

## Clos du Marquis 2015

CSPC# 860784

750mlx12

13.80% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

66% Cabernet, Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 3% 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**

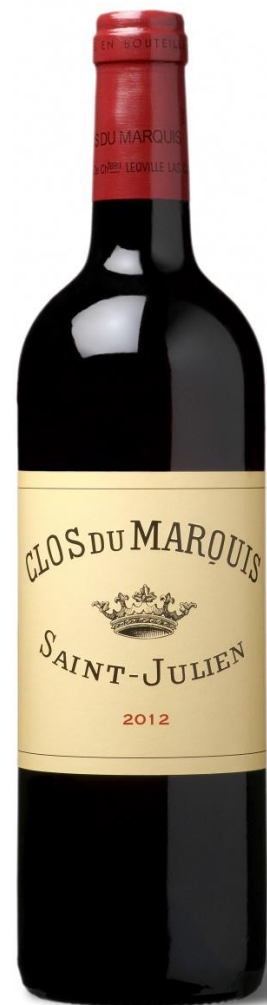
Created in 1902, the Clos du Marquis is an historical Médoc brand. It has its origins in the "Petit Clos" adjacent to the Chateau de Leoville, home of the Marquis de Las Cases. The Clos du Marquis comes from the best *terroirs* of Saint-Julien that were not part of the former Leoville estate. These *terroirs*, physically separated from those of Las Cases, are located further west and surrounded by many prestigious Second Classified Growths. The Clos du Marquis thus displays typical great Saint-Julien characteristics: structure, complexity, balance, harmony, distinction and great ageing potential. Château Leoville Las Cases therefore comprises two properties with distinct *terroir* characteristics, producing two "Premiers Vins" with very different tastes, despite an obvious affiliation. The hot and sunny weather of April set off a rapid budburst. Then all the key stages proceeded in ideal conditions: quick flowering, very even colour change for each of the grape varieties. An incredibly beautiful weather stayed with us during all the growth cycle. We observed a perfect hydric stress early July, very beneficial for the synthesis of the polyphenol precursors. The ripening process continued through a mild and quite dry month of September, ensuring the grapes maintained a great concentration and a wonderful aromatic freshness.

**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 22nd September to 9th October 2015



<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	This is a serious step up from Le Petite Marquise, with a sense of sweetness to it rather than the drier reticence seen in the second wine, or in the Delon wines from the Médoc appellation. It presents perfumed dark red cherry, with a little wrapping of praline oak, ripe and expressive, but still suggesting a linear frame. This comes through on the palate, the sweeter red cherry fruit wrapped within barrel spice, cigar leaf, tobacco and praline, underneath which there is a reserved bed of tightly grained tannins, which provide a ripe and lingering grip. A good wine which finishes well.
<b>Serve with</b>	The wines from Leoville Las Cases are best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
<b>Production</b>	20,000 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2019-2040
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2018</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2006</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2016</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2018</p> <p><b>15 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Stephen Brook, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p><b>91+ points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - July 2019</p> <p><b>92+ points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p><b>93+ points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p><b>17.5+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine - May 2016</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - May 2016</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2019</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2018</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - April 2017</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>“Rich and dense, with a fresh beam of mesquite, savory and tea streaking through the red and black currant preserve flavors. Shows good brambly energy through the finish, revealing a tug of licorice snap at the end. Best from 2020 through 2035. Tasted twice, with consistent notes.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“This is very solid, with currants, minerals and berries on the nose and palate. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Lots of licorice and cassis. Tight. Always excellent in top vintages. Score Range: 92-95.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

- Reviews** *“A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, the medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2015 Clos du Marquis gives up expressive notes of warm mulberries, kirsch and blackberry pie with touches of sandalwood, potpourri, anise and charcuterie. The palate is medium to full-bodied with a great core of rich, spicy fruit framed by plush tannins and finishing with an invigorating lift.”*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate
- “The 2015 Clos du Marquis is a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc cropped at 39 hl/ha between 22 September and 9 October, a total of 15 days of picking. Matured in 50% new oak, it has a pure and harmonious bouquet with blackberry, sous-bois and subtle tobacco aromas that gently unfold in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin in the mouth, a keen line of acidity, fine precision here with a mineral-rich finish that exudes terroir expression. This is a great Clos du Marquis from Jean-Hubert Delon and his team, a Clos du Marquis with swagger. Drink: 2020 -2040.”*  
- NM, Wine Advocate
- “The 2015 Clos du Marquis is a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. It has a really engaging, pretty, quite feminine bouquet with rose petal-infused redcurrant, crushed strawberry, and blackcurrant fruit. The new oak (50%) is very well integrated here. The palate is well balanced with sensual ripe tannin, crushed violet infusing the darker fruit than the nose suggests: blackberry and boysenberry, touches of graphite and tar toward the nicely structured finish. This is a superb Clos du Marquis that should give two or three decades of drinking pleasure. Anticipated maturity: 2022 - 2042.”*  
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Extremely perfumed with blackberries, plums and bark. Lemon-rind undertones. Full-bodied, creamy, velvety, and voluptuous yet focused and pinpointed. Intense dark-berry and chocolate flavors. Really well done.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Very fine Clos du Marquis and very pure. The cabernet sauvignon really comes through here with extremely pretty tannins and a mineral, dark fruit aftertaste. Clear and precise. Refined.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Rich, ripe, and elegant, this wine comes from a separate parcel of Léoville las Cases that is treated as a distinct wine. With fine, dusty tannins and juicy acidity, it offers both richness and black currants from the Cabernet Sauvignon. It needs to age and should be ready to drink from 2025.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Tasted blind. Very light nose. Dry and austere on the palate. Almost as though it were St-Estèphe. Fruitless. Drink 2024-2034”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Very dark crimson. Very fragrant and much more concentrated and rich than Petite Marquise. Cool and fresh. Really very sophisticated. Bravo! Compete and sappy.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Flamboyant and vibrant nose, with juicy blackcurrant fruit. Concentrated and velvety, it nonetheless has power and grip. Tannins are well integrated. Admirable depth of flavour; spicy and persistent finish.”*  
- SB, Decanter.com
- “Smoother and richer than La Petite Marquise, this adds plenty of layers and has the elegance of the house style with its intensity of flavour, charcoal edging and ageing potential. Not at the heights of a 2016 Clos de Marquis, but very good indeed. 50% new oak.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Very good, broad, spicy Cabernet fruit; discreet at first but fine and long. Good middle richness and the classic firmness of Las Cases on the finish. A separate wine, not a second label.”*  
- SS, Decanter.com

**Reviews** *"The launch of a second wine seems to have increased the quality of Clos du Marquis, which was already high. Savoury, sweet and well balanced, with none of the firmness the wine can show in its youth, this has plenty of oak as well as bramble and red fruit intensity."*

- TA, [timatkin.com](http://timatkin.com)

*"Forward, generous, easy to drink charmer that is medium bodied, with a juicy, plum, cassis and olive tapenade character."*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*"Plum, cassis, earth and cedar chest notes create the perfume. This wine is tannic, but the tannins are well-mannered, leaving a clean, fresh, spicy layer of dark, red fruits, olive tapenade, juicy cassis and a hint of oak. From a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, this wine reached 13.80% alcohol and will be aged in 50% new French oak barrels. A part of what helped make this wine so good in 2015 is the introduction of a second wine for the brand, La Petite Marquis."*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://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 a vineyard on the other side of the road near to the vines of Leoville Poyferré. Las Cases itself is situated in a walled vineyard alongside Latour overlooking the estuary. Clos du Marquis 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 and there is now a second wine of Clos du Marquis to be called "La Petite Marquise". Clos du Marquis 2015 is made from 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. The yield was 39 hl/ha and maturation is in 50% new oak. Medium ruby colour, with an open, perfumed nose of roses and violets. The palate is rounded and ripe with stewed plums and fleshy milk chocolate tannins. Creamy and smooth with a hint of exotic spice, this has classic Merlot fleshiness and richness on the long finish."*

- Farr Vintners

*"Sweet and ripe on the nose the palate has depth richness cassis and black cherry backed by chocolate and coffee beans. The tannins are fine the back palate has sweet fruit yet there is freshness brightness on the finish."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2015 Clos du Marquis is a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. It has a really engaging, pretty, quite feminine bouquet with rose petal-infused redcurrant, crushed strawberry, and blackcurrant fruit. The new oak (50%) is very well integrated here. The palate is well balanced with sensual ripe tannin, crushed violet infusing the darker fruit than the nose suggests: blackberry and boysenberry, touches of graphite and tar toward the nicely structured finish. This is a superb Clos du Marquis that should give two or three decades of drinking pleasure. Anticipated maturity: 2022 - 2042."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2015 Clos du Marquis has a fine blackberry and briary scented bouquet with discreet touches of graphite. The palate is simple with sharp acidity, fresh and nicely focused. The cedar and mint-tinged finish lingers in the mouth. This does not show quite as well compared to just after bottling, but it is just a matter of time. Tasted blind at the Southwold 2015 Bordeaux tasting."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2015 Clos du Marquis is powerful and dense from the outset. Inky blue/purplish fruit, licorice, spice, lavender, and licorice are all pushed forward in this decidedly plush, voluptuous Saint-Julien. Firm tannins give the wine explosive energy that carries through to the persistent finish. From barrel, the 2015 was much more forward, but from bottle my impression is that it is going to need at least a few years to be at its very best. There is a good bit of polish here that just needs time to fully emerge. 92+ points."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2015 Le Clos du Marquis emerges exclusively from 30+ year-old vines on the property. Lavender, violet, plum, crème de cassis, spice, and menthol meld together in a deep, beautifully layered Saint-Julien built on spherical texture and juiciness. Silky tannins give the 2015 its up-front, racy personality, while sweet floral notes add aromatic lift on the finish. This is a very pretty and complete wine. Tasted two times."*

- AG, Vinous

**Reviews** *“The 2015 Clos Du Marquis is gorgeous, but one of the more backward, closed wines in the vintage. Made from 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, aged in 50% new oak, its deep purple color is followed by promising notes of blackcurrants, smoked earth, tobacco and lead pencil. With full-bodied richness, a ripe, concentrated, structured feel, and impressive length, I wouldn’t touch bottles for at least 7-8 years, and it should last for two decades or more. 93+”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The removal of around 15-20% into La Petite Marquise (q.v.) has helped this wine to become finer, longer, more persistent and also more packed with fruit. This is a very successful exercise in making two better wines from one already good one. Clos du Marquis is a triumph in this vintage. The length is sensational, and the intensity of flavour never drops off. It is situated on classic Saint-Julien terroir (unlike Las Cases, which somehow seems more Pauillac-like) and it shows the clear Saint-Julien flavour palette in this vintage.”*  
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

*“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate brightening of the edges, fine black cherries, a hint of blackberries, a hint of nougat, fine herbal spice. Powerful, firm, delicate liquorice, present tannins, chocolate touch in the final, shows a very good length, salty mineral nuances in the finish, elegant overall impression.”*  
- Falstaff Magazine

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