

Clos du Marquis 2014

CSPC# 763556

750mlx12

13.85% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Julien

Classification

AOC

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.

Winemaker

Jean Hubert Delon

Vintage

After a relatively early budburst that followed the wet and mild winter, the coolness of May delayed the flowering and brought the dates of 2014 back around the averages of the past ten years. June and July were punctuated by stormy spells, but the latter half of July was sunnier and hotter for the cluster closing and the colour change, improving the potential of development for phenolic compounds in the grapes. The fine weather then settled in from 15th August with mild temperatures that maintained good acidity levels. Then the month of September was among the hottest and sunniest of the decade, beneficial to the positive hydric stress that would bring smoothness to the tannins developing in the skins and pips. The careful mastery of the yield, vigour and early de-leafing all ensured the grapes remained perfectly healthy, making it possible to pick each grape variety at optimum ripeness.

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.

Harvest

From 30th September to 13th October 2014

**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 50% new oak.



Tasting Notes	Blackcurrant and damson fruit on the nose, a very correct and classic style, with a little toasty edge to it. The palate is almost voluptuous, a feature which really sets it apart in this vintage, with creamed blackcurrants and damsons, dressed with bay leaf and vanilla. A really impressive, structured and correct wine, showing potential but also showing real substance, with a really long, charming finish too. This should evolve nicely.
Serve with	Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2028
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - February 2017</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2015</p> <p>92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 2017</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017</p> <p>92-935 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015</p> <p>94 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2018</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015</p> <p>90+ points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter Magazine - April 2015</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015</p> <p>15+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2015</p> <p>87-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2015</p> <p>92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2018</p> <p>91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017</p> <p>90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) – 2018</p> <p>93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - March 2017</p> <p>17 points - Vinum (score only) - 2017</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Pure and vibrant, with a lovely stream of plum, cassis and blackberry confiture notes, laced with licorice snap and violet hints. A sleek graphite detail harnesses the finish. Wins on purity in the end. Best from 2019 through 2028."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This has a subtle savage side, with a hint of dark olive and a smoldering tobacco note weaving around the core of fleshy plum sauce and steeped blackberry fruit. A touch firm on the finish for now, with a woody edge, but features more than enough flesh to soak that up."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2014 Clos du Marquis, a blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, has kept that soupçon of opulence that I observed when this was in barrel; it has layers of blackberry, raspberry coulis, incense and iris emerging from the glass whilst maintaining superb delineation. The palate is medium bodied with a gentle grip on the entry. Graphite-infused red and black fruit on the front palate whilst the back is adorned with just a hint of blue fruit that lends this a more feminine allure. There is lovely balance here, fresh and focused with a touch of graphite borrowed from over the border in Pauillac. This is an excellent Clos du Marquis that will give 20 years of pleasure."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The Clos du Marquis 2014 is a blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc cropped at 33 hectoliter per hectare and matured in 50% new wood. Picked between 30 September and 13 October, it has a ripe, quite opulent bouquet with layers of blackberry, dark plum and incense, a touch of pencil lead with time. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, a little pinched at the moment but it will "relax". The alcohol level is one of the highest ever at 13.85% and yet it is counterbalanced by its freshness. In fact, the finish is quite classic in style and provides a pleasant juxtaposition with the more generous aromatics – it will be interesting to</i></p>

see how they develop during their élevage. Drink: 2018 – 2035”
- NM, Wine Advocate

Reviews *“Complex aromas of dried flowers, dark fruits such as currants and plums and then a wet-earth undertone. Wet licorice as well. Full body, firm and silky tannins and an entrancing finish. Tight and polished. Drink in 2022 but hard not to drink now.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“The purity of fruit to this young wine is impressive with currants, raspberries and black cherries. Full body, firm and chewy tannins and a long, long finish. Very serious. Structured. Fine.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Produced by the winemaking team of Léoville las Cases, this wine comes from a separate part of the estate. The wine, with its dominance of Cabernet Sauvignon, is dense with tannins as well as dark fruit. It is firm, powerful and a very fine wine for long-term aging. Drink from 2024.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Tasted blind. Muted, inky nose. Then some weight of fruit in the middle before a pretty austere and green finish. More ripeness please! Drink 2022-2030.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Discreet nose. A bit austere, as though the less ripe fruit went into here. Very sinewy and lacks flesh. Drink 2022-2035”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Very good density of fruit: lots of lift and great purity and class. Pure St-Julien. Barrel Sample: 90+”
- SS, Decanter.com

“Sourced from a slightly cooler site than its stablemate, Léoville-Las-Cases, this is just below it in quality in 2014. Muscular and sinewy, with sweet, smoky oak, a mineral core, plenty of fruit and the concentration to age. Essence of Saint Julien in a very good year for the commune.”
- TA, timatkin.com

“Tobacco and forest floor notes are out in front. Medium/full bodied, with fresh, sweet, ripe red berries and spice, the acidity gives this the perfect amount of lift on the palate. The fruit is juicy, peppery and fresh. Give this 3-5years for full maturity or drink it young for its vibrancy.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.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. 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, with 50% new oak and a yield of 33hl/ha. Deep purple. Liquorice and blackcurrant on the nose with a little coffee. There is a firm structure to the palate which has a rich black fruit character of blackcurrant and black cherry. The mid-palate adds a fine cedar and tobacco note which is livened by crisp acidity. The finish is clean and long with a cool ripeness that has an herbal edge.”
- Farr Vintners

Reviews *“Fresh on the nose and quite light on the start of the palate it does fill out in the middle richer and sweeter, but the freshness is there at the back the finish quite light. 2025-36”*

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2014 Clos du Marquis has an attractive, perfumed bouquet with ample red berry fruit intermixed with wild heather, cedar and light brine aromas. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, very well-judged acidity, very cohesive and demonstrating real structure and sophistication towards the finish. This is a sublime Clos du Marquis that should give 20 years of drinking pleasure. Tasted blind at the annual Southwold tasting. 2021 – 2035”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2014 Clos du Marquis is a rich, powerful wine. Sweet tobacco, herb, anise, and leather notes give the wine its distinctive savory/earthy profile. The 2014 is plump, juicy, and quite dense for the year. The tannins are a bit rustic, but the 2014 is very nicely rendered. Today, the 2014 is a bit less gracious than it was from barrel. It will be interesting to see if the wine is going through a phase of awkwardness or if it is destined to remain somewhat rough around the edges. The blend is 74 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 22 % Merlot and 4 % Cabernet Franc.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2014 Clos du Marquis is quite pretty and expressive. Blue and purplish-hued fruit, sweet spices and mint all open up nicely in the glass. The 2014 is not a huge wine, rather it is distinguished by its energy, precision, and overall nuance. Scents of violet, lavender, mint, and sweet spices add complexity on the gracious, inviting finish. This is a lovely effort and a fabulous example of the vintage. The more feminine side of St. Julien comes through in spades. (AG)”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2014 Clos Du Marquis is a gem, and certainly a match for the 2012, although the 2015 has slightly more oomph. A blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot and Cabernet Franc, it boasts a ripe, medium to full-bodied, silky style as well as lots of chocolate, graphite, and scorched earth aromatics. With a core of crème de cassis-like fruit, impressive balance, sweet tannin, and a great finish, it should drink well for 15-20 years.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
