

## Clos du Marquis 2011

CSPC# 763556

750mlx12

13.26% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc

### 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. 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

2011 is the second hottest vintage of the decade after 2003! It will be remembered for the exceptionally hot and dry spring that meant a very early flowering. In mid-July the colour change got off to a slow start and then accelerated after some rain showers. The regular summer rain counterbalanced the real lack of water observed at the beginning of the season. The final maturity levels were very good, particularly for the phenological potential in the Cabernet Francs.

### 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 13th to 28th September 2011

### 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.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Clos du Marquis is made with much more Merlot than the Grand Vin of Château Leoville Las Cases and is a rich, creamy smooth wine. It is well balanced, and the tannins are well integrated. The dark purple wine has the flavours of over ripe blackberries and raspberries with leather over tones. It is a layered and complex wine and is well structured.
<b>Production</b>	6,250 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2017-2027
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2014</p> <p><b>90-91 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2014</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2012</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012</p> <p><b>17 points/4 stars</b> - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 20, 2014</p> <p><b>90-91 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 13, 2012</p> <p><b>90-91+ points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p><b>14.5+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - March 2012</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p><b>14.5 points</b> - Gault &amp; Millau (score only)</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This is well-packed for the vintage, with graphite and charcoal accents forming the edges, while the core sports steeped black currant, blackberry and plum fruit flavors. The long finish lets a tarry note stride in. Best from 2017 through 2027. 6,250 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is solid, with singed apple wood giving way to damson plum and blackberry fruit. Dark roasted vanilla bean and tar notes take over on the finish, which has nice stuffing. Score range: 90-93"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Now a completely separate entity from Leoville Las Cases, Clos du Marquis is produced from Las Cases vineyards, but only from those that are outside the famous walled sector (referred to as Le Clos), which are reserved for Leoville Las Cases. The 2011 Clos du Marquis, which is meant to compete with second growths, possesses a dark ruby/plum color along with classic black cherry and black currant fruit intermixed with hints of minerality and spice. This pure, medium-bodied, well-endowed beauty can be drunk over the next 10-15 years."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A top-notch success that tips the scales at 13.6% natural alcohol, this blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc was cropped at only 27 hectoliters per hectare. Representing 40% of the entire production, this is a seriously endowed, deep purple-colored 2011 with lots of pure creme de cassis and black cherry liqueur notes intermixed with notions of cedar, vanillin and spice box. With good acidity, ripe tannin and surprising concentration as well as depth, this classic St.-Julien has once again over-performed."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

## Reviews

*"The Clos du Marquis is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc cropped at 27hl/ha. It has a well-defined, minerally bouquet that would benefit from a little more fruit intensity. It is certainly broody and introspective compared to the 2010. The palate is more promising with a firm backbone, fresh acidity, foursquare and masculine with good substance and weight towards the finish, more sense of completeness than the aromatics suggests. It does not quite have the persistency of a great Clos du Marquis, but it is very fine. Tasted April 2012."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Beautifully aromatic with lots of flowers and dark fruits. Full body with chewy backbone of tannins and a racy, textured finish. It's mineral and focused. Try in 2017."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is very structured for the vintage with firm yet polished tannins and bright acidity. Lemony finish. Minerally. Full and dense. Nose is bright and floral. From Leoville Las Cases. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"The wine is all about firm structure and dense tannins. It is concentrated while hiding rich, generous fruits. It still needs to balance the structure with the fruit. For the future, it will be a rich wine full of power."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"93-95. Barrel sample. The wine shows depth and richness while also being very structured, almost severe. Weight and density are followed by extreme juiciness and blackberry fruits."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"(65% cabernet sauvignon, 22% merlot and 13% cabernet franc; 40% new oak): Ruby-red. Perfumed aromas of cassis, flowers and herbs. Sweet and plummy on entry, then tighter but still pliant in the middle, showing an enticing restrained sweetness to the blackcurrant, soy sauce and mocha flavors. Finishes persistent and floral, with noble tannins spreading out to saturate the palate."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc. 40% new barrels. Inky black cherry with black core. Wonderfully refined cassis fruit purity with just the slightest hint of cedar. Lovely elegance with fine fruit fragrance on the palate. Refined dry texture without any dryness. Top-class Cabernet character. Great length with finesse in the tannins to the very end. Classic St-Julien."*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Superb expression of Cabernet cassis, great purity, depth, length and precision. A Pauillac-Saint Julien."*

- SS, Decanter.com

*"Rich, deep colour, really powerful extraction, without being too much. Vinification started at 16 degrees, slowly raised temperature, stayed at around 24/25 for the heart of vinification, then up to 27-28 degrees to finish off. 13.6% ABV. This was the most marked by the weather conditions. For me, a little less successful than the Petit Lion. 90."*

JA, The New Bordeaux

*"A really impressive Clos du Marquis, which has overcome the challenges of the vintage to produce a dark, serious, muscular blend with dense, but finely crafted tannins, sappy, concentrated, graphite and black fruit flavours and fresh acidity. This is a wine for the long haul but should develop beautifully in bottle. 10+ years."*

TA, timatkin.com

*"Surprisingly good, this medium bodied wine offers soft tannins, fresh black cherries, tobacco and earthy characteristics. Forward in style, the wine is already approachable."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

**Reviews** *“produced from 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc. From low yields of 27 hectoliters per hectare, the wine reached 13.6% alcohol and will be aged in 40% new oak. Ruby in color, black raspberry, floral, coffee bean and dark cherry scents are found on the nose. Sweet, ripe, fresh, juicy cassis rounds out the finish. This is quite charming. 90-91 Pts”*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Deep and arterial; tight to rim; quite deep and dense; wet rock, dense, some cassis; quite sturdy, tannic wine with very evident structure, density and grip; not too puckering on the finish so roundness to the tannins obviously. Feels pretty good potentially. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc 13.6% alc 40% new oak. Tasted 5/4/12. 90-91+ Apr '12 UGC primeur tasting”*  
- JW, [winewordsandvideotape.com](http://winewordsandvideotape.com)

*“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 "proper" 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. There is a sweet core of cassis fruit here with a tight tannic grip. A solid medium-weight St Julien that will need some time to mature.”*  
- Farr Vintners

*“The nose is full of rich fruit with black fruits to the fore but at the back there are fresher red. The cassis and black cherry give richness on the palate refreshed by some red fruits and supported by firm but ripe tannins. The flavours last well on the finish. “*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*“This wine offers wonderful depth and layers of flavours with ripe tannins and dense mouthfeel, but it is well crafted, polished and long. Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon (78%) with violets, cedar and cassis flavours and a fairly long finish. Classic, elegant St Julien with power. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young.”*  
- JCL, [asianpalate.com](http://asianpalate.com)

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