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## Clos du Marquis 1996

CSPC# 763556

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**Website**  
**General Info**

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

<http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/>

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.

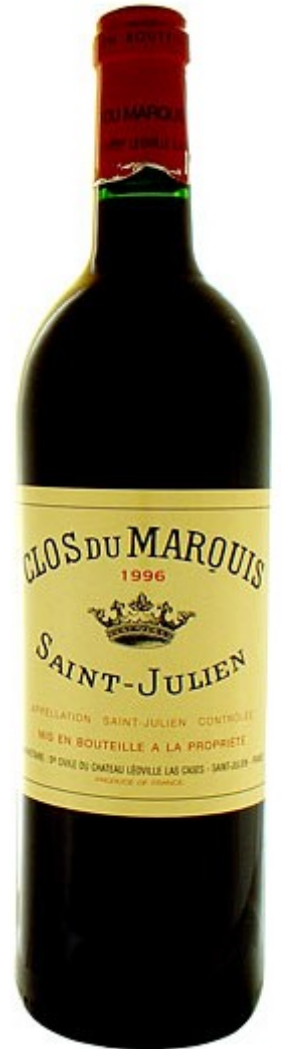
These *terroirs* are located further west and surrounded by prestigious Crus Classés (Classified Growths) including Second Growths from the Saint-Julien and Pauillac appellations: Léoville Poyferré, Léoville Barton and Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande. The Clos du Marquis thus displays typical 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 Médoc vintage, and one which appears to be very well-valued when compared to 1995 and, of course, 2000. In contrast to the opulence and attractiveness of many 1995s, the style in 1996 is today reserved and backward. Concentration and density of both colour and flavour are clearly present, but the fruit of the Cabernet Sauvignon, which calls the tune in 1996, is drier, sleeker and less assertive than that of the Merlot. The impression is of wine with grace and power: claret to be cellared and enjoyed for many years. Many St-Emilions and Pomerols can however be broached from now on.

**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** A classic Bordeaux with a huge personality. Full color development shows. In the nose showing some smoked wood supported by lovely ripe fruit. Hints of spices, chocolate and some leather tip to detect. The scent is very sophisticated. In the mouth a beautiful entrance. Lots of flavor: fruit, spices, nicely integrated wood, great elegance but still some tannin and this gives the wine firm structure. The wine has a good grip and concentration in the mouth. Although wine is now mature, it can still ripen a while. A classic Bordeaux with a stamp.

**Serve with** Roast rib of beef. Game.

**Cellaring** Drink 2002-2017

**Scores/Awards** **91 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007  
**90 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 1999  
**90 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #122 - April 1999  
**90-91 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #115 - February 1998  
**90-92 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #110 - April 1997  
**91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2011  
**91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2006  
**89-91 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 1998  
**16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - September 26, 2006  
**15.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - September 30, 2006  
**14.8 points** - Farr Vintner - September 2006 (score only)  
**92 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**16 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**16 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

**Reviews** *"Beautiful aromas of currant, lightly toasted oak and perfume. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a tight finish. Still holding back. --'95/'96 Bordeaux retrospective. Best after 2008."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Thoroughly well-crafted red. Aromas of berries and asphalt with hints of mint. Medium-bodied, with a complement of polished, silky tannins and a long, caressing finish. Best from 2000 through 2005."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"A terrific Clos du Marquis, and clearly of second or third-growth quality, this dark purple-colored wine reveals structure, brooding backwardness, and rich, expansive character. The wine exhibits plenty of sweet kirsch black currant fruit intermixed with high quality, subtle new oak, and steely, mineral characteristics. Rich and medium to full-bodied, with ripe tannin, this is a dazzling Clos du Marquis. Anticipated maturity: 2002-2018."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"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 1996 should hit its peak at the turn of the century and last for 15 or more years."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The quality level of the second wine of Leoville-Las Cases is unquestionably better than some of Bordeaux's famed 1855 classification's second and third growths. The 1996 Clos du Marquis boasts a thick black/purple color, as well as a huge, soaring set of aromatics consisting of cherry liqueur and blackcurrants. The wine is thick, rich, and tannic, but marvelously well-balanced and long in the mouth. This wine will need 4-6 years of cellaring and keep for two decades. Readers may remember that I was equally amazed by the 1995 Clos du Marquis. Michel Delon has done it again!"*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

**Reviews**

*"Tasted at Roberson's Las-Cases vertical. The '96 Clos du Marquis has an intriguing bouquet, muted at first but opening nicely, a little surly but opening up with cedar, graphite and crushed stone. It just blossoms with time in the glass. The palate is very impressive with ebullient ripe blackcurrant, dark cherry, graphite and freshly rolled tobacco. After 14-years it has certainly mellowed and is firmly on its drinking plateau, the finish very harmonious with a touch of vanillary new oak remaining on the finish. Tasted February 2011."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted blind at Farr's horizontal, vindicating it as one of my favourite Clos du Marquis. The nose is rather muted: blackberry, touch of fig and dried leaves. Good definition. Full-bodied palate, good depth, fine extraction and delineation. Cedar, blackberry, touch of tar. Finely balanced and stylish, though classically lined. Needs another 3-4 years but great potential. Tasted September 2006."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Ruby-red. Sweet aromas of dark berries, shoe polish and flowers; has a distinctly eau de vie-like sappy quality. Inky dark berry fruit is framed, and currently kept under wraps, by firm acidity. Structured and intensely flavored, with lingering fruit outlasting the ripe, suave tannins. An extraordinarily impressive second wine."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Mid crimson. Mellow, fully developed nose. Clean and lively, quite delicate in terms of body. Brisk and a bit angular. Quite notable tannins still. And a bit of alcohol on the finish. Not sure about the balance of this. Drink 2006-12"*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Pale, slightly aged rim. Rather simple ripe fruit flavours on the nose but nothing at all wrong with it. Complete and nice integration on the palate. Just a hint of tannin on the finish. A good medium-term drink."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

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