



CHÂTEAU BRANAIRE-DUCRU

REVUE DE PRESSE / PRESS REVIEW

2023



# CHÂTEAU BRANAIRE-DUCRU

2023

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# CHÂTEAU BRANAIRE-DUCRU 2023

**Decanter**

95

Really fragrant on the nose; graphite and liquorice, dark blackcurrant and bramble fruit elements with highly-charged floral aromatics. Smells rich and ripe but clean also. Precise and finessed, this has a lovely energy straight away, great movement and motion from start to finish. Juicy and supple, crunchy, really lovely acidity, not too sharp or too tart with fine tannins that give such a lovely frame. Not dense at all - this is streamlined but is given some weight by the ripe fruit and some texture by the soft stoniness. Pretty and stylish and still packing some power - has a tiny air of opulence about it probably because they've used all four grapes with Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc adding complexity. It has a bit more warmth, and a touch of sweetness, than some others which are more straight. I like this a lot, still with freshness and cool undertones. Hints of cedar and spiced mint on the finish with some graphite and wet stone too. 18 months ageing, 60% new oak. 13% press wine. First vintage in the new, gravity-fed cellar. 53% grand vin production. 3.63pH. 51hl/ha yield. 3.5% Petit Verdot completes the blend.

**MAY 2024**

**JAMES SUCKLING.COM**

95-96

This has so much lead pencil, stone and blackcurrant character, as well as blackberry. It's medium-bodied with a solid core of fruit and a polished finish. Very classy and structured.

**APRIL 2024**

**JANE ANSON**  
INSIDE BORDEAUX

94

Bright fruits, slate tannins, peony florals, black tea, tobacco and tons of St Julien finesse. Cabernet dominant in aromatics and fruit character, a delicious Branaire. 53hl/ha yields.

**MAY 2024**

Antonio Galloni  
**vinous**

92-94

**NEAL MARTIN**

The 2023 Branaire Ducru was picked from September 12, on the same day as last year, albeit with a longer harvest, as they finished on October 4. Yields were 53hl/ha, and the blend is almost the same as the 2022. This is the second vintage made in the new winery. My sample came from a new-oak barrel, but the final blend will include 60%. Lucid purple in color, it has a charming, very pure bouquet, perhaps less opulent than some of its Saint-Julien peers, yet precise. Delicate floral scents permeate the predominant red fruit, never bursting from the glass but unfurling with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly edgy tannins that impart tension, veering slightly more to black fruit on the mid-palate. This is certainly one of the most elegant Branaire-Ducru vintages to date, but it has more weight on the finish (something that has been addressed in recent years.) Understated and sapid, it should be open for business a little earlier than others, but it will age well over 20 to 25 years.

**APRIL 2024**

Antonio Galloni  
**vinous**

91-93

**ANTONIO GALLONI**

The 2023 Branaire-Ducru offers up pretty notes of crushed red/purplish berry fruit, lavender, spice and mint. At this stage, the 2023 comes across as a bit light, even within the context of this property, where the wines are always laid back relative to neighboring estates. Perhaps the 2023 will flesh out over time. We will see. Tasted two times.

**APRIL 2024**





# CHÂTEAU BRANAIRE-DUCRU 2023

*Robert Parker*  
WINE ADVOCATE

93-94

## WILLIAM KELLEY

The 2023 Branaire-Ducru has turned out beautifully, wafting from the glass with classy aromas of dark berries, plums, pencil shavings and licorice, followed by a medium to full-bodied, cool and layered palate that's seamless, complete and enveloping, with terrific depth and vibrancy of fruit, refined tannins and a long, suave finish. At 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5.5% Cabernet Franc and 3.5% Petit Verdot, it's almost the same blend as the 2022, though at 13.1% alcohol and a pH of 3.63, it's more classically proportioned. Harvest began on September 12 and dragged on through October 4, parcel by parcel, with the vintage's healthy yields meaning the team could use their new winery, equipped with 63 smaller tanks, to keep all those components separate.

APRIL 2024

**F** / Vin

92-95

Belle réussite avec ce qu'il faut de corps dans ce millésime et un grain de tannin assez aristocratique. Avenir assuré et rapport qualité-prix excellent.

Mai 2024

**bettane +  
desseuve**

93-94

Un nez sophistiqué, très fin de fruits rouges et de pétales de roses blanches, de pivoine épanouie, assaisonné d'une pincée de poivre blanc fumé. En bouche, il est doux et aimable, aux tanins soyeux, comme un enfant qui veut vous donner la main. Du sérieux sur la finale pour un vin de potentiel.

APRIL 2024

JEAN-MARC QUARIN

95

C'est la révélation du millésime dans le Médoc. Le nouvel chai inauguré ce mois-ci, mais déjà à l'oeuvre en 2022, semble encore plus efficace dans une année où l'affinage de la sélection concoure à la réussite. Couleur intense, pourpre et belle. Nez très aromatique, fin, fruité et subtil. Délicat à l'attaque, délicieux au milieu, avec un toucher fin et une texture qui prend du gras au fil des secondes, le vin monte et s'élève aromatiquement vers une finale juteuse, complexe et même profonde. Equilibre sans faille. Résultat incrachable. Assemblage : 61 % cabernet sauvignon, 30 % merlot, 5,5 % cabernet franc, 3,5 % petit verdot. Degré d'alcool : 13°1 — pH : 3,65. Rendement : 53 hl/ha.

APRIL 2024

**THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER**

93-95

Showing a depth in the color, aromatically, the wine exudes blackberries, plums, charcoal, tobacco, black currants, cinnamon, and flowers in the perfume. Palate-wise, the wine is perfectly balanced between its silky textures and vibrant acidities. The finish is soft, polished, refined, and flavorful, leaving you with hints of turmeric, chocolate, and sweet, black currants. This is clearly a top vintage of Branaire Ducru! The length of the harvest, with the extra hang time, gave the team the chance to pick when they wanted to. This is a wine that is going to age quite well, yet it will be delicious to drink with just a few years of aging. The wine blends 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5.5% Cabernet Franc, and 3.5% Petit Verdot. 13.1% ABV, 3.63 pH. The harvest took place September 12 - October 4. Yields were large at 53 hectoliters per hectare. Drink from 2028-2060.

MAY 2024





# CHÂTEAU BRANAIRE-DUCRU 2023

## JEB DUNNUCK 93-95

Located just across from Château Beychevelle, the 2023 Château Branaire-Ducru reveals a dense ruby/purple hue as well as absolute classic notes of red and blue fruits, spring flowers, sappy, and cedarwood. It's medium to full-bodied, has a supple, layered, elegant mouthfeel, remarkable purity, and ultra-fine tannins. It's one hell of a classy, balanced 2023 that will have 20+ years of prime drinking.

MAY 2024



92-94

Le vin se montre solide, avec de la profondeur et une bonne définition. Belle qualité des tanins au grain fin. Un Branaire très expressif et racé.

AVRIL 2024

## Terre de Vins 93-94

Entre pierre chaude, framboise, cassis frais et légères notes sanguines, Branaire délivre un nez percutant. La bouche est ajustée sur une chair ferme, tenue par des tanins sérieux, dessinés avec soin. Une bonne fraîcheur soutient l'ensemble. Sans être démonstratif, comme à son habitude, il réussit son 2023.

MAY 2024

## WEINWISSER 18

2023 Branaire-Ducru : bouquet fin et délicat de baies rouges, jus de griotte, bruyère, thé d'églantier refroidi et estragon. La bouche complexe présente une texture soyeuse, une race équilibrée et un corps moyen. Dans la finale ramassée, le St. Julien puriste s'amincit, vinification très droite et tendue, contours délicats de baies rouges et de graphite.

MAY 2024

## Ves Beck 95-96

Branaire Ducru a toujours su incarner la finesse et en faire son leitmotiv, son fil rouge. Cela ne l'empêche évidemment pas de se positionner avec clarté et sérénité. Le bouquet révèle d'invitantes nuances de réglisse et d'eucalyptus menées par des notes de cassis. En bouche le vin affiche une belle densité en attaque. Il se déroule harmonieusement le long du palais et dispose de tannins veloutés qui sont en phase avec le côté croquant de la structure acide. Un vin subtil, harmonieux et sapide !

MAY 2024



93-95

(St-Julien; 61% Cabernet Sauvignon; 30% Merlot; 5.5% Cabernet Franc; 3.5% Petit Verdot; aging in oak barrels, 60% of which are new; pH 3.63; an impressive final yield of 53 hl/ha; 13.1% alcohol; tasted at the UGC press tasting at the Cité du Vin). There's a lot of excitement about the ascent or re-ascent of Branaire. One can see why when one tastes this. Intensely floral aromatically, almost Margellais, but more densely charged and compact in its fruit profile — which is rather more marked by the damson and plum fruits of the appellation and that archetypally St-Julien note of walnut. The fruit here seems also naturally slightly sweeter, the proximity to the river helping this attain perfect ripeness. Rich, deep, full and well-charged with juicy fruits. Long and gently tapering. Voluminous and yet wonderfully juicy on the finish. A considerable success. 93-95.

MAY 2024





# CHÂTEAU BRANAIRE-DUCRU 2023

## falstaff 93

Dark ruby, purple reflections, brightening on the rim. Floral, red berryish touch, fresh cherries, a hint of cassis and lime zest underneath. Medium complexity, red berryish and fresh, delicate tannins, subtle fruit, a lively food wine, has certain ageing potential.

MAY 2024

## WINE DOCTOR 91-93

A smoky nose, sweet with wild berries, dark chocolate, black pepper and smoke. A tight and light style to the palate that follows, with a gentle and modest silky texture, supporting fresh fruit notes of wild berries, crystalline cherries and griottes, all underpinned by a core of rich, finely grained yet firm tannins. Charming, but riven with structure and fresh acidity, as per the vintage, as well as perfumed oak. This has charm and it should age well on that grip and acidity. One to revisit. Tasted twice.

APRIL 2024

## Le Point 16,5

Un peu boudeur, comme à son habitude, en début de parcours. Branaire n'est jamais aussi bon qu'après quelques années de vieillissement.

MAI 2024

## 1000 PLATEAUX 94-96

Robe grenat. Un nez fringant et expressif. La bouche est suave, sapide, dotée d'un très bel équilibre, avec des tanins d'une sapidité rare et un élevage qui devrait se fondre.

MAI 2024

## Vinum 94-96

Rauchig, dunkelfruchtig, mineralisch, komplex, ein Wein zum Eintauchen; geschliffene Tannine umgarnen die Frucht, viel Präzision, hervorragende Länge. Schon wieder ein grosser Branaire.

APRIL 2024

## tastingbook 96

Dark purple colour with violet hue and almost black core. Refined nose with fragrant fruit, blackberries and blackcurrants, hints of mulberries in the background. Subtle oak, elegant mild spices, discreet toasting. On the palate well structured and balanced with fine tannins and acidity, a wine with juicy fruit and great freshness in a very classic style, excellent length.

APRIL 2024

## matthewjukes 18,5+

This is yet another beautiful vintage for Branaire, and it continues what must be the most consistently excellent era for this Château in its history. The stats listed above are almost identical to those in 2022, save for a 1.2% lower alcohol level, and this means that Branaire-Ducru is a fabulously suave and engaging wine with a bright, crisp feel about it from the nose to its tail. My knee-jerk reaction tasting notes say it all, 'open, cleansing, velvety, pure, wonderfully lithe, complex, long and balanced'. This is a modern wine for classical palates, given it has a timeless Branaire flavour woven into a dynamic chassis and the tannins and acidity frame the palate with lip-smacking drama and tension.

MAY 2024

