



CHÂTEAU DE BEUCASTEL

Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape Rouge - 2023



PRESENTATION

Château de Beaucastel has long been regarded as one of the greatest wines in France. It is notorious for its elegance, balance and ageing potential. Beaucastel has an exceptional terroir at the Northern limit of Châteauneuf du Pape, exposed to the Mistral wind. All thirteen varieties of the appellation have been organically grown since the sixties.

THE VINTAGE

With fairly standard but slightly late weather conditions, the 2023 vintage is showing great potential with superb freshness. The fairly dry winter was followed by a relatively humid spring but with wind allowing to maintain good health. Budburst was a little late and this slight shift in the vine cycle lasted until the harvest. The summer was quite dry, and slightly cooler allowing the grapes to ripen nicely, despite a short heat wave in mid-August which completed the ripening of the berries. The harvest began on August 24th for the whites and on the 28th for the reds, and took place in idyllic conditions until September 5th. With magnificent berries, the vatting was quite short with great extractions. The first tastings reveal wines with great potential and astonishing freshness.

LOCATION

Châteauneuf du Pape, between Orange and Avignon, Château de Beaucastel red is a 70-hectare vineyard.

TERROIR

Château de Beaucastel is 110 hectares, with one single plot at the north of the appellation. The terroir is archetypal of the best terroirs in Châteauneuf: rolled pebbles on the surface, sand, clay and limestone deeper down. The vines are old and have been organically grown for 50 years, which has allowed the roots to grow exceptionally deep.

Beaucastel grows all thirteen grape varieties authorized by the appellation.

AGEING

Each variety is harvested separately and manually. Vinification takes place in oak fermenters for the reductive varieties (Mourvèdre, Syrah) and in traditional enameled concrete tanks for the Oxidative grapes (all the others). Once the malolactic fermentation is finished, the Famille Perrin blends the different varieties. The blend is then aged in oak Foudres for a year before being bottled.

VARIETALS

Grenache 30%, Mourvèdre 30%, Syrah 15%, Counoise 10%, Vaccarèse, Terret Noir, Muscardin, Clairette, Picpoul, Picardan, Bourboulenc, Roussanne 10%, Cinsault 5%

SERVING

Around 15°C. If possible, decant the wine.

TASTING

Magnificent bright red colour with carmine highlights. Powerful, generous and complex, the nose reveals a superb aromatic bouquet with aromas of black fruit, associated with notes of violet. Full bodied and silky, the mouth is dense, perfectly balanced by a beautiful freshness, and of a remarkable length. A refined and very harmonious wine, sign of great maturity. Generous in quality and in quantity, and of a great complexity.



REVIEWS AND AWARDS



93-95/100

"César Perrin poured me various different samples to convey an approximate idea of what the final blend of the 2023 Châteauneuf-du-Pape will taste like. A foudre that blends 50% Grenache with the remainder equally divided between Counoise and Cinsaut showed subtle spice, licorice and forest strawberry alongside gentle tannins. Another sample mingling Terret Noir, Muscardin and Vaccarèse presented excellent freshness, while the subsequent single-varietal Grenache snippet was totally alluring. A Syrah portion that used 50% whole clusters during fermentation provided minty shadings, stemminess and, again, very smooth tannins. Finally, a single-varietal Mourvèdre sample brought structure and fleshiness to the table. All in all, readers can look forward to yet another outstanding red Beaucastel with the potential to match or even outperform the delicious 2022."

Vinous, 14/11/2024



17.5/20

"Component parts and their approximate percentages of the final blend follow, though the blend is not yet finalised.

Sample 1: Terret Noir, Muscardin and Vaccarèse (5–10% of the blend)

Supple, rounded and ripe with succulent sweet tannins. Attractive, will give roundness.

Sample 2: Cinsaut (5–10% of the blend)

Lovely fine tannins and a waxiness, tight and lovely length.

Sample 3: Counoise (10% of the blend, 50% whole bunch)

Round, supple Counoise is the last grape variety to be harvested – has real poise, elegance and finesse, super-fine tannins.

Sample 4: Grenache (30% of the blend)

Brooding, deep and wild palate with real structure and density. The tannins again are very fine and layered, taut and long finish.

Sample 5: Syrah (5–10% of the blend)

Wild and spiced nose. The palate has notes of baked earth, spice and leather. Something funky here for sure!

Sample 6: Mourvèdre (30% the blend)

Beautiful nose of liquorice and spice with garrigue and wild and spiced notes as well.

Fascinating to taste these component parts and to see what adds to the blend. I expect this to all blend beautifully, with a suppleness and finesse to it. Expect a very, very good Beaucastel from 2023. Drink 2030 – 2045"

Jancis Robinson, 19/11/2024

Decanter

96/100

"A tasting of the constituent parts this year, so this is a provisional score. The Terret Noir, Muscardin and Vaccarèse were fermented together; they provide the more fragrant top notes, bright and attractive if not deep. The Cinsaut was perfumed and fresh, with fine tannins. The Counoise was more savoury, with more depth and tannin; tense and saline, and spicy thanks to 50% whole-bunch fermentation. The Grenache was soft and supple, fairly dark in colour, quite structured, with impressive freshness, tannins and acidity. The Syrah was deep, intense, black-fruited and peppery – quite potent in alcohol, with intense tannins. The Mourvèdre will be 30% of the blend, contributing mouthcoating, deep and succulent tannins, plenty of flesh and quite high alcohol. The overall impression is a deliciously rich and ripe Beaucastel, not as structured as the 2022, that is likely to score around 95-96 once blended and bottled."

Decanter, 01/10/2024

