



CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL

Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc Roussanne Vieilles Vignes 2020



PRESENTATION

Considered as one of the greatest white wines in France, only 6000 bottles of this wine are produced. It's made with 100% very old Roussanne vines and harvested slightly over ripe. This exceptional wine must be drunk within 3 years or after 15 years. To be enjoyed with gastronomic cuisine.

THE VINTAGE

The 2020 vintage in Southern Rhône was favoured by very good weather conditions, it is a generous vintage, both in terms of quality and quantity. Not as hot as in 2019, this year was very windy, throughout the growing cycle, with light rainfalls. After a fairly mild winter (one single episode of frost was noted during the night of March 24, but only the early ripening plots were very slightly affected). The spring was radiant, quite warm and very windy, which allowed the soils to preserve their freshness. Flowering began on May 18, under very healthy conditions. The good weather continued in June, July and August, with plenty heat but lower temperatures than in 2019, cool and humid nights and wind which continued to blow, preserving the freshness of the vines and maintaining perfect sanitary conditions for the grapes. The harvest, which was fairly early, therefore began under these very good conditions on August 26 with the white Côtes-du-Rhône and continued until the end of September with the Mourvèdre. September was warm at the beginning of the month and then more temperate, offering idyllic harvest conditions and allowed each plot to be harvested at perfect maturity. The harvest was very healthy with beautiful juicy and very ripe grapes, reasonable alcohol levels, good acidity and already a great balance. Yields are slightly higher than 2019 and the first tastings predict a very nice vintage.

LOCATION

Château de Beaucastel has 7 hectares planted with white varieties.

TERROIR

Molasse seabed of the Miocene period covered by diluvial alpine deposits (rolled pebbles).

AGEING

The grapes are hand picked in small cases and sorted, pneumatically pressed. Settling of the juices and fermentation (30% in oak, 70% tanks). Bottled after 8 months.

VARIETAL

Roussanne 100%

SERVING

14°C in tasting glasses.

TASTING

With a very attractive deep gold color, 2020 Roussanne Vieilles Vignes offers a complex, opulent nose, with characteristic notes of apricot, yellow peach, and beeswax. The palate develops most elegantly, with a rich, powerful texture, opulence without any hint of heaviness, and perfect balance.



REVIEWS AND AWARDS

JEB DUNNUCK

98/100

"Even better, the 2020 Châteauneuf Du Pape Roussanne Vieilles Vignes comes from a single parcel of very old vines and is 100% Roussanne brought up in barrel. It too is medium to full-bodied and incredibly concentrated, with brilliant white currants, green almond, honeyed mineral, and spice-driven aromas and flavors. The balance is just about perfect, as is the purity of fruit, and this incredible white is one of the top releases in the vintage. As I've written in the past, it's the Montrachet of the Southern Rhône and can evolve for decades in cold cellars."

Jeb Dunnuck, 03/11/2021


 Jancis Robinson

18.5+

"Gorgeous nose, toasted and nutty, a rich almond and hazelnut character. Subtle peach character underneath the golden-apple fruit, the creamy mouthfeel is supported by balanced freshness. Long fine finish, rich but also refined and defined – layered, and with age this will be a stunner."

Jancis Robinson, 27/11/2020

Decanter

100/100

"A little more reticent on the nose for now compared to other recent vintages – it's possibly entering a closed phase, in which case leave until 2032; however, it shows some attractive fresh pear and powdered ginger notes. Rich on the palate, this has incredible depth and power, with great mineral drive on the finish. This will be one of the great vintages of Roussanne Vieilles Vignes, and it will last for decades. From a single parcel of Roussanne, planted in 1919 and grown biodynamically. Aged in one-year-old demi-muids and barriques."

Decanter, 05/02/2025

JAMES SUCKLING.COM

96/100

"Wonderful nose of acacia honey and ripe apricot. Super-concentrated with great textural complexity, this white Châteauneuf is built on a lavish scale, but is so precise and glides off into the far distance. 100% Roussanne from ancient vines. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold."

James Suckling, 17/03/2021


 Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

97/100

"From vines planted in 1909, the 2020 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Roussanne Vieilles Vignes is entirely barrel-fermented and matured, half in new oak from Chassin and half in second-use steam-bent barriques from Dargaud & Jaegle. It's much like the regular Beaucastel CdP Blanc, but more – and sometimes more really is more. With waves of honeyed pear and pineapple fruit folded together on the full-bodied palate, it's creamy and rich, yet vibrant and refreshing on the long, luxurious finish. The aging curve of this wine is never easy to predict, as some vintages close up tight soon after release only to open up after several years in the cellar, while others seem to exude opulence throughout their life."

Wine Advocate, 05/05/2022

Wine Spectator

96/100

"Alluring, with a matchstick hint weaving around notes of white peach, white nectarine and apricot, while quinine and bitter almond accents fuel the finish. There's serious latent length here, thanks to a deeply imbedded spine that lets the fruit play out effortlessly. Roussanne. Drink now through 2035."

Wine Spectator, 10/11/2021

