

DAOU Vineyards

DAOU Vineyards Soul of a Lion 2020 is the crown jewel of DAOU Mountain, a bold and elegant wine crafted from the estate's finest vineyard blocks, representing the Daou brothers' relentless pursuit of excellence.

DAOU

Soul of a Lion Red 2020

California, USA



Region and Vineyards

The **Adelaida District**, located in Paso Robles, is known for its high elevation, limestone-rich soils, and a Mediterranean climate. **DAOU Mountain**, rising to an impressive **670 meters (2,200 feet)** above sea level, provides optimal conditions for Bordeaux varietals. The combination of steep slopes and calcareous clay soil creates excellent drainage and minerality, imparting elegance and structure to the wines.

Legendary winemaker **André Tchelistcheff** once called DAOU Mountain a "jewel of ecological elements," and the Daou brothers rediscovered this exceptional terroir in 2007. The 2020 growing season tested the resilience of the vineyards with dry conditions, an August thunderstorm, and heatwaves. Despite these challenges, the vintage yielded grapes with remarkable complexity and intensity.

Winemaking

Soul of a Lion 2020 is a meticulously crafted blend of **81% Cabernet Sauvignon**, **13% Cabernet Franc**, and **6% Petit Verdot**, showcasing the precision and artistry of winemaker **Daniel Daou**. The wine underwent **22 months of aging in 100% new French oak barrels**, contributing to its depth, velvety texture, and refined oak integration.

The grapes were handpicked from the estate's best vineyard blocks, ensuring optimal ripeness and concentration. The limestone-rich soil lends a distinct minerality to the wine, balancing its richness and enhancing its aging potential. With an **ABV of 15.2%**, this wine achieves opulence while retaining elegance and balance.

Alcohol :15,20 %

Composition: 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot

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Soul of a Lion Red 2020

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep, opaque ruby with vibrant garnet highlights, indicating its concentration and aging potential.
- **Aromas**: A symphony of **black cherry**, **mulberry**, and **blackberry**, layered with notes of **leather**, **cigar box**, and **dark chocolate**. Subtle hints of **sage**, **crème de menthe**, and **truffle** add intrigue and complexity.
- **Palate**: Silky and voluptuous, with flavors of **cassis**, **ripe cherry**, **black raspberry**, and **currant**, complemented by earthy tones of **dates**, **fig**, and **baking spices**. A velvety texture, framed by ripe tannins and limestone minerality, leads to a lengthy finish with lingering impressions of **espresso**, **plum**, and a touch of **white pepper**.

Did you know?

Soul of a Lion is named in honor of the Daou brothers' father, Joseph Daou, who exemplified courage, love, and passion throughout their lives. The wine symbolizes their journey to discover **DAOU Mountain**, fulfilling a lifelong dream to create exceptional wines from world-class terroir.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled filet mignon with wild mushroom sauce**: Enhances the wine's earthy and savory undertones.
- **Lamb shank braised with rosemary and garlic**: Complements its bold structure and rich fruit profile.
- **Duck breast with cherry reduction**: Mirrors the wine's vibrant red fruit and velvety texture.
- **Dark chocolate ganache tart**: Balances the wine's richness and accentuates its subtle spice notes.

97 WINE ENTHUSIAST

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 97 Points (2020)

Impressively dark in the glass, this bottling pairs intense purple fruit and flower on this nose with more roasted, umami-laden aromas. The elegant palate is a master class in tannin management, proving firm in structure yet soft in mouthfeel. Flavors of blackberry jam, cocoa, walnut and cracked pepper ride a lingering acidity into the finish.

96 JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 96 Points (2020)

The 2020 Soul Of A Lion is tighter and more backward than the 2019 (which was also tight and focused at this stage as well), offering lots of ripe black fruits, new leather, mineral, and iron nuances to go with a medium to full-bodied, concentrated, structured style on the palate. It's unquestionably a beautiful, outstanding wine.Range: 94-96

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Soul of a Lion Red 2020

Decanter (DCT) : 95 Points (2020)

Full, voluptuous and complex wine which will only improve with age. The fruit is dominant now, but the tertiary notes are knocking on the door. Aromas of dark berries, blackberries and blackcurrants, confirmed on the palate alongside mocha, chocolate and black liquorice notes. Medium-plus to firm tannins that will continue to integrate with age. A lengthy finish. This wine has a long life ahead.

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