

# Château Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2006

CSPC# 813891

750mlx6

13.37% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Julien
<b>Classification</b>	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.domaines-delon.com/en/leoville-chateau_leoville_las_cases_vins.html">https://www.domaines-delon.com/en/leoville-chateau_leoville_las_cases_vins.html</a>
<b>General Info</b>	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.
<b>Winemaker</b>	Jean Hubert Delon
<b>Vintage</b>	The spring of 2006 was very cool, but the nice weather in May gave an even blossoming. July was marked by ten very hot days whereas August was rather cool and dry. The first ten days of September were also dry and hot and then there was a rainy period before picking. When it came to harvest-time the dry weather had however returned and allowed the crop to be picked in good conditions.
<b>Vineyards</b>	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. Totaling over 200 acres, Leoville Las Cases vineyards are comprised of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, and .5% Cabernet Franc.
<b>Harvest</b>	From 21st September to 4th October 2006
<b>Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Chateau Leoville Las Cases is one of the largest and oldest classified growths in the Medoc region of France. The fruit is harvested by hand. The fermentation vessels include a fascinating mix of wooden, cement and stainless-steel vats. When finished the wine is pumped to the barrel cellar. Here it is transferred into oak barrique, between 50% and 100% new for the grand vin, depending on the vintage.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2023-2045
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 2009 <b>95-98 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 2007



**Scores/Awards** **96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - May 2016  
**95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #181 - February 2009  
**93-95+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007  
**96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2010  
**96-98 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2007  
**95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - June 2021  
**95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2007  
**95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2009  
**18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2007  
**95 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2018  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2016  
**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2012  
**90-93 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2007  
**96 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2016  
**94 points** - Stephen Tanzer, Vinous - May 2009  
**87 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - December 2016  
**18.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France - January 2008  
**18.5 points** - Bettane & Desseave - June 2007  
**93-95 points** - Falstaff Magazine - May 2007  
**18 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2007  
**93 points** - Tom Cannavan, wine-pages.com - January 2008  
**92 points** - Wine & Spirits Magazine (score only) - December 2009

**Reviews** *"Offers a pure nose of crushed raspberry and violet, with aniseed. Full-bodied, with beautiful, well-integrated tannins and a long, polished texture to the finish. Very beautiful. Harmonious and structured. Best after 2015."*  
 - JS, Wine Spectator

*"Fabulous aromas of mineral, currant and blackberry. Full and supersilky, with a long, long finish. Very fine tannins, even though there are loads of them. Long and round. Reminiscent of the excellent 1996 Las Cases, but better. Score Range: 95-98."*  
 - JS, Wine Spectator

*"Tasted at Bordeaux Index's annual 10-Year On tasting in London and then blind at Farr Vintners horizontal, the 2006 Château Léoville Las-Cases has a very complex bouquet with heady scents of blackcurrant, kirsch, crushed violets, rock salt and just a hint of cassis. It is backward and can barely contain its energy. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, very symmetrical and poised, a fine line of acidity interwoven through the black fruit, touches of citrus fruit developing towards the poised and tensile finish. This is a beautiful wine from Jean-Hubert Delon, but it needs several years in bottle. Tasted April 2016."*  
 - NM, Wine Advocate

*"Not surprisingly, Leoville Las Cases has produced another classic, potentially long-lived wine in 2006. Among the St.-Juliens, it, Ducru Beaucaillou, and Leoville Barton possess the potential for the greatest longevity. Interestingly, when I visited this chateau in January, proprietor Jean-Hubert Delon offered me two samples, one where the cork had been pulled immediately prior to tasting, and another that had been decanted four hours earlier. Both were superb, but the wine that had had extended aeration was clearly the finer offering. The opaque purple-hued 2006- only 40% of the crop made it into the final blend- exhibits a personality that mimics the superb 1996. Classic aromas of sweet black raspberries, kirsch, cassis, and subtle toasty oak are followed by a full-bodied, concentrated wine displaying moderately high tannin. This cuvee can often resemble a Pauillac wrapped in the St.-Julien appellation, and the 2006 is no exception. A blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, it will require significant cellaring before consumption. Anticipated maturity: 2019-2035+."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"Perfectionist owner Jean-Hubert Delon believes the 2006 Leoville Las Cases recalls the greatness of the 1986 and 1996. The natural alcohol came in at 13.3%, and only 40% of the production made it into the final blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, and a dollop of Cabernet Franc. This backward, deep ruby/purple-hued effort exhibits sweet, pure black cherry, raspberry, and cassis characteristics, soft, ripe tannin, and medium body. It reveals a strong similarity to its next door neighbor, Chateau Latour. The 2006 Las Cases will require 5-8*

*years of bottle age and should drink well for 25-30 years."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*"Tasted blind at Southwold '06 Bordeaux tasting. Jean-Hubert's crown jewel is always difficult to assess in blind conditions, although the longer you leave it in your glass, the more it unfurls, and your points start ratcheting up. The 2006 is no different: a rich, meaty nose with mulberry, sloe, pencil lead, a touch of shoe polish. The palate is medium-bodied, very sleek, and smooth on the entry, ripe and rounded, quite sensuous and ravishing with plush black fruit, well-integrated new oak and a decadent, domineering primal finish that will demand 10-12 years cellaring. Tasted January 2010."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at the chateau. If somebody opined that this is the best wine of 2006, then I might not disagree. Jean-Hubert Delon has done wonders with a difficult vintage and produced a sublime wine that has the potential to surpass the 2005...it is that good. A deep purple, opaque core. The nose is stunning: sensuous cedary black fruits, crushed violets, and a hint of peppermint. Utterly seductive. The palate does not disappoint - beautifully balanced with perfect acidity, elegant, sumptuous, and vivacious. Certainly, one of the best Las-Cases I have tasted at this stage, a Saint Julien to aspire to this year. Tasted April 2007"*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Aromas of blackberries, black olives, raspberries, iodine and asphalt follow through to a medium to full body with a tight, layered palate and a juicy finish. Hints of iodine at the end. Some licorice, too. "*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Fabulous aromas of mineral, currant and blackberry. Full and super silky, with a long, long finish. Very fine tannins, even though there are loads of them. Long and round. Reminiscent of the excellent 1996 Las Cases, but better."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"While the aromas are tight and firm, once it is in the mouth, this wine just explodes. The tannins are dark, almost impenetrable, dry, and dense. These tannins are a layer over the fruit that just piles up with ripe blackberry juice, an edge of blueberry. The soft sweetness of this range of flavors continues on the finish, pitted against the tannins. \*Cellar Selection\* "*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Like the other wines from this stable such as second wine Clos du Marquis, this was blended early and put into barrel a month earlier than usual. They are aware that the earlier start to élevage has had a (beneficial) effect on how the wine tastes at this stage, giving it greater smoothness. A little stronger than 2005 at 13.5%. The glass already feels weightier than Clos du Marquis! Very deep purple right out to rim. Big, big difference between this and Clos du Marquis on the nose - completely different. Rather opulent even. Rich and very fine and intense and certainly pulling out all the stops! There's finesse here. Even Las Cases is not trying to be big and tough this year. Trying for suppleness and fully ripe fruit. Very lively and fine tannins. Amazing nose even though not that much alcohol. Very neat long finish."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Since 1959 the estate has kept 50% of production back for a second release when the wine is ready to drink, and this vintage has not yet seen its mature release (they are currently on the 2004). You can see why - it's an exceptional wine that still needs time in the cellar. The biggest difference that you see between grand vin and second wine is the size, shape and layers of the tannins. Here they are closed, barely getting going and yet unquestionably full of purpose, doing their job of defining and controlling the dark fruits. Coiled energy supports gorgeous, crushed cassis and slate. This still has decades ahead of it"*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Bright, full ruby. Brooding aromas of cassis, black cherry, minerals, bitter chocolate, shoe polish and violet; more Pauillac than Saint-Julien on the nose. Then rich, lush, and powerful, with impressive fullness and volume. As full and sweet as this is, there's no impression of excess weight and the back end shows a distinctly austere*

quality, even if the serious tannins are nicely buffered by the wine's middle. Really stains the palate with rich flavor on the aftertaste. Wonderfully ripe Cabernet Sauvignon here; in fact, most of the Cab Franc in 2006 was declassified into the Clos du Marquis

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Full ruby-red. Highly complex aromas of currant, mocha, tobacco, minerals, camphor and musky bitter chocolate. Lush and silky in the mouth if a bit youthfully subdued today. This dense, cabernet-dominated wine is big, rich and backward, finishing with serious tannic spine (at 75, this has the highest IPT since the '01). I got the impression that cellarmaster Bruno Rolland prefers this wine to the 2005, and time may yet prove him right."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Powerful, mouth filling, tannic and concentrated, most of this wine is being held back in reserve, waiting for the day when the tannins are resolved, the secondary notes can jump to the forefront and the wine softens its muscular style. There is no denying its quality, but it's equally hard to deny its drinkability at 10 years of age. There is a good sense of purity of fruit that really stays with you behind the massive wall of creamy tannins. But it's going to take at least a decade, and probably longer to breach that wall."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot and the rest made from Cabernet Franc creates a deep colored wine. With extended coaxing, cedar, lead pencil, cassis, tobacco, and forest floor aromas come alive. Powerful, tannic, concentrated and backwards, this classic and classy Bordeaux demands another decade or longer before it's civilized. This is best purchased or cellared by very patient Leoville Las Cases fans."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The sweetness of the fruit is backed by freshness and minerality on both nose and palate. The rounded tannins give an added weight to the fruit in the mouth but then towards the end it becomes firm and tight."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2006 Château Léoville Las-Cases has a very complex bouquet with heady scents of blackcurrant, kirsch, crushed violets, rock salt and just a hint of cassis. It is backward and can barely contain its energy. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, very symmetrical and poised, a fine line of acidity interwoven through the black fruit, touches of citrus fruit developing towards the poised and tensile finish. This is a beautiful wine from Jean-Hubert Delon, but it needs several years in bottle. 96 Points, Neal Martin, May 2016, Drink 2020-2035."*

- NM, Vinous

*"Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections. On the nose, fine notes of gingerbread spices, pleasant sweet berry fruit, violets, precious wood, extremely complex. On the palate very substantial, opulent and sweet, a wine that completely lines the mouth, with powerful, supple tannins and great charm, you don't want to spit that out voluntarily, wonderful length, plus the great freshness of the vintage, simply convincing."*

- Falstaff Magazine

*"Notes of very ripe fruit, volume and power. The tannins are magnificent and the length superb. Wait a little longer ..."*

- La Revue du Vin, France

*"Considerable body, highly civilized tannin, grain of very noble texture with a small start of truffle behind the tobacco and cedar, which sets it apart."*

- Bettane & Desseauve

*"Lovely, sweet cedar and cassis quality, with lots of intense blue/black fruit and great concentration. Lots of spice and liquoricy depth on the palate, but svelte too, with fine tannins and a kirsch-like, tight character. A more powerful and tightly-wound wine, with the 2007 more open and flattering."*

- TC, wine-pages.com

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