

Clos du Marquis 2008

CSPC# 763556

750mlx12

13.50% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Saint Julien

Website

<http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/>

General Info

One of the oldest Medoc estates, Domaine de Léoville belonged to some of the wealthiest and most influential noble French families before it was acquired by the Las Cases family. The estate was split up between 1826 and 1840 as a result of the French Revolution. (Expropriation of emigrants' property and constitution of egalitarian redistribution). Château Léoville Las Cases was created, thanks to a kind of birthright, from 3/5 of the original estate and the heart of the domain.

The Grand Vin's current *terroir* has therefore been at the historic heart of the original *terroir* since the 17th century. Pierre Jean, Adolphe and Gabriel de Las Cases were successive heirs to the property until 1900, when Théophile Skawinski purchased a share in the estate and became its manager. Léoville Las Cases has now been managed by the same family since the late 19th century and is today represented by Jean-Hubert Delon, sole owner of the Château and proprietor of Château Potensac in the Medoc and Château Névin in Pomerol.

Created in 1902, the Clos du Marquis has its origins in the "Petit Clos" adjacent to the Château de Léoville, home of the Marquis de Las Cases. It was created as a "brand", a second wine to Léoville Las Cases which would absorb the barrels not deemed fine enough for the grand vin. Over time it became a wine in its own right and since 1989 has been produced from separate parcels which lie outside Léoville Las Cases' main vineyards. The Clos du Marquis comes from the great *terroirs* of the Saint-Julien appellation that were not part of the former Léoville estate.

These *terroirs* are located further west and surrounded by prestigious Crus Classés (Classified Growths) including Second Growths from the Saint-Julien and Pauillac appellations: Léoville Poyferré, Léoville Barton and Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande. The Clos du Marquis thus displays typical Saint-Julien characteristics: structure, complexity, balance, distinction and great ageing potential.

Clos du Marquis has the ability to challenge many other châteaux of the Medoc. Indeed, it is the equal of most 3rd, 4th and 5th Growths and has been an outstanding performer for many years.

Vintage

In 2008 the cool weather, low yields, and historic hang-time allowed vineyards to harvest as late as they wanted. They were able to achieve incredibly sweet tannins as well as ripe fruit, with no danger of over-ripeness because there was no excessive heat. Moreover, the 2008s possess a purity and freshness that are admirable. Because the tannins are so sweet, and there is so much fruit in the wines, they should be approachable young, but the freshness and high level of extract and tannins will allow them to age for 20-30+ years

Vineyards

As Clos du Marquis hails from a separate vineyard it is a separate cuvée – and not a Second Wine. The grapes are grown in the Petit Clos (Clos meaning an enclosed garden or field) which is surrounded on all sides by other Second Growths. The Petit Clos vineyard is to the south of the Leoville Las Cases Grand Clos vines and covers 12 acres. It is planted with 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc.

Vinification/ Maturation

At Leoville Las Cases, the wine making remains traditional. Grapes are harvested by hand and fermented in temperature-controlled wood, concrete, or stainless-steel vats of varying size. The stainless-steel tanks range from 40 hectoliters all the way up to 216 hectoliters. The oak vats also range in size from 176 hectoliters up to 270 hectoliters per vat. The oak vats also range in age, with the oldest vats dating back close to 50 years! Malolactic fermentation takes place in tank. Aged in 40% new oak.



Tasting Notes	Brimming with notes of red currant, sweet raspberry and crunchy cherry, this medium-full bodied 2008 is enjoyably plump on the palate yet with fine notable tannins and lots of freshness. Like a muscley Palmer - curvy but with a punch.
Serve with	Roast Beef / Steak, Steak, Casseroles & Stews & Cheese - Hard
Production	14,165 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2011-2021
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 30, 2011</p> <p>89-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2009</p> <p>89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011</p> <p>90-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #182 - April 2009</p> <p>90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2012</p> <p>92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2011</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2009</p> <p>92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - December 2010 (score only)</p> <p>93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2011</p> <p>90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 31, 2009</p> <p>89-91 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2009</p> <p>17 points - Decanter.com - April 2009</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 31, 2009</p> <p>16.5-17 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2009</p> <p>15 points - Farr Vintner - April 2009</p> <p>90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2009</p> <p>89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2009</p> <p>16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>16 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Ripe and refined, with pure, driven plum, raspberry and black cherry fruit and sleek structure. Flickers of charcoal, roasted cedar and tobacco hang in the background. Should age nicely. Drink now through 2017. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 14,165 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A layered and minerally wine, with currants and berries. Medium- to full-bodied, with fine tannins and a fruity finish. Lacks a little in the midpalate. Score range: 88-91"</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A pretty wine and a classic Bordeaux, this 2008 has attractive notes of minerals intermixed with fruitcake and sweet currant fruit. Medium-bodied and pure, with a dense ruby/purple color, it should drink nicely for 10 years at the very minimum."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"For many years, Las Cases' second wine has been the equivalent of a classified growth in the Medoc. The 2008 Clos du Marquis may be one of the two or three finest second wines I have tasted from proprietor Jean-Hubert Delon. A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that came in at 13.5% natural alcohol, it is a pure, deep, full-bodied effort displaying classic aromas of creme de cassis, licorice, and crushed rocks. On the palate, there is a sensational black fruit character, no hard edges, and a seamless integration of all the component parts. This wine should drink beautifully for 15 or more years."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Tasted ex-chateau and single blind in Southwold. The Clos du Marquis is an excellent Saint Julien from Mon. Delon, although it did not quite meet my expectations under blind conditions. It has a refined, well-defined bouquet with blackberry, cedar and Margaux-like violets. The aromatics are fresh and vibrant with well-integrated oak. The palate is medium-bodied and succulent, fleshy and generous with a sweet, velvety finish. Very satisfying, though it is perhaps not a long-term Saint Julien. Tasted January 2012."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Journal</p>

Reviews *"Tasted at Leoville Las-Cases, the Clos du Marquis is quite closed on the nose but comes across as polished and harmonious. There are scents of dark cherry and a touch of plum and developing a heady violet perfume with further aeration. The palate is full-bodied with luscious, almost voluptuous tannins, soft and sensual but that belies the structure that lends this Clos du Marquis its backbone. This will be approachable young but should age as Clos du Marquis tends to do...with style. Drink 2013-2025+ Tasted October 2010."*
- NM, Wine Journal

"En primeur barrel sample. A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot with 7.5% pressed wine, this has one of the few "voluptuous" noses of the vintage, quite lush with violets, cassis and black plum soaring from the glass: this is a bouquet that embraces you - very sensuous. Very smooth on the entry, this Clos du Marquis is blessed with silky tannins that really caress that palate. Black cherries and blueberries with cassis coming through on the back palate, the Merlot driving it through to the fleshy finish with surprisingly good weight. Top class. Tasted April 2009."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Treated now as a separate wine, rather than a second wine, with its own vineyard, Clos du Marquis has developed a dense, concentrated style. It is firm, chewy, the tannins in suspension in the rich fruit. Good aging potential."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"90-92 Barrel sample. The second wine of Léoville las-Cases is big and hearty. The fruits are solid, ripe and well balanced, with red fruits that give sweetness. "
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Medium-deep ruby. Lovely profound nose of black cherry and violet complicated by graphite and minerals. Full and sweet on entry, with ripe red and black fruit flavors, smooth tannins and a long, clean finish. A standout wine in 2008. Incidentally, proprietor Jean-Hubert Delon has always told me that the grapes used for the Clos du Marquis are not from vines within the walls of the clos, and that these vines go into the Las Cases."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Second wine. Dense purplish crimson. Heady nose and very succulent fruit sort of hangs in the atmosphere in the most admirable way. Really pretty exciting! Lots of effort has clearly gone into this wine; it's not just a slop bucket. Not too hot, nor (just) too tannic. Lots of breed and family style. Opulent. Jean-Hubert Delon describes this, like the 2007, as very Pauillac. Very fragrant."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Deep purple-red, really pure, briary blackcurrant fruit showing fragrance and finesse, class and depth with a Pauillac firmness on the finish, very good. Drink 2014-22."
- Decanter.com

"08 Clos du Marquis is 55% cabernet sauvignon, 41% merlot, 3% cabernet franc, and a dollop of petit verdot. It sees 25% new oak. Its nose is of smoky black fruit and spice. The wine finishes with soft, dark berry flavors. 90-92 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A contemporary of Léoville-Las-Cases; same estate, different vineyards. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, harvest dates and yield as above. An attractive nose, with dense and dark fruits, and overall a good character. Weighty, supple fruit on the palate, elegant but with substance. Ripe and fine tannin. Very approachable, well judged, with firm tannins at the finish. This is really attractive."
- CK, The Wine Doctor

Reviews *“Like next-door neighbour Latour, Léoville Las Cases produces a second label that is not really a second wine but is a wine of clear classed growth quality in its own right. Indeed, this is the equal of most 3rd, 4th and 5th Growths and has been an outstanding performer for many years. Surrounded by the vineyards of Pichon Baron, Pichon Lalande and Leoville Poyferré, this is a wine that once again tastes like a good cru classé. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc in 25% new oak. There is good black cherry fruit on the palate with the Merlot giving it plenty of flesh. Tannins kick in on the finish.”*
- Farr Vintners

“The dominance of the black fruits gives a concentrated richness on the nose and weight of flavour on the palate. The cassis and coffee backed by chocolate enrich and this supple lushness is nicely balance by some red fruit freshness thus giving a lighter more classic feel to the finish.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“This is a full-bodied red with vibrant flavours of plums, cedar and cassis. Flavours are ripe, layered and supported by firm, sophisticated tannins. Fairly long and impressive for a 2nd wine.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com
