak barrels (for a total of 18 months). The alcohol level comes in at 13.63% with a pH of 3.71. The bouquet is very closed at first, and so I aerated the Grand Vin by transferring from one glass to another. It gradually unfurls to reveal scents of blackberry, bilberry, cedar and a touch of pencil lead. The palate is medium-bodied with a firm backbone cloaked in layers of black fruit. The new oak is probably more present here than some of its peers, but there is more than sufficient substance to absorb that. The mineralité surfaces right towards the persistent finish, completing what is a Ducru Beaucaillou built for the long term.

WINE ENTHUSIAST

By Roger Voss

Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2016 Barrel Sample (Saint-Julien)

98
POINTS

97-99. Barrel Sample. This wine is so stylish, with a great future that is all balance and elegance. There are structured tannins as well as ample acidity that will allow the wine to age gracefully. A great Ducru with restrained power for long-term aging.



Jeannie Cho Lee
Master of Wine

2016 Chateau Ducru-Beaucaillou

96 points

A powerful, dense, velvety Ducru with great structure and intensity. There is freshness, density and focused fruit as well as minerality here. The cool nights in this vintage and long slow growing season reveals itself in the depth and intensity of the flavors. 13.6% alcohol balanced by wonderful freshness. The dense tannins in this wine means it will take at least a decade before the wine is approachable.

THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER

By Jeff Leve

2016 **Ducru Beaucaillou** – Opaque with shiny, purple highlights, this creation is brimming with flowers, licorice, dark berries, boysenberry, black cherry, smoke, espresso and a spot of wet earth on the nose. With velvet textures, density of fruit and a finish that remains with you for close to 60 seconds, this is a seldom-encountered purity of fruit, which is pulling ahead in the competition for the best Ducru Beaucaillou ever! Produced from 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot, the wine reached 13.63% alcohol with a pH of 3.71 and is aging in 100% new French oak barrels. The Merlot was harvested from September 26 to September 30 and the Cabernet Sauvignon from October 7 to October 14. Yields were only 30 hectoliters per hectare. 98 – 100 Pts



matthewjukes

THE BORDEAUX REPORT

2016 EN PRIMEUR

Château Ducru-Beaucaillou (2ème Cru Saint-Julien)

(85 Cabernet Sauvignon, 15 Merlot) | 100% new oak – matured for 18 months | 13.6% alc. | 80 IPT

Ducru has a magnificent nose with layers of fruit and there is some wonderful density here with admirable focus. The tannins are bright and they lift the wine superbly. The tone is not quite as dark as the Pauillacs and it is also more red-fruited in spite of the high Cabernet Sauvignon percentage and yet this is a more sensual style. Lovely and pure, this is a more forward wine than many but it will also keep for a long time because the tannins are so refined. **18.5+**

Yves Beck

CHÂTEAU DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU 2016

97-100/100

Pourpre violacé. Bouquet complexe, fins, révélant des notes de cèdre, graphite et de tabac. Je relève également du pain fraîchement cuit. Le fruit se révèle de manière filigrane et laisse apparaître des notes de framboises, cassis et cerises. Il y a également une touche florale qui souligne la complexité olfactive de ce vin. La mise en bouche est, à l'image du nez, délicate, friande, élégante. Le corps se met en scène telle une force tranquille avec des tannins d'une puissance exceptionnelle, aux grains très fins. Cette puissance leur permet de gérer une structure vive, racée. Lentement le corps révèle sa grâce, son côté crémeux et sa profondeur. Un vin qui appelle la patience, qui nous rappelle qu'il n'est guère possible de tout avoir tout de suite. Un vin qui remet Bordeaux là où il faut; dans les vins qui ont cette exceptionnelle aptitude à aller très loin dans le temps. 2026-2056 **97-100/100**



By Michel Bettane

Château Ducru-Beaucaillou, Rouge

98/100

Arôme parfait de cèdre, texture d'une race de premier cru, finale précise, un des sommets du millésime en Médoc.

Château Ducru-Beaucaillou (St Julien) 2016: Bruno Borie likens the 2016 vintage to the biblical downpour, but he doesn't seem to have had too much trouble making top-quality wine from all that water. The picking here kicked off on September 24th for the Merlot, ending October 1st, followed by the Cabernet Sauvignon picked from October 7th until the 14th. The latter variety dominates of course, at 85% of the finished blend, Merlot accounting for the other 15%. The yield across all three Borie St Julien *terroirs* was 36-37 hl/ha. This saw optical sorting and stainless steel fermentation, and the *élevage* is an anticipated 18 months in 100% new oak barrels. Analyses reveal it to have 13.63% alcohol, total acidity 3.44 g/l, pH 3.71 and an IPT of 80. In the glass the wine is as black as night, with a crimson rim, but to the human eye it appears little different to the impressive La Croix de Beaucaillou. The aromatics are certainly different though! Here we have a wealth of sweet black plum and black cherry, quickly giving way to more savoury tones, such as black olive, roasted meat, toast and black bean. This is fresh, pure, bright, hugely substantial, broad, very expressive, rich in dark and savoury fruit, with supremely ripe tannins, great grip and fresh acidity. It has everything, all encapsulated within a wonderful poise running through the finish, providing an amazing length which runs on and on and on, with ripe, rolling tannins and black olive fruit. This is an intense, savoury, polished, creamed, concentrated joy. From my [Bordeaux 2016 primeurs](#) assessment. 18.5-19.5/20 • 97-99/100 (April 2017) 🔍

<u>Ducru- Beaucaillou</u>	One of the highlights of the vintage, the 2016 Ducru-Beaucaillou is simply magnificent. Vertical structure and intensity in all of its dimensions make a strong opening statement. Dark blue and black fruit, spice, new leather and smoke run through this superb, spectacularly rich, voluptuous Saint-Julien. The tannins are present, but they are nearly buried by the sheer intensity of the fruit. Nothing really stands out. In the end, the 2016 is a wine of spectacular balance and pure class. The natural richness comes through in the gravitas and profoundness of the finish. Even with all of its intensity, the 2016 comes in at just 13.5% alcohol. Tasted two times.	(94-97)	Antonio Galloni
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