



Comments and analysis by M. JEFFORD Andrew - Author & journalist for Decanter magazine - as part of the 2024 vertical tasting of Mas de Daumas Gassac Red.

2022 DG RED

92
100

Colour: Dark brown, not opaque.

Nose: Athletic juicy Cabernet: fresh, vigorous, sweet toned without being oaky, bright, fresh, exciting.

Palate: Lots of attacking acid, bright, intense, vivacious, seemingly a wine of altitude; grand intensity and search. Intense, concentrated, driving and long.

2021 DG RED

90
100

Colour: Darker than 2022.

Nose: Sappy, warm, more brooding, discreet.

Palate: Dark, brooding, cooler, more shapely, more contained, less expansive; inner svelte lineament. Just a touch green.

2020 DG RED

93
100

Colour: Darker still.

Nose: More Latour and less Margaux in style, very deep, brooding, quiet, nonetheless an inner sweetness, firm fruits, structured; almost exotic; a lovely spectrum of ripeness here.

Palate: Concentrated, searching, vivacious, driving, searching, bright, sustained. Again, the altitude in evidence. Lovely backdrop of flavour here; gathered force. Best overall wealth and depth here of all the recent vintages.

2018 DG RED

91
100

Colour: Dark, almost opaque.

Nose: More animal and gamey, savoury, into the first breath of mid-life.

Palate: Also quite quickly out of the evolutionary blocks -- and lots of garrigue here; one of the 'most Languedoc' in that sense. Very herbal.

2016 DG RED

93
100

Colour: This is very dark; almost as dark as 2020.

Nose: Drier, sweet, more floral lift, cologne; poise and freshness. Chic; very different.

Palate: Intense fruit here -- the most sheerly fruity of the first flight, and still very primary and pure. Super concentration and drive. Very commanding. Sensational sweet fruit purity, energy and thrust.

2015 DG RED

92 **Colour:** Still dark – the colours cling at Daumas Gassac.
100 **Nose:** Classic ... can see the variety here, like the 22; warm, structured, vivacious, now complex, a lot in there; pollen and flower and peels and roots -- super nose, one of the best.
Palate: Rich, vivid and structured on the palate; firm, stentorian even within the Mas de Daumas context. Another outstandingly deep wine that will last very well.

2012 DG RED

90 **Colour:** Very dark still.
100 **Nose:** Fragrant and refined, poised, graceful and sustained, with ample garrigue notes. Very harmonious now.
Palate: Deep, searching and classical. The emphasis clearly on acidity here but the precision and freshness are attractive.

2011 DG RED

92 **Colour:** Deep and dark black-red.
100 **Nose:** Still primary fruits -- very clear; ample noble blackcurrant. Little sign of mid-life modulation yet. Loses a little freshness and precision in the glass.
Palate: A very impressive Mas de Daumas, with ample concentration, drive and power in what remains a youthful style. Lovely garrigue notes at the end. Still a way to go here.

2010 DG RED

92 **Colour:** Still dark black-red, as its peers all are.
100 **Nose:** Classic, firm, with some of those 'Latour-like' notes of grand sobriety, like the 2020 -- though the 2020 is more opulently fruited. Little evolution yet. Brooding; much in reserve.
Palate: Very much as the nose suggested: the most sober and serious of the line-up so far, but with lots of inner force and lineament. Firm, long. Masterful. Just a bit more 'song' in the 2011.

2009 DG RED

92 **Colour:** Dark black red.
100 **Nose:** Bright curranty power and energy with perfectly defined thyme and orange peel. A Languedoc aroma of grand power and appeal.
Palate: Vivid, fresh and more open than I was expecting, with a deliciously welcoming, open-palmed style. Accessible and charming, svelte and fresh.

2008 DG RED

89 **Colour:** Dark black red at core though more translucent at the edges.
100 **Nose:** Sweet, fragrant, light, open and graceful; clearly in mid-life, but ample charm remains. DG in 'right bank' mood. Touch of bacon fat.
Palate: Light, gentle, open. Lovely drinking now but no profit in keeping for longer. Smooth, open, scrutable.

2007 DG RED

88 **Colour:** Still very dark and no apparent signs of aging or clearing here.
100 **Nose:** Fresher, cleaner, with sweet dusty notes ... and still some warm garrigue charm.
Palate: Very acidic now, with the flesh largely slipped. A little disappointing and ready to drink (chilled). Lacks some richness and warmth.

2005 DG RED

90 **Colour:** Dark red-black, but now translucent.
100 **Nose:** A touch of tar here; ample scented warmth, but some cinder also behind. Also a kerosene note. Engaging but a little less classical and harmonious than the best.
Palate: Intense, searching, very energetic and acid structured. Remarkable concentration and energy but the tar/cinder/kerosene aromatics disconcert a little. Exciting, nonetheless.

2003 DG RED

94

100

Colour: Dark black-red -- impressive depth of colour. Still looks young.

Nose: Ample aromatic breadth and refinement; fine fragrant lift; a sense of place. Perfect ripeness gives the modulated fruit great ease and grace.

Palate: Still deep, intense, indeed almost primary; long and searching. Ample wealth and command within the always-fresh Daumas Gassac style. Beautiful, limpid and admirable ripeness.

2001 DG RED

90

100

Colour: Dark but now translucent black-red.

Nose: Fresh and brisk, with some green privet notes. Attractive in that style but this will not be one of the riper wines.

Palate: Ample graceful charm and inner balance, and to my relief the acidity is not over-dominant. A 'quiet' style and likely to be overlooked but great charm and drinkability here.

1998 DG RED

93

100

Colour: Dark black red. Not quite opaque, but plenty of saturation remains. On par with the 2003.

Nose: Sweet and warm, yet both fresh and lively, too: a very complete nose with great energy, poise and drive. Perfect 'Haute Vallée' expression but at the same time a classic 'Cabernet' wine and you can see a thread that leads further west here ... Just a touch of animal in here too, but not disconcerting -- brings additional complexities.

Palate: Complete and engaging; fine fruit architecture; a little more tannin here. Mouth-seizing and concentrated; complex in compositional terms. One of the best. Lovely poise to the fruits.

1997 DG RED

89

100

Colour: Clear black-red; translucent.

Nose: Quite 'short' aromatically -- lacks a little expansiveness. Some vegetal notes.

Palate: As the nose suggested, this is a relatively light and fully mature wine. The frame holds, but there's a lack of marrow. Relatively soft and accessible drinking nonetheless as the acidity isn't rasping or over-dominant.

1995 DG RED

92

100

Colour: A very dark wine -- if anything, even deeper now than the 1998 and the 2003.

Nose: Energetic and articulate aromatics, with both freshness and brightness. Like 1998 but without the glycerous warmth of 2003.

Palate: Still deep, firm and energetic. Slightly brutal and elemental in style, but impressive. Tannins now soft, but it's the overall style of the fruit and composition that gives it that forthrightness.

1994 DG RED

89

100

Colour: Even darker and more saturated than the 1995!

Nose: Lovely pure, shapely fruits here, arc-ing and vaulting the aromatics. Pure, pristine, long and commanding -- and a very classic Daumas Gassac style. A decided freshness at the core but it has been teased to ripeness here.

Palate: Concentrated and long. Impressive but very acid-dominated, so it lacks a little charm, ease and drinking gratification. Well-preserved but there are many other vintages I'd rather drink.

1991 DG RED

91

100

Colour: Dark black-red, with good saturation still.

Nose: Vital, sappy and energetic. Not a super-ripe vintage, but plenty of aromatic depth and density here. Fragrant charm, too -- you sense it has reached its expressive apogee.

Palate: Svelte, relatively slender now, but with great charm, purity, length and poise. The innate inner freshness plays very well here.

1988 DG RED

94

100

Colour: Very dark, still; not quite as dark as the 1994 but not far off.

Nose: Lively, fresh, zesty and fragrant -- lots of sweet leafiness and garrigue allusions. A sense of ample ripeness and still at the peak of its expressive power.

Palate: Intense, vivid, searching. Not quite as close-grained as some of its peers, but in terms of inner wealth and drinking charm, this is a super wine with much to offer. One of the best of its decade and still in fine fettle. A perfect example of the poise, drinkability, refreshment value and longevity of Daumas Gassac.

1986 DG RED

91
100 **Colour:** Another dark black red colour in what was clearly an outstanding half-decade for Daumas Gassac: dark and purposeful still.
Nose: Great harmony and inner sweetness. Not the most forceful aromatic profile, but one with beautiful inner ripeness and charm. Hard to resist this.
Palate: Very much the case on the palate, too. Others are fresher and 'better preserved' but this has great drinking charm. It has some of the tarry notes you find on the 2005 but they are expressed more softly here.

1985 DG RED

89
100 **Colour:** A little paler than its peers, but still dark black-red.
Nose: Lots of leafiness here, with more grassy notes than, for example, the 1988. Cool than its peers, you'd say, on the evidence of the aromas.
Palate: Relatively thin here, too, though with plenty of concentration by dint of the prominent acidity. A little bit aggressive now in maturity and I fear this will worsen, though the wine is certainly deep and, in that sense, well-preserved.

1984 DG RED

87
100 **Colour:** Transparent red-black, with some bricking at the meniscus -- unusual in this generally long-lived wine.
Nose: Very slightly tired aromas now: a little reedy, with a lack of palpable fruit core.
Palate: Ditto here too -- rather slender and reedy today, though in fact not over-acidic; it just lacks fruit density and power.

1982 DG RED

95
100 **Colour:** Dark black-red, with fine colour saturation to this day.
Nose: Absolutely what all the best of the older wines have: a calm amplitude, an inner freshness, an ease and expansiveness, and a perfect balance between retained pure fruit and aromatic allusions to the biotope.
Palate: A truly super wine, still hugely enjoyable, with magnificent width, depth and breadth. Great fruit presence, still. Generous, ripe yet fresh -- see the notes on the aroma, as they prefigure the palate perfectly. A super vintage and still in fine form. Such lovely amiable ripeness -- almost strange that it is hard to find this in subsequent vintages.

1981 DG RED

92
100 **Colour:** Dark black-red; almost as dark as the 1982.
Nose: Aromatically, though, it is much more evolved, with lots of very attractive mushroom complexities. Very mellow and secondary now, but very enjoyable.
Palate: Again, as with the 1982, this has a really beautiful ripeness spectrum, mellow and ample. The tannins are slighter here and the acidity is a little more dominant, so I suspect this is at peak at present, but it's still a super Daumas Gassac.

1978 DG RED

90
100 **Colour:** Still remarkably dark, fresh and youthful for its age. Super-impressive.
Nose: Sweet, harmonious, elegant, engaging and full of life; wonderfully preserved. Less pure fruit than 1982 and less mushroom complexities than 1981, but the best of both worlds here. And a mellow and enticing glass of amply aged wine from a distinguished site.
Palate: Soft, ample and open now -- and arguably a little disappointing by comparison with the magnificent charm and harmony of the aromatic profile. The acidity does now have the upper hand, and the fruit is fading. But it still drinks terrifically well; great harmony and depth remains. Lots in the finish -- as if the acidity which remains has gathered all the wine's nuances into itself.