

Clos du Marquis 2016

CSPC# 771462

750mlx12

13.55% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

73% Cabernet, Sauvignon, 24% 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

The year 2016 started off with the water tables full, thanks to the heavy rainfall from January to March. Three difficult months for the vineyard workers but which saved the day for this vintage! The mild temperatures in March ensured an early budburst but the colder, rainy mornings in April slowed down the growth cycle. From mid-June to mid-October, rainfall was well below the seasonal average. During the first two weeks of August, the colour change was short and even on each of the properties. The grapes developed in radiant, dry weather conditions. Light showers appeared in mid-September to re-boost the ripening process on the *terroirs* offering less water retention, thus perfecting the maturation of the tannins. The absolutely perfect weather conditions during harvest time allowed us to pick grapes boasting remarkable quality.

Vineyards

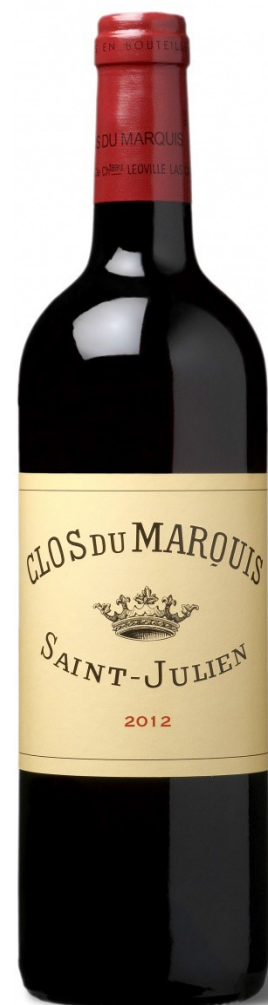
As Clos du Marquis hails from a separate vineyard it is a separate *cuvée* – and not a Second Wine. The grapes are grown in the Petit Clos (Clos meaning an enclosed garden or field) which is surrounded on all sides by other Second Growths.

Harvest

from 30th September to 19th October

**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	The nose is dark, concentrated and perfumed, with sweet touches of vanilla and coffee bean, while the palate feels very composed, understated at first, but impressive through the middle, with supple fruit draped over a classic structure of grained tannins. A very composed, slightly juicy style, but one full of charm, with very elegant silky fruit blanketing a very traditional structural bed of tannins. This is delightful.
Serve with	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.
Production	12,500 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2021-2038
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>93 points/Editor's Choice - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>15.5+ points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>87-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>17-18 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2017</p> <p>95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This has a plush edge of warm tar and ganache that slowly melds into the core of steeped plum and cassis flavors as they move through, picking up smoldering charcoal and graphite notes along the way. A very grounded wine that will age nicely. Best from 2023 through 2038. 12,500 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is stacked, with dark plum, cassis and blueberry reduction notes forming the core. The serious spine of graphite and tar is thoroughly embedded, so the finish is long and polished. A beauty. Score range: 93-96."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Blended of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, the 2016 Clos du Marquis has a very deep garnet-purple color and is a little broody to begin, giving way to notes of crushed blackcurrants and black cherries with touches of warm plums, pencil shavings, earth and new leather with a waft of yeast extract. Medium-bodied with a rock-solid frame of grainy tannins, it has bold fruit matched by freshness, finishing long and mineral laced."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Clos du Marquis was picked from 30 September to 19 October and consists of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, matured in 55% new oak. Yields came in at 40 hectoliters per hectare and the alcohol at 13.55%. The bouquet is very intense at the moment with small black cherries, incense, iris and a touch of shucked oyster shells. The palate is beautiful, perhaps one of the most powerful that I came across in Saint Julien, certainly no shy retiring flower, yet it effortlessly manages to retain the precision and tension one expects from this cru. There is a firm back bone here, but the tannins are so precise that you barely notice, while the aftertaste has superb salinity. This is a majestic Clos du Marquis, but it will require several years in the cellar."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Journal</p>

- Reviews** *“This has a very suave, fresh and upbeat feel overall, with freshly baked berry pastry and ripe raspberry, boysenberry and red-plum aromas in abundance. The palate has a superb array of rich, fresh and deeply fruited tannins that roll smoothly into the elegant, focused and perfectly balanced finish. Try from 2023.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “The clarity and beauty of this young red are brilliant with blackberry, blueberry and mineral undertones. Full and racy. Long and wonderfully polished. Racy. Better than the 2015.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “This wine is dense with dark tannins as well as the elegance associated with the appellation. It comes from a vineyard that has been separated out from the Léoville las Cases estate. Packed with tannins as well as blueberry and blackberry fruits, the wine will develop well over several years. Drink from 2023.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “93–95. Barrel Sample. From a vineyard that is now separate from but owned by Léoville las-Cases, this wine is dense, intense and with the finest tannins. Great acidity and black fruits are supported by a serious, complex structure. A wine for long-term aging.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc. 55% new oak. Exotically rich on the nose! I would never have believed I could encounter such richness at this address. Some real life here. Racy and rich and lots of black fruit. Richness but some structure too. Racy.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Once again, proof of the hard to fault success in St-Julien in 2016. I really recommend Clos du Marquis for its St-Julien spirit - elegant, endless and classical, with menthol, cedar and black fruit, and tannins that softly float alongside. (JA) “*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Clos du Marquis is not the easiest wine to taste young, as it’s pretty uncompromising stuff that needs time in barrel (and bottle) to soften. There’s a touch of the hair shirt here, with bloody, ferrous grip, savoury tannins, plenty of oak and hunkered down fruit. 2025-38.”*
- TA, timatkin.com
- “Granddad’s tobacco-scented sweater caught in a volcanic eruption of plum and syrupy black currants is the first thing you’ll sense before you align with the gentle, ready tannins and the boatloads of thirst-quenching cassis. This wine has excellent character and ample fresh fruit in the finish. From a blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.55% alcohol and will be aged in 50% new French oak barrels.”*
- 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 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 called “La Petite Marquise”. In 2016 the blend is 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, and 3% Cabernet Franc harvested at 40hl/ha, with 55% new oak. Pencil shavings and cassis dominate this pure nose. The palate is dense with black fruit and spicy, coffee notes from integrated oak. The palates provide classic medocain tannins with good refinement allowing them to integrate through a fresh and cool finish.”*
- Farr Vintners

Reviews *“Floral fragrant the nose has spring violets the start of the palate is fresh and bright. Ripe fruit in the middle the sweet fruit supported by fine tannins the fleshy richness on the back palate is underpinned by bramble the finish fragrant and fresh. 2025-38.”*

- Derek Smedley MW

“A superb Clos du Marquis with density, power and finesse.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2016 Clos du Marquis was picked from September 30 to October 19. It has a generous, intense bouquet of blackberries, raspberry confit, cedar, and light tobacco scents, representing a serious step up from the La Petite Marquise (as it should). The palate is rounded and quite sumptuous on the entry, and beautifully balanced, with a fine bead of acidity. This is a very fresh, tensile Clos du Marquis displaying superb precision on the finish and great persistence. Give it three to five years in bottle and then enjoy over the next 20 years, possibly more.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Clos du Marquis is just as compelling from bottle as it was from barrel. Inky, deep and explosive, with superb depth and impeccable balance, the 2016 is fabulously delicious. One of the things I admire most about the 2016 is an uncanny ability to deliver serious flavor intensity without excess heaviness. This is a stellar effort from Jean-Hubert Delon and his team. (AG)”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 Clos du Marquis is a striking Saint-Julien. Vibrant, nuanced and finely sculpted, it captures the essence of the appellation in its dark fruit and inviting personality. Freshly cut flowers, mint, berries and sweet herbal notes are all laced together in the glass. Medium in body and very classic in feel, the 2016 is showing very well today. The blend is 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, with the Cabernet Sauvignon very much at center stage.”

- AG, Vinous

“From the considerable talents of the Léoville Las Cases team, the 2016 Clos du Marquis is made from 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc that was raised in 60% new French oak. This full-bodied, concentrated, incredibly elegant Saint Julien has the purity and balance that’s the hallmark of the vintage as well as loads of underlying structure and depth. Great notes of ripe black cherries, blackcurrants, spring flowers, and graphite all emerge from this beauty, which is going to be one for the ages. It will need 8-10 years of cellaring and keep for three decades.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
