

Clos du Marquis 2009

CSPC# 869802

750mlx3

13.66% alc./vol.

CSPC# 881251

750mlx6

13.66% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

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

Appellation

Saint Julien

Classification

AOC – 2nd wine

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.

Winemaker

Michael Georges

Vintage

The flowering and berry set both occurred in the best possible conditions thanks to the very fine weather. There was no excessive heat and the colour change was very quick and even thanks to a lovely sunny period in late July and early August. There was very little rain during the ripening process with a very dry yet not over hot month of August. The result was a quite early and remarkably even crop.

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.

Harvest

From 22nd September to 7th October 2009

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	A contemporary of Léoville-Las-Cases; same estate, different vineyards. (...). Nicely refined fruit character here, open, and fresh. The palate starts off with a gently composed substance, but then shows a darker cherry character to the fruit, although it maintains a freshness throughout. Good supple tannins, not overbearing, nice acidity too. At the moment it is very soft and youthful, but it will come together with time. Just a touch of fleeting heat detracts. But overall, an understated wine which could be very good
Serve with	Clos du Marquis is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes, Asian dishes, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheeses.
Production	15,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2011-2021
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2019</p> <p>93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - December 2011</p> <p>91-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188 - April 2010</p> <p>89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0113 - April 2017</p> <p>Review Only - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0713 - January 2013</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0112 - November 2011</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0510 - March 2010</p> <p>95 points - Stuart Pigget, JamesSuckling.com - March 2019</p> <p>89-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2010</p> <p>94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2012</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only) - February 2019</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - February 2019</p> <p>17 points - Steven Spurrier Decanter.com - April 2010</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2012</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010</p> <p>91 points - Farr Vintner - November 2009</p> <p>90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2010</p> <p>92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2019</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2020</p> <p>90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - July 2012</p> <p>94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2016</p> <p>94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - February 2020</p> <p>91 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - July 2012</p> <p>18 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2011</p> <p>17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2010</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - March 2012</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This has a perfumy espresso edge to its racy red currant, briar, and blackberry bush notes. Long and refined through the finish, with a pronounced minerality that should soften in a decade. Tight, but a rather elegant expression of Cabernet overall. Best from 2016 through 2024. 15,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Raspberry and wild currant on the nose. Full-bodied, with superfine tannins and a long, pretty finish. Plenty of currant and mineral character. Builds on the finish. Tannic. Score Range: 89-92."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet colored, the 2009 Clos du Marquis gives up notes of warm cassis, mocha, plum preserves, and tobacco with a touch of Mediterranean herbs. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is solidly structured with firm, chewy tannins backing up the muscular fruit core, culminating in a mineral-laced finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Now positioned as a totally separate vineyard and a real clos (enclosed walled vineyard), this blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot from Jean-Hubert Delon is a beauty. Creme de cassis notes intermixed with some vanillin, crushed rock and spring flowers jump from the glass. Full-bodied and powerful (nearly 14% natural alcohol), this is a generously endowed, rich wine that was</i></p>

Reviews *first made in 1902. The 2009 should drink well for 20-25 years. Readers need to think of it as a true classified growth, although technically it is not."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Clos du Marquis is being positioned by Jean-Hubert Delon as a separate single vineyard wine rather than Leoville Las Cases' second wine. The logic is simple. It has come from the same vineyard for over twenty years and is not a true second wine in the sense that it is not made from Las Cases' discarded cuvees. The 2009 Clos du Marquis (70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot) came in at 13.75% alcohol. It exhibits a deep ruby/purple hue along with sweet notes of creme de cassis, great purity, a full-bodied mouthfeel, and terrific texture as well as length. It should evolve for 20-25 years. (Tasted once.)"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Fairly deep color. Dry, earthy, spicy, somewhat musty nose is interesting. There are also scents of blackberry, truffle, licorice, and minerals. On the palate, this wine is rich, juicy, and hot. It's a little tart and lean but does have a very nice mouth feel. The grapes used here were probably less ripe than others. The wine features the requisite amount of tannin, but the alcohol is a little too dominant. Where are the nuances and subtleties? Wine #4 has not quite come together. One soul really liked it, but for the rest of us, this wine was overshadowed by other contestants."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Served blind at the Southwold 2009 tasting. A curious performance from Clos du Marquis. Here, the 2009 is a little subdued on the nose compared to its peers: blackberry, graphite, and cedar - floral aromas developing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with a plush forward entry. It is very harmonious, slightly lower in acidity than other wines in the flight, but with a pleasing pure finish of blackcurrant, bilberry, and a dash of white pepper. The length is impressive, but it needs more tension. There was a touch of reduction that seems to distract the wine. Tasted January 2013."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at Chateau Leoville Las-Cases. The Clos du Marquis 2009 has a wonderful vibrant, floral bouquet packed full of crushed violets, a touch of cassis, blueberry, and blackberry jam all with fine definition. Opulent and ravishing. The palate has a silky-smooth entry, very fine velvety tannins that belie that tannic backbone underneath. This is a serious Saint Julien with great persistency on the finish. Superb. Tasted November 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the chateau... 7.6% vin de presse, delivering 13.75% alcohol and a pH of 3.70. The Clos du Marquis has a sexy, quite opulent, and very pure bouquet with lascivious, red-berried fruits, vanilla, blueberry, and a touch of cedar. The palate has a seamless entry, very focused and beautifully balanced, glides across that palate, filigree tannins, sensuous and silky towards the finish. Very alluring, but perhaps just missing a little delineation and edginess towards the finish. Still, this Clos du Marquis is as impressive as usual. Tasted March 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Rich yet firmly structured this is a very classic St.-Julien that's generous and polished with so much energy driving the long plush finish. Delicious now but should hold for many years."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Raspberry and wild currant on the nose. Full-bodied, with superfine tannins and a long, pretty finish. Plenty of currant and mineral character. Builds on the finish. Tannic."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A dense wine, the wood just showing at this stage through its dark tannins and superb rich fruit. The wine is ripe, with a density of tannins that go right down deep. Big and powerful."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews

"Still young in feel, this is limbering up fast with rich brambly fruit and lots to grip onto through the palate. It's a great way to experience St-Julien in this vintage and you can start drinking this now, although there's no need to rush."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Black, red, smoky nose with deep, rather discreet fruit, great purity, quite reserved, extremely elegant."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Right off the bat, this is delicious, offering a blast of sweet, ripe, juicy, and fresh cassis. Medium-full bodied, there is sweetness, freshness, and purity to the bright red fruits on the palate and in the nose. Drink this now with 30-60 minutes of decanting."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Gravel, forest floor and blackberry scents lead to a rich, soft, round, fresh, cassis and black cherry filled wine. ...this will give a lot of more expensive classified Bordeaux wines a run for the money in blind tastings."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Not strictly speaking the second wines of Léoville-Las-Cases (it's made from different vineyards), but often regarded as such, Clos du Marquis is another opportunity for drinkers to touch the garment of greatness without paying the high prices. This is savoury and complex, with violet aromas, plum skin and blackberry fruit and a backbone of almost Italianate acidity. 15+ years."

- TimAtkin MW

"Like next-door neighbour Latour, Léoville Las Cases produces a wine that people think of as a second wine, but it isn't. Clos du Marquis is a wine of classed growth quality in its own right, produced from vines on the other side of the "enclos" near Leoville Poyferré. Indeed, this is the equal of most 3rd, 4th and 5th Growths and has been an outstanding performer for many years. Las Cases is now producing a new second wine called le Petit Lion from their young vines, which will re-enforce the image of Clos du Marquis as a stand-alone property. Firm, quite solid, structured, a serious St Julien that will need time to evolve, Cedary and classic. Well-built and muscular."

- Farr Vintners

"The nose has an attractive red fruit perfume lovely and fresh. The palate though is sweet with a lush mix of mainly black fruits although there are some red, strawberry and mulberry at the back. The layers give complexity and the red fruited influence brightness on the finish. Drink 2020-2040."

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2009 Clos du Marquis is tightly wound on the nose, gradually unfurling to reveal blackberry pastilles, boysenberry, pencil shaving and subtle mint aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, good weight in the mouth, and crisp acidity. Fresh and vibrant with a gentle grip on the finish that perhaps would benefit from more persistence. Otherwise, this is very fine."

- NM, Vinous

"A beautiful, young, and still burly 2009, the Clos du Marquis comes from a single vineyard in the Léoville Las Cases stable (it's not a second wine) and is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It's a beautiful wine offering classic Saint-Julien crème de cassis fruits as well as lots of rocky minerality, cedarwood, graphite, and spring flowers."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Strong ruby garnet, violet reflections, broader edge brightening. Dark cabernet fruit, a hint of blackberries, tobacco-spicy, fine precious wood spice. Firm, tight-knit, fine red berry nuances, ripe tannins, mineral-salty, sticks well, already drinkable, but still has a lot to do."

- Falstaff Magazine

"Deep red-ruby. Perfumed aromas of black raspberry, licorice, and minerals. Sweet, rich, and suave, with sound acidity and a lightly herbal character intensifying its seamless dark berry flavors. Not hugely deep or nuanced but delivers a lot of flavor and finishes with ripe, dusty tannins that will not get in the way of tasting this wine early."

- ST, International Wine Cellar
