

Château Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2004

CSPC# 744983

750mlx12

12.86% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	https://www.domaines-delon.com/en/leoville-chateau_leoville_las_cases_vins.html
General Info	Chateau Leoville Las Cases is a second growth Bordeaux estate located on the northern end of the Saint-Julien appellation adjacent to the Gironde River. Leoville Las Cases is a perfect example of why the 1855 Bordeaux classification desperately needs to be updated. Although rated a second growth, Leoville Las Cases consistently produces wine of first growth quality. Like its next-door neighbor, Chateau Latour, Leoville Las Cases maintains a reputation for making stellar wine even in difficult vintages. It is the undisputed crown jewel of St. Julien, and unequivocally one of the best wines in Bordeaux.
Winemaker	Jean Hubert Delon
Vintage	The 2004 Bordeaux has been a classic vintage that set a record for being the largest crop in Bordeaux history. After a relatively hot and rainy month of May, the flowering occurred in good conditions. The summer was quite cool with some rain in August. September was sunny and brought fairly high temperatures. The nights were cool however, preserving the perfect balance and pleasant freshness of the grapes.
Vineyards	The vineyards of Léoville-Las-Cases lie in the northernmost tip of the St Julien appellation, abutting the Gironde, and only separated from those of Château Latour to the north by the <i>Juillac</i> , which drains into the <i>Gironde</i> . Whereas the other Léoville vineyards, those of Barton and Poyferré, consist of a patchwork of numerous plots, those of Las-Cases are largely concentrated in this single block. This is the <i>Grand Clos</i> , a walled vineyard, the stone wall contiguous with that running around Latour, the highlight of which is the stone archway surmounted by the lion of Las-Cases, which can also be found above the doorway to the tasting room at the <i>château</i> (above), and which also graces the label. Totalling over 200 acres, Leoville Las Cases vineyards are comprised of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, and .5% Cabernet Franc.
Harvest	From 4th to 17th October 2004
Maturation	The fruit is harvested by hand, usually by a team of workers from Spain, before transport to the <i>chai</i> , where the berries are destemmed before a gentle pressing and then fermented under temperature-controlled conditions. The fermentation vessels include a fascinating mix of wooden, cement and stainless-steel vats. When finished the wine is pumped from the <i>chai</i> to the barrel cellar on the other side of the road through an underground pipe. Aged in 85% new oak barrels.
Tasting Notes	Plenty of still primary fruit on the nose here, rich, and harmonious substance, slightly roasted even, and with a slightly sweet toffee-tinged element to it here as well. The palate has great depth and character, with a full texture, very polished and substantial. Great primary potential here, with lots of brooding texture. Great ripe tannic structure, fresh acidity, an elegant but still substantial, well-muscled wine, firm and very impressive. Excellent.
Serve with	Leoville Las Cases is 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	20,000 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2035
Scores/Awards	95 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2007 95-98 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 2005



Scores/Awards **93 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #171 - June 2007
90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #165 - June 2006
91-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #158 - April 2005
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2005
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2021
95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2007
95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2007
95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2021
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 2015
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2013
93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - December 2019
92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - July 2018
93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - December 2020
18.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019
18 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2007
17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2005

Reviews *"Intense aromas of currant, blackberry and light vanilla. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long, caressing finish. Layered, with everything in the right proportion for the vintage. Excellent. Reminds me of the 1996. *Ranked #6 on Top 100 Wines of 2007, Collectibles**
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Intense aromas of black licorice, berry and currant follow through to a full-bodied palate, where it builds, with lots of velvety tannins and a long, caressing finish. Reminds me of the 1996 Las Cases; may be better. Score Range: 95-98."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Performing better from bottle than it did from cask, this blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, and 11% Cabernet Franc has put on weight over the last year. It exhibits the classic style of both Las Cases and St.-Julien in its deep black currant notes interwoven with sweet cherries, wet stones, and toasty vanillin. Made in a structured, medium to full-bodied style with superb concentration, beautiful purity, and admirable symmetry, this beauty is one of the strongest efforts of the vintage. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2028."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Proprietor Jean-Hubert Delon believes the 2004 Leoville Las-Cases, a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, represents a lighter version of the 1996 and 1986 Las Cases. While an outstanding effort, it does not possess the breadth or depth of flavor found in the two aforementioned vintages. A classic bouquet of black cherries, cassis, crushed rocks, flowers, vanilla, and background oak emerges from this dense ruby/purple-tinged 2004. Medium-bodied with moderately high tannin and crisp acidity in the strong finish, it should be at its finest between 2010-2020."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2004 Léoville Las-Cases feels stubborn and closed on the nose despite rigorous coaxing. Eventually it reveals attractive, tightly wound blackberry, briary, sandalwood and undergrowth notes. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin, masculine as usual with Las-Cases, rather aloof and you might say a bit charmless. It is not a Saint-Julien that has resolved to give pleasure, the austerity on the finish is a little blunt at the moment. Being Las-Cases, perhaps it just needs longer time in bottle? Tasted at the annual CVBG tasting in London. 2019 – 2035."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Like Clos du Marquis, the nose is very backward and broody, though eventually aromas of blackberry leaf and citrus fruits emerge. Then becoming more minerally. Full-bodied, very tannic, and robust with precocious ripe black fruits. Quite linear, very tight. Huge grip. It just lacks some joie-de-vivre, some brightness of fruit. As always, strangely unlovable, but undoubtedly impressive. Tasted April 2005."
- NM, Wine Journal

- Reviews** *“This is so beautiful now with ceps, mushrooms, bark and blackberries, as well as some flowers and black olives. It’s full-bodied, round and soft. Lovely now. Drink and enjoy now or hold.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Intense currant, blackberry and light vanilla aromas. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long, caressing finish. Layered, with everything in the right proportion for the vintage. Excellent red. Reminds me of the 1996. Best after 2012.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “This 'super second' lives up to its billing. It is rich and concentrated with dark tannins that lie over the ripe, jammy fruit and black, rich chocolate flavors. Acidity and wood are there, but only just hints after the richness of the fruit. A real, magnificent aging wine.*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “A cooler year than 2003 or 2005, and the precision is clear, with layers of tight black fruits, cedar and fresh mint confidently on display. It's pretty austere right now, but its weight and texture is far more impressive than its youth. In vintages like this, it's clear that the terroir always takes precedence here. There is 90% new oak here, and yet you barely get a whisper of it besides the soft, cold ash smoke on the finish.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “A bit stoic, the wine is an old-school, classic, firm Claret with a distinctive green, peppery edge to the bright, crunchy, red currants and cranberry fruits on the nose and palate. Definitely not generous, this is better suited for consumers that are not fans of riper vintages.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Still showing nice depth of color, with wet earth, ocean, truffle, blackberry and campfire embers are found with only a little effort. The tannins have softened, leaving you with a classically styled, mouthful of black cherry liqueur and fennel that shifts from black fruit to red fruit and back to black again. Drink now, or age it 5-8 years for more softness and complexity. Due to the vintage, this is probably well priced in the marketplace today.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Classic is good sense, with its structure, tannin and wealth of dark fruit, earth, stone, cedar and cassis. Powerful, fresh and backward, at least 5 more years should add more complexity and soften the wine's texture.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “The 2004 Léoville–Las Cases has the tough job of following the 2005. It offers black fruit mixed with sous-bois, smoke and sage aromas, now moving into its secondary stage but without the intensity of great vintages like 2005 or 2010. The palate is well balanced, with off-dry tannin. Classic in style, fresh and poised, leading to a lovely, quite sensual finish that leaves you wishing for another sip. Very fine.”*
- NM, Vinous
- “Intense currant, blackberry and light vanilla aromas. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long, caressing finish. Layered, with everything in the right proportion for the vintage. Excellent red. Reminds me of the 1996. Best after 2012.”*
- NM, Vinous
- “Showing beautifully, with a classic elegance and beautiful complexity, the 2004 Saint-Julien reveals a healthy ruby hue as well as textbook currants, lead pencil shavings, dried tobacco, and dried flower-like aromas and flavors. It shows the more streamlined, elegant style of the vintage yet has plenty of sweet fruit, beautiful overall balance, and a great finish. It's drinking at point today yet should continue evolving and drinking nicely for 15-20 years or so.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck