

Clos du Marquis 1995

CSPC# 763556

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Saint Julien

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. It was created as a "brand", a second wine to Léoville Las Cases which would absorb the barrels not deemed fine enough for the grand vin. Over time it became a wine in its own right and since 1989 has been produced from separate parcels which lie outside Léoville Las Cases' main vineyards. 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.

Vintage

A vintage destined for stardom even before the fruit was off the vines. Wines embody deep colours, generosity of fruit and ripe tannins, qualities replicated from petits châteaux to first growths. Initially regarded as a Médoc (Cabernet) vintage, the Right Bank also enjoyed tremendous success.

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. The Petit Clos vineyard is to the south of the Leoville Las Cases Grand Clos vines and covers 12 acres. It is planted with 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc.

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 40% new oak.

Tasting Notes

Deep red cherry, expressive nose of concentrated cassis and cedar. Firm tannins multi dimensional flavours of coffee, fruit and spice. Long lasting on the palate.

Serve with

Roast rib of beef. Game.



**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2002-2017

- 93 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007
- 90 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - September 15, 1998
- 90 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #115 - February 1998
- 89-91 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #109 - February 1997
- 90 points** - Robert Parker, Bordeaux Book 3rd Edition - January 1998
- 88-90 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #104 - April 1996
- 90-91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - October 2000
- 91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2006
- 89 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 1998
- 14.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only)
- 87 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
- 16 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

Reviews

"Wonderfully perfumed, with violets, flowers, fruit and cedar. Full-bodied, with loads of fruit and a powerful structure. Powerful and reserved. --'95/'96 Bordeaux retrospective. Best after 2009."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"The essence of wild strawberries and blackberries on the nose. Medium-bodied, with medium tannins and a silky finish. Elegant beauty. Outstanding. Best from 2000 through 2005"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"As I have indicated numerous times in this journal, the second wine of Las Cases, Clos du Marquis, is one of the finest second wines being made in Bordeaux. Over recent years, it has become a wine of classified growth quality. The 1996 may turn out to be even better than the outstanding 1995. Both are exceptional wines, with the 1996 slightly thicker and more viscous, with more noticeable new oak, as well as more massive body, and a blockbuster finish. In contrast, the 1995 is the quintessentially elegant style of Las Cases, with copious quantities of sweet fruit, outstanding depth, ripeness, and overall equilibrium, but no sense of heaviness. Like so many of this estate's great wines, everything is in proper proportion, with the acidity, alcohol, and tannin well-integrated. The 1995 is slightly more up-front and precocious than the 1996; it can be drunk now as well as over the next 15 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"I am not a great believer in the quality of most second wines, as they tend to be a dumping ground for everything deemed not desirable for the grand vin. However, such second wines as Forts de Latour, Bahans-Haut-Brion, Pavillon Rouge de Chateau Margaux, and Clos du Marquis are serious wines that possess the character of their more complex and concentrated siblings yet are more supple and accessible. Clos du Marquis is not to be missed in the 1993-95 vintages. Dense purple-colored with considerable intensity, this rich, high quality, gorgeously extracted wine could easily pass for a top classified growth. A serious, well-endowed effort, the medium-bodied 1995 Clos du Marquis does indeed resemble the grand vin, Leoville-Las-Cases. Anticipated maturity: 2000-2012."
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- RP, Wine Advocate

"Along with Bahans-Haut-Brion and Forts de Latour, Clos du Marquis is one of Bordeaux's three finest second wines. Rather amazingly extracted, the terrific 1995 from Michel Delon exhibits an opaque purple color, followed by a sweet, purer, compelling bouquet of black fruits, minerals, and oak. Medium to full-bodied, with nearly outstanding depth, this is a wine to drink over the next 15+ years. It is a remarkable "second" wine! All of the wines in this segment were tasted between March 19 and March 28 in Bordeaux. Most of the important wines from both the 1994 and 1995 vintages were tasted three separate times during my ten-day stay in Bordeaux."
- RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews *“Tasted several times this is the more feminine partner to Clos du Marquis 1996. A fleshy glycerin-rich nose. A well-endowed palate bursting with red fruits. The Clos du Marquis 1996 may be imbued with more thrust and more power but this elegant and involving. Superb. Tasted October 2000.”*
- NM, Wine Journal

“Very good ruby-red color. Expressive, pungent aromas of blueberry, raspberry, game and roasted nuts. Sweet and velvety yet still rather closed following the bottling. Lively acidity gives the wine a penetrating quality. Not quite as weighty as the '96, but stylish and impeccably balanced.”
- ST, International Wine Cellar
