

Clos du Marquis 2017

CSPC# 763556

750mlx12

13.48% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

72% Cabernet, Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 1% 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

Thanks to its proximity to the estuary, Léoville Las Cases was spared from frost damage in 2017. There was only a small amount of frost on the western edge of the Clos du Marquis vineyard, which was until 2007 a second wine, but now comes from its own dedicated vineyard to the west of Léoville Las Cases, but of course still in Saint-Julien. All the final blends were made in December and the wines were in barrel before Christmas.

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 15th September to 4th October 2017

**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 2017 vintage has brought us first wines offering an excellent ripeness and second wines that are especially successful thanks to the great care bestowed upon our young vines. The Merlots are rich, the Cabernet Francs refined and elegant, and the Cabernet Sauvignons powerful and well-structured. The tannic structure, powerful yet very silky and elegant, lingers through to a particularly long, complex finish.



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	8,333 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020</p> <p>91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018</p> <p>93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p>94 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018</p> <p>90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p>90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p>16.75 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>92-94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p> <p>15 points - Farr Vintner - April 2018</p> <p>89-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only)</p> <p>91 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p>93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p>90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020</p> <p>17 points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018</p> <p>91 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p>17-17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>16.5-17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A fresh, pure style, with violet and cassis aromas leading off, followed by a racy core of raspberry, blackberry and black currant fruit. Very well-integrated, featuring a deeply embedded structure and a singed apple wood note skirting along the edges. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2022 through 2035. 8,333 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Blueberry, blackberry and plum fruit is lined with graphite, anise and sweet tobacco notes. There's juicy energy and a nice bramble hint at the very end. Has purity and typicity. Well done. 8,333 cases made"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Since 2007, the Clos du Marquis comes from an entirely different vineyard in Saint-Julien than the Leoville Las Cases, so it is not a second wine. And there was only a small amount of frost on the western edge of this vineyard in 2017. A blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and 1% Cabernet Franc, the 2017 Clos du Marquis is medium to deep garnet-purple in color and struts confidently out of the glass with vibrant notes of crushed blackcurrants, warm blackberries and fresh black and red plums with touches of cigar box and bouquet garni. Medium-bodied, the palate is chock-full of zingy black fruits, framed by firm, grainy tannins and bold freshness, finishing long with a skip in its step."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored and composed of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and 1% Cabernet Franc, the 2017 Clos du Marquis gives up gorgeous notions of crushed plums, blackberries and cassis with hints of chocolate box, pencil lead, menthol and lavender. The palate is medium-bodied, very finely crafted and refreshing with firm yet fine-grained tannins, great intensity and a long, mineral-laced finish."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“Wonderful aromas of blackberries, flowers, violets and Indian spices. Medium to full body with extremely polished, tight tannins that interface well with the ripe fruit. Remains extremely long and focused.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Firm and silky wine with very pretty dark-berry and cherry character with currant undertones. Pure quality of fruit is serious. Very salty on the finish. Bright acidity, too.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Solid tannins come from the vineyard, giving this dense, concentrated wine with a powerful structure and blackberry fruits. The wine's future is assured, with richness, spice and fruitiness all coming together. Drink from 2023.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“92–94. Barrel Sample. This wine has a fine structure, firm with a dry core of tannins and a juicy black currant character. The Cabernet Sauvignon from this single parcel of vines is rich, yet pleasantly fresh. It will mature quickly and then age well.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Deepest crimson with black core. Gorgeous dark fruit, with savoury/graphite as counterpoint to the cassis. A hint of oak char but at the right level for harmony at this point. Benchmark Cabernet flavours, pure and refined and fresh. Very precise fruit, long. Firm but dry. Smooth, deep texture and excellent freshness. 13.48% Drink 2025-2035”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“This takes its time, has a fairly hefty structure and unfurls at its own pace. The last day of harvest was 4 October, but the overall growth cycle was early so they were able to wait for full ripeness, and even though the fruit flavours are savoury, they are intense. It certainly has some bounce and energy, and the balance is there too. An enjoyable wine that should be ready to drink within four to six years, but the low pH and good freshness suggest it should also age well. 55% new oak barrels. 80% of production, with the rest going into the second wine. (JA) “
- JA, Decanter.com

“Cedar, oak, spice and fresh, red fruits with just a bit of soft tannin in the background, give this wine character and structure. Two or three years will be more than ample to bring out the secondary nuances and notch this up to full potential.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2017 blend is 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc being aged in 55% new oak. Meaty, roasted fruits and coffee come through on this nose thanks to this new oak. On the palate this is more integrated, with the juicy blueberry and black cherry notes allowed to shine through. The tannins are chalky and succulent, with the fresh acidity only serving to lift the fruit rather than upset the balance. A style that should drink well in its youth and offer an easy-going generosity.”
- Farr Vintners

“Concentrated ripe fruit the nose has depth the start of the palate is sweet and rich. Fresher black fruit balance lightens the back and bring out fragrances on the finish. Drink 2024-2036.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2017 Clos du Marquis was picked from 15 September until 4 October. It has an attractive and, in the context of Clos du Marquis, understated bouquet with endearing marine scents filtering through the red berry fruit. The palate is medium bodied with fine balance. This has lost the "rondeur" that it exhibited out of barrel, revealing a more streamlined, sappy Saint-Julien with a welcome pinch of spice towards the classically lined finish. Drink over the next 15 years, possibly more. 2022 - 2040.”
- NM, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2017 Clos du Marquis was cropped at 37hl/ha between 15 September and 4 October during an overall 15 days of actual picking. It is matured in 55% new oak and includes 6.2% vin de presse from 25 different lots. It has a more backward, tightly wound bouquet than I was expecting but it opens up with time. And wow, give it 10 minutes and that estuarine saline scent feels quite pungent. There is impressive density imbued into this Clos du Marquis, if not the detail, the precision of last year’s wine. There is plenty of “rondeur” towards the finish with a pleasant saltiness flanked by a hint of salted liquorice on the finish. Drink 2022-2036.”*
- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 Clos du Marquis is dark, pliant and inviting. Succulent dark cherry, red plum, mocha, spice and licorice are all super-expressive in this wonderfully open, radiant Saint-Julien. Plush fruit and silky contours add to the wine's considerable appeal. Best of all, the 2017 will drink well with minimal cellaring. This is such a beautiful and expressive wine. (AG)”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2017 Clos du Marquis is fresh, lifted and wonderfully energetic, and yet also has quite a bit of textural depth. The flavors really sizzle in this highly expressive Saint-Julien from Hubert Delon. There is a sense of energy and tension to the 2017 that is impossible to miss. Much of that is attributable to the Cabernet Sauvignon that is the core of the wine this year. Floral notes reappear on the finish, adding lift to the creamy, layered finish. I can’t wait to taste it from bottle.”
- AG, Vinous

“The grand vin is the 2017 Clos Du Marquis, which is 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, and a splash of Cabernet Franc. This stunning wine lends credence to the idea that Saint-Julien was the sweet spot for the Medoc in 2017. Classic Cabernet cassis and blue fruit notes as well as ample minerality, violets, and chocolate notes give way to a medium to full-bodied, beautifully polished Saint-Julien that has ripe tannin, terrific balance, and a great finish. It’s going to have 25+ years of prime drinking”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Much more classic and predictable, this is a benchmark Clos du Marquis and yet it will not be a long-lived vintage. More pliable, refreshing and easy-going and it develops a Cabernet theme alongside the Saint-Julien theme beautifully. Balanced in every way and this is because the grapes became physiologically ripe at exactly the same time as they became flavour-ripe!”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
