

Clos du Marquis 2020

CSPC# 888360

750mlx6

13.57% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

61% Cabernet, Sauvignon, 33% 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

The vine started the 2020 vintage early. At Clos du Marquis, the winter was mild and the spring rainy. Bud burst came quickly. The soil was able to make water reserves but the risks of mildew were increased. The work of the cultivation manager's team made it possible to reduce them. The high summer heat and the drought also made it possible to obtain healthy grapes. In addition, the berries were able to reach excellent phenolic, aromatic and tannic maturity. The harvest was also early. The Merlots were picked September 11-16, the Cabernet Francs were picked September 18-19, and the Cabernet Sauvignons September 26-29.

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

The Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested from the 26th to 29th of September, the Merlot from the 11th to the 16th of September and the Cabernet Franc from the 18th to the 29th of September.

**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 sizes. 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 tanks. Aged in 25% new oak for 20 months.

Tasting Notes

The nose is powerful with very ripe fruit. On the palate, this wine is very long, with well-structured tannins. There are notes of red fruits and black fruits. This Clos du Marquis 2020 is powerful, fine, slightly spicy.

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

Approx. 3,000 cases made annually.



**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2027-2045

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023
93+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023
93-95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021
92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021
17+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021
92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021
93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021
91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021
92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023
92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021
91-93+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021
94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021
93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023
93-94 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2021
94-95 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021
92-93 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021
90-92 points - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021
94-96 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - July 2021
93-95 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021

Reviews

"This is pure St-Julien through and through, with a core of cassis and plum fruit laced with a cool cast iron note, while cedar, anise, and savory nuances chime in the background. Best from 2028 through 2038."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2020 Clos du Marquis wafts from the glass with aromas of rich berries, cherries, orange zest, pencil shavings and crushed mint. Medium to full-bodied, rich, and velvety, with a sweet core of fruit, lively acids and powdery tannins that assert themselves on the youthfully firm finish, it's a serious wine that will require and reward patience."
- WK, Wine Advocate

"The 2020 Clos du Marquis is composed of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, weighing in with an alcohol of 13.57%, a pH of 3.76 and an IPT (tannins index) of 84. The Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested from the 26th to 29th of September, the Merlot from the 11th to the 16th of September and the Cabernet Franc from the 18th to the 29th of September. Deep purple-black in color, it bursts from the glass with flamboyant notes of crushed blackberries, ripe, juicy plums and blackcurrant pastilles, with suggestions of licorice, red roses and espresso. The medium-bodied palate is completely coated with perfumed black fruits, framed by firm, grainy tannins and bold freshness, finishing long and fragrant. Simply gorgeous."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"A tighter, more linear red with blackcurrant, olive and floral character. It's medium-to full-bodied with a firm, racy finish. Tight. Sweet tobacco. 61% cabernet sauvignon, 6% cabernet franc and 33% merlot."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Fragrant black currants give a classic wine that shines with the Cabernet Sauvignon. Its density comes from concentration, offering the potential of density without weight. The wine will age well. Barrel Sample: 93-95."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep, bright crimson. Attractive Cabernet nose with dark-fruit and floral notes. Smooth and luscious on attack with a depth of crunchy fruit and incredibly fine-grained tannins. ITP index a massive 84 (higher than Las Cases) but you don't feel the tannins. Definite potential. (JL) 13.6%. Drink 2027 – 2040."
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"This has the most gorgeous savoury fruit edge, a brilliant Marquis with a sappy chalky quality, concentrated and intense but still keeps the St-Julien balance. 40% new oak. Drinking Window 2024 – 2036."
- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews *“Flowers, cassis, black raspberries, herbs, and tobacco leaf on the nose. Medium-bodied, forward, juicy, soft and polished, there is energy, freshness and purity here from start to finish.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2020 Clos du Marquis, matured in 40% new oak, has something almost genteel on the nose, very harmonious, almost “laid back” as lilting blackberry, cigar humidor, loamy aromas unfurl in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with a pleasant salinity on the entry, moderate depth, well balanced with black pepper and sage towards the structured finish. There is a sense of confidence about this Clos du Marquis that should see it age well over 20 to 25 years. Excellent.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2020 Clos du Marquis was picked September 11–29 and matured in 40% new oak with 13.57° alcohol. This Saint-Julien displays copious blackberry and raspberry scents on the nose, intermingling with freshly rolled tobacco and subtle estuarine aromas. There is something almost... gentle about the aromatics. The palate is medium-bodied with satisfying sappiness on the entry that gets the saliva flowing. Quite classic in style, in keeping with the leitmotif of the vintage, this fans out toward the finish while retaining ample structure and a sense of linearity. This excellent Clos du Marquis brims over with breeding and should drink well for 20–30 years. 2027 - 2050.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2020 Clos du Marquis is plush, sensual, and inviting, with soft contours that make it a real pleasure to taste today. Inky red/purplish fruit, lavender, spice, rose petal, mint and cedar all take shape as this sexy Saint-Julien shows off its allure. All the elements are so nicely balanced. In 2020, only 25 of the 46 hectares of the property were used for the Grand Vin.”

- AG, Vinous

“Pure crème de cassis, tobacco, black cherries, lead pencil, and a wonderful sense of minerality emerge from the 2020 Clos Du Marquis, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a pure, elegant texture, plenty of ripe tannins, and the vibrant, focused, lengthy style of the vintage front and center. It's going to need 4-6 years of bottle age, possibly more, but the balance, purity, and precision are all brilliant. The technical information checks in with the alcohol at 13.57%, pH of 3.76, and an IPT of 84. This will be a long-lived Saint-Julien!”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“On the nose, fresh, fruity and offers concentration, fine density, airiness, and good definition. It reveals notes of bright blackberry, fleshy garrigue strawberries and a hint of toast combined with touches of fleshy/ripe red berries, violet and fine graphite, a discreet hint of juicy blueberry, a touch of vanilla, incense, and toast. On the palate, fruity and offers juiciness, wildness, delicacy, a nice finesse of fruit, gourmandize, a certain tension as well as fine precision. The wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy blackberry, bright cassis and more slightly tart/juicy raspberries with hints of blueberry, tonka bean, star anise, cardamom and a discreet touch of vanilla. The tannins are precise and offer a little mellowness. Good length. Very fine hints of chocolate on the finish.”

- Vert de Vin

“(61% CS, 33% M, 6% CF; 13.5% ABV; 40% new). Lovely nose, subtle, fragrant, gently oaky, very seductive; medium-full, moderate in concentration, fresh to vital in acidity (much more marked in the Las Cases group of wines, which have a higher proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon), but in no way austere; dry, lightly gravelly, with a nice length of flavor, just a touch of classic Bordeaux austerity, a bit like the Petite Marquise, quite delicate but in no way weak, with an attractive complexity and very good length. A fine “mid-weight vintage” character. 2028–40+.”

- MS, *The World of Fine Wine*