

Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2009

CSPC# 744983

750mlx12

13.8% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Julien

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.

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 *Juillac*, which drains into the *Gironde*. 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 *Grand Clos*, 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 *château* (above), and which also graces the label. Totalling over 200 acres, Leoville Las Cases is comprised of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, and .5% Cabernet Franc.

Harvest

Hand harvested from Tuesday, September 22 - Monday, October 05, 2009

Maturation

The fruit is harvested by hand, usually by a team of workers from Spain, before transport to the *chai*, 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 *chai* to the barrel cellar on the other side of the road through an underground pipe. Here it is transferred into oak *barrique*, between 50% and 100% new for the *grand vin*, Château Léoville-Las-Cases.

Tasting Notes

Ripe, creamy, juicy blackcurrants dance across the palate, perfectly in harmony with sweet spice and freshness. Fabulous, intense waves of supple fruit roll on and on in the mouth whilst a massive level of chiseled, Cabernet tannins crash on the tongue and then just disappear. Beautifully harmonious, this has wonderful poise and balance, yet the greatness of the wine underneath is clear. This will undoubtedly be one of the wines of the vintage.

Production

14,165 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2013-2063

Scores/Awards

98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012
97-100 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
98+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012
96-100 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010
97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012
96-98 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010
98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012
96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010
89-92 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010
18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010
17.5-18.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010
19 points/5 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010
98 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010



Reviews

"This is gorgeously layered with cassis bush, anise, roasted fig and plum reduction notes all framed by racy espresso and graphite. Very deep and very long, with terrific intensity on the finish thanks to razor cut from the seemingly endless iron spine. With its purity and precision, this mineral-driven Cabernet should cruise for two decades. Best from 2020 through 2035. 14,165 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Black color. What a nose. Black licorice, raspberry, currant and dried flowers galore. Full-bodied and super powerful, with masses of fruit and toasted oak, but a blockbuster finish of fruit, tannins and everything else. I have never tasted such a flashy sample. I am blown away by this. A more fruit-forward style for Las Cases."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"The 2009 Leoville Las Cases may be the most open-knit and forward Las Cases I have tasted to date. Analytically, it is high in tannin and the alcohol is 13.8%, nearly a record at this estate. This blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc was showing brilliantly at the 2009 tasting I did in Hong Kong and at a later tasting. It boasts an inky/purple color, monumental concentration and lots of sweet, jammy black currant, black cherry and kirsch fruit intermixed with crushed rock and mineral notes. As always, proprietor Jean-Hubert Delon has built a massive wine with exceptional precision, unbelievable purity and aging potential of 40-50 years. I was surprised by the lushness of this cuvee on several occasions, and how much more forward it is given the fact that Las Cases can often be forebodingly backward and in need of 10-15 years of cellaring (at age 30, the 1982 is still a baby in terms of development!). The super-concentrated 2009 needs another 5-7 years before additional nuances emerge. This is a brilliant, full-throttle St.-Julien."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2009 is one of the greatest Leoville Las Cases I have ever tasted, which is saying something given the many compelling wines that have been made at this estate. A final blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, and 9% Cabernet Franc has resulted in a wine that appears to be a hypothetical blend of the 1982, 1986, and 1996. Its 13.8% alcohol is perhaps the only thing that sets it apart from those vintages, which had nearly a full percentage point less. The high alcohol is barely noticeable in this 2009, which boasts an inky/purple color, monumental concentration, and great clarity and purity of creme de cassis, black cherry, spice box, graphite, and wet rock characteristics. Extremely full-bodied with a boatload of sweet tannin nearly concealed by the wine's power, glycerin, and awesome fruit concentration, this intense effort never tastes heavy or tiring. This remarkable St.-Julien should be accessible in 3-4 years and will evolve for 40-50. (Tasted once.)"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the chateau, the Leoville-Las Cases 2009 has a complex bouquet with macerated black cherries, black truffle, sorbet-like fresh fruits that render this quite feminine and seductive. Certainly not a standoff-ish Las-Cases. The palate has silky smooth, velvety tannins that lulls you in at the front of the mouth and then fans out beautifully towards the almost exotic finish. Yet there remains great delineation and poise, the finish remaining more than a minute in the mouth. Superb. Tasted November 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the chateau. The nose has brilliant delineation: this is the first thing that hits you, as if you can peer into the clos of the vineyard itself. Very expressive, almost feminine and wily, crystalline (this is something that I did not expect.) The palate is medium-bodied, saturated and supple on the entry, seamless tannins, a sense of controlled opulence here, very pure, rounded towards the finish, again, gliding across the mouth and caressing, rather than gripping it. The finish is very pure, almost Napa in style, but retaining sufficient structure and prudence of alcohol to allow that Saint Julien terroir to shine through. This is an irresistible Las-Cases, perhaps a modern day '85? Tasted March 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A beautifully structured wine, with its tannins layered between the ripest black plums, damsons and black currants. It is opulent while remaining dense, concentrated & very serious. Certainly, a wine for long-term aging"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"96-98 Barrel sample. A powerful wine packed with tannins from structured Cabernet fruits. It exudes muscularity, intensity and concentration. The wood element is present. Maybe the final freshness is missing"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *"(a blend of 70% cabernet sauvignon, 20 % merlot, 8% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot; pH 3.7; IPT 62; 13.7% alcohol; 25% new oak) Dark ruby. Pure strawberry and blackcurrant aromas soar from the glass. Enters fairly large and soft, with a pretty violet note lifting the ripe blackcurrant, spicy plum and chocolate flavors. Even though there's a good bit of merlot here, the high quality of the cabernet sauvignon in '09 gives this plenty of Saint-Julien typicity. "This time around, I do think that the merlot has added much-needed charm," conceded Delon."*

- ID, International Wine Cellar

"Very deep crimson. Subtle with great depth of fruit and a hint of tobacco. This seems much sweeter and lusher than Léoville Las Cases usually does even if there is a lot of tannin underneath. Really quite voluptuous – what Bruno Borie claimed in Ducru? – but lots of fancy tannin and a bit of alcohol on the finish. Very firm but a bit of a step change with all that sweetness on the top."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Sweet fruit on the nose here, ripe and toothsome, elegantly poised, attractive although it doesn't provide the immediate impact and vibrancy that the 2008 did last year. Concentrated though, with a bright crystalline quality, fine and elegantly aromatic. The palate comes in very gently, showing firmly framed fruit, yielding to lots of ripe, bold, tannins; these have a very smooth, polished but plump weight. There is some bright acidity cutting through the middle providing some lift and freshness. Lovely supple-sappy fruit on the finish. Very long and savoury. A very elegant Las-Cases this year. (March 2010)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Deep purple red, naturally concentrated bouquet over really smooth, sophisticated fruit with a taffeta lift, great purity and depth of vineyard fruit, superb elegance and length."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Lovely, dark, intense, color. Fruity nose, fresh, fine and complex, also floral and creamy. Lovely entry into the mouth, full, then the wine develops flavorful, with taste, flesh and fine tannins. It evolves juicy and powerful at the finish, with a good, very aromatic length, and refined texture. The aftertaste has a firm note, which recalls the 86. I prefer the 2005. pH 3.65. Blend 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc."

- J-MQ

"Everything you'd expect from Las-Cases in a great vintage, this is wine with power and tannin to spare. Deeply coloured, almost chewy wine, with lots of oak, but incredible structure, freshness and concentration. Meaty, savoury and textured with very fine, polished tannins and impressive length. The Delon portfolio is extremely impressive in 2009. 20+ years"

- TA, timatkin.com
