

Clos du Marquis 2018

CSPC# 763556

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

64% Cabernet, Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% 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

On the Saint-Julien appellation, the climatic conditions were favourable for healthy and optimal vegetative development, after a rather slow start. The summer was hot and especially dry, marking the birth of this great vintage, boasting a stunning maturing ability. Graphite, aromatic herbs, black berries, mild spices, this Clos du Marquis is unique in its complexity and freshness, its power and elegance, its outstanding ageing potential and its balance... certainly one of the most beautiful vintages of this wine.

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

18th September to 10th October 2018

**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 fruit here carries attractive black cherry and griddled hedgerow character, with a soft and diffuse warmth to it, wrapped up in coffee grounds and touches of black pepper. The palate follows the lead of the nose, with scented black fruits, nuanced with threads of tobacco, graphite, and pencil shavings, along with more of that peppery spice. Good density to it though, and a gentle, silken feel to the 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 3,750 cases made
Cellaring Drink 2023-2038
Scores/Awards **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021
92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019
93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021
92-94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019
96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019
95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 2021
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019
17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019
92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021
92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019
92 points - Farr Vintners - April 2019
92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021
90-92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2019
94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021
90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019
95+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021
94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019
17.5 points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019
93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - February 2022
94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) MW - March 2019
93-94 points - Vert de Vin - April 2019
17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022
17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - June 2019
16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

Reviews *"Pure and expressive, with beautiful aromas of violet, warm cassis and fresh cherries leading into a mix of plum sauce and blackberry preserve flavors carried by a well-imbedded graphite spine. Subtle kiss of sweet bay at the very end. Lovely. Best from 2023 through 2038. 3,750 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Warm and fleshy in feel, with steeped plum and boysenberry flavors. Light ganache and licorice notes underscore the finish. Slightly brooding in feel today but retains a healthy core of fruit."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2018 Clos du Marquis is composed of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, with 13% press wine added back to the blend. The wine has 14.5% alcohol and was aged in 55% new barriques. Deep garnet-purple colored, it strolls confidently out of the glass with notes of warm cassis, ripe black plums and boysenberries and hints of underbrush, cedar chest, graphite, and black olives plus a touch of baking spices. The medium to full-bodied palate is jam-packed with juicy blackberry layers, supported by firm, grainy tannins, and bags of freshness, finishing long with an invigorating burst. 2023 - 2040."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Deep purple-black in color, it displays flamboyant scents of kirsch, crushed black cherries and warm cassis with hints of cinnamon stick, underbrush, and chocolate box plus a waft of sandalwood. Full-bodied and built like a brick house with firm, grainy tannins and bold freshness supporting the muscular fruit, it finishes long and spicy."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Dark fruit and blueberries with rosemary, tobacco, and incense undertones on the nose. Very St.-Julien and classic in style and character. It's full-bodied with firm, polished tannins. The palate is savory and balanced, leading to a long, flavorful finish. Very beautiful, refined fruit character to this with focus and polish."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *“The purple-fruit and black-olive character with violet undertones is wonderful here. Full-bodied, yet reserved and intense. Finesse. Graphite and minerality. Layered.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “The vineyard, across the road from Léoville-las-Cases and under the same ownership, is producing grand wines. This latest release has a powerful structure, dense fruits and layers of tannins. Black fruits and dark chocolate contrast with the freshness at the end. A wine to age, this should be just approaching drinkability by 2027.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “A beautiful black currant flavor and an immense background of tannins mark this wine is from a single parcel of the Léoville las Cases vineyard. The purity of the fruits and acidity is impressive.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc. 55% new oak, pH 3.64. Barrel sample. Deep purple core and bright purple rim. Deep, dark and charr. Combination of ripe and intense cassis and a rocky, more savoury quality to add complexity, yet it's scented too. Tannins are incredibly fine, many layered, dry and yet supple. And great freshness. A very good second wine. (JH) 14.5%. Drink 2025-2038.”*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “More sombre than the Petite Marquise, as you would expect. More of a Las Cases feel, with the tannic heft of the vintage apparent, although as it opens this has an elegance and a drawn-out journey through the palate, with a good wall of fine tannins. Excellent-quality and a vintage that feels a little more accessible at this stage than in some years.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “The smoky nose gets even better with all that ripe crème de cassis, blackberry, forest floor, cigar box and sweet cherry in the perfume. Lush, round and loaded with sweet, ripe, juicy red fruits, the wine delivers length, freshness, and vibrancy, along with supple tannins in the finish. With bottle age, this could get even better. The wine was made from blending 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, 14.5% ABV”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Crème de cassis, spice, forest floor and tobacco notes show up with ease. Medium/full-bodied, spicy, and fresh, this wine is precociously ripe and vibrant with juicy fruit on the nose and mouth. Even with the 14.5% alcohol, there is no heat, jam, or over-ripeness. Everything is sweet and lively. Clearly, this is the best vintage for Clos du Marquis and its definitely Classified Growth in quality. The wine was made from blending 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Deep purple colour, with a rich, black-fruited nose that is accented with light, savoury spices. The palate is full bodied and structured with rich, ripe tannins framing a dense core of blackcurrant and cedar. The spices are subtle, adding a light fragrance and lift to the power of the wine. Impressive and brooding, this will need a few years to settle after bottling before reaching its peak.”*
- Farr Vintners
- “The 2018 Clos du Marquis is consistent with my tasting note from barrel. It has a perfumed, camphor-tinged bouquet featuring plenty of brambly red fruit, and maybe just a hint of dark chocolate loitering in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins and quite saline in the mouth with fine depth. It is not the most complex Clos du Marquis that I have tasted, but I appreciate the persistent black pepper aftertaste, which is quite Pauillac in style. Very fine.”*
- NM, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2018 Clos du Marquis has a rich and forward bouquet with layers of red berry fruit mixed with camphor and touches of iron filings. The palate is rich and powerful, rounded in texture with white pepper and thyme infusing the black fruit. This is a voluminous and powerful Clos du Marquis with depth and girth, leading to a tannic finish that will need a few years to soften. Good potential."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Clos du Marquis is so expressive, and frankly, delicious. In 2018 there is a bit more richness than typical, but that is 2018. A rush of inky dark fruit, graphite, lavender, spice, crushed rocks and smoke all race out of the glass. All the elements are so impeccably balanced. The 2018 spent 16 months on French oak, 55% new. It is one of the hidden gems in this vintage. I would give it a few years to soften, as the tannins are imposing."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2018 Clos du Marquis is a powerful, heady Saint-Julien. Smoke, cedar, tobacco, menthol, licorice, iron, scorched earth and gravel all run through this potent, virile Saint-Julien. In 2018, Clos du Marquis is especially tannic. There is so much to like about Clos de Marquis in 2018, but it will need time in bottle. Best of all, it should be a solid value."

- AG, Vinous

"A blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, the 2018 Clos Du Marquis offers a brilliant nose of ripe black cherries, smoked tobacco, cedar pencil, and violet-laced aromas. These carry to a full-bodied, rich, concentrated 2018 with plenty of background oak, a juicy spine of acidity, rock star levels of concentration and mid-palate depth, and ripe, silky tannins. Given its tannins and acidity, it's not for those seeking instant gratification, and a solid decade of cellaring is going to be warranted. 95+."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Rocking stuff, the 2018 Clos du Marquis checks in 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 6% Cabernet Franc that hit 14.5% alcohol with a healthy pH of 3.64 and an IPT of 79. It boasts a deep, saturated purple color as well as ripe, powerful, yet complex aromatics. Full-bodied and rich, with a stacked mid-palate, this beauty builds on the palate with ripe, polished tannin, ample oomph, and a great finish. It's a powerful, concentrated wine from the team at Léoville Las Cases that will benefit from 5-7 years of bottle age and keep for two decades."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"(64 Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 Merlot, 6 Cabernet Franc) | 55% new oak | 14.5% alc | 79 IPT This is a restrained and not too demonstrative Clos de Marquis with lovely texture and length and also a silkiness which is incredibly attractive already. The tannins counterbalance the fruit perfectly and the overall feel is of an incredibly good wine with superb freshness and plum fruit which is not too dark or overbearing. I have no doubt that this wine will drink much earlier than the 2016, which is also a favourite."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"The nose is fruity, fresh, and mineral. It reveals notes of cassis, blackberry and small notes of ripe wild red berries associated with fine touches of fresh flowers, fleshy / juicy berries as well as slight hints of Sichuan pepper and spices. The palate is fruity, well-balanced, well-built and offers a beautiful fleshiness, gourmandise, a mineral frame, power as well as a beautiful freshness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy cassis, fleshy strawberry and small notes of fleshy blackberry associated with small / fine touches of licorice, toasted, tonka bean as well as discreet oaky / caramelized hints and an imperceptible hint of blond tobacco (in the background). A beautiful wine that offers a good freshness. A very fine firmness on the finish. The tannins are finely firm."

- Vert de Vin
