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## Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2011

CSPC# 744983

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc

### Appellation

Saint Julien

### Website

[http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/leoville-chateau\\_leoville\\_las\\_cases\\_histoire.html](http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/leoville-chateau_leoville_las_cases_histoire.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.

### Vintage

Winter 2010-2011: This year again, winter was dry, one of the driest in the decade. The winter chill was indeed present from December to February... for the benefit of our ecosystem.

Spring 2010-2011: The sharp rise in temperature in March resulted in an early budding of the vines at the beginning of April. Then, Bordeaux enjoyed a quite exceptional spring from April to June, with a severe drought and historically high temperatures. We thus experienced 40 days with maximum temperatures exceeding 25°C and a heat wave (with temperatures of 37 to 39°C i.e. +/- 100°F) on the 26th and 27th of June.

At first, the spring conditions

- promoted a precocious growth cycle (budding, flowering, fruit setting)
- limited the vegetative expression of the vines in favour of the fruits.

In summer, however, we returned to more traditional Atlantic conditions with a few wet and cool days between the 14th July and the 15th August. Ultimately, rains, throughout, the cycle remained within the seasonal average for Bordeaux.

An important fact: if, at the outset of summer, the vegetal cycle was three weeks ahead in comparison with 2010, the mediocre weather conditions at midsummer slowed down the process and erased much of the precocity acquired in the spring. This extension of the cycle was an undeniable qualitative element.

### 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.

### 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. Aged in 75% new oak barrels.



**Tasting Notes** Deep color. A complex wine with layers of red fruit. Silky, with power on the back end. Excellent. Trey: Very dark, inky in color, with a juicy texture, sweet graphite and mineral components and a dense, sweet core of fruit. Good length, firm, ripe tannins. 92-94 points. AP: When Mouton was elevated to First Growth status there was one property that I believe had a legitimate gripe: Léoville-Las Cases. Like Latour the wines are the quintessential "iron fist in a velvet glove." Aromas of black cherry, cola and a hint of milk chocolate linger in the glass while the wine displays great length and a creamy, long finish.

**Production** 8330 cases made

**Cellaring** Drink 2017-2047

**#10** - Wine Spectator's Top 100 wines of 2014

**95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014

**93-96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

**93+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014

**93-95+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

**93-95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012

**93-94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2013

**95-97 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012

**92-94 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012

**18 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012

**17 points** - Decanter.com - April 2012

**93-95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 13, 2012

**96-97 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012

**97 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (no review)

**95 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

**94-96+ points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012

**92 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012

**18.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

**Reviews** *"This has some toast to shed but retains a terrific core of crushed plum and blackberry confiture. Has a beautiful ripple of charcoal for texture, honest acidity for balance and a bolt of iron that keeps this firmly grounded. A brick-house Cabernet. Best from 2018 through 2030. 8,330 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"This has very solid guts, with dark, almost brooding plum compote, currant paste and anise notes, followed by a hint of roasted juniper wood on the finish, which smolders nicely. An iron hint lurks throughout as well. Score range: 93-96"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"One of the more formidably backward and potentially long-lived wines of the vintage, the medium to full-bodied 2011 Leoville Las Cases behaves like a first-growth, which in a sense it truly is. Revealing a dense inky/purple color, it is a structured, rich, impressively endowed effort that is meant for the long haul. Atypical for this vintage, it requires 5-7 years of bottle age and should drink well for two decades thereafter. The final blend was 76% Cabernet Sauvignon and the balance equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Yields were a low 27 hectoliters per hectare, and the natural alcohol achieved 13.4%."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"One of the thrilling successes of the vintage is, not surprisingly, the 2011 Leoville Las Cases. Analytically, this ripe wine has statistical numbers that are almost identical to their 2010. The fruit was cropped at 27 hectoliters per hectare, the wine aged in 80% new French oak, and the final blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc came in at 13.4% natural alcohol. It boasts an opaque inky/purple color along with gloriously pure aromas of creme de cassis, black raspberries, vanillin and crushed rocks. Medium to full-bodied with abundant glycerin and ripe but noticeable tannin, this beauty is potentially one of the longest lived and finest wines of the vintage. It should be drinkable in 5-6 years and last for 2-3 decades."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*"The Grand Vin is a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc cropped at just 27hl/ha and raised in 80% new oak. It has a comparatively opulent bouquet compared to its peers with sumptuous blackberry, wild strawberry, minerals and cedar, offering touches of Margaux-like floral notes with continued aeration. The palate is full-bodied with good grip and is certainly a Saint Julien with great substance considering the vintage although it does not quite fan out on the finish a la 2009 or 2010. But it is very composed and well balanced with some very pure blackberry, boysenberry and spicy notes lingering long in the mouth. Excellent. Tasted April 2012."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Intense aromas of currants and blackberries with minerals. Full body, with an serious density for the vintage, and racy tannin and acidity. It goes on very long. Reminds me a little of 1996. Very classic style."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"95-97. Barrel sample. This wine is immensely dark, powered by black plum and a ripe, complex structure; its elements are already molding into place. Expect great things of this wine."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"(76% cabernet sauvignon and 12% each merlot and 12% cabernet franc; 26 hectoliters per hectare): Good deep red. Outstanding verve to the aromas of raspberry, white pepper, violet, rose petal and sweet spices; today the cabernet franc component is very apparent. At once velvety and racy on the palate, with great energy and class to the red fruit, floral and mineral flavors. An electric wine that jolts the palate, and yet the exceptionally silky finish features creamy-sweet mouth-saturating tannins. If the 2007 was more Saint-Julien in style and the 2008 more like Pauillac, the subtly complex 2011 is very much Léoville. I'm not sure Jean-Hubert Delon could make a bad Léoville-Las-Cases even if he tried to. This should turn out to be one of the top five wines of the vintage."*

- ID, International Wine Cellar

*"Very low yields this year. Some fruit burnt in the heat spike of June. Across the whole estate the yields were 26 hl/ha. 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc. Rich inky crimson with deep purple crimson rim. Not as open on the nose as the Clos du Marquis. 'Very Léoville Las Cases.' Deep and dark and closed on the nose though you know it is intense. Great power and structure in the mouth but the structure is less obdurate than in many years. Dense but not heavy. Very firm."*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Dense colour, nose still shut in yet the richness is there and the fruit will come out, a real statement of vineyard style, a superb long-term wine. Drink 2020-2050."*

- Decanter.com

*"From 76% Cabernet Sauvignon and equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.4% alcohol and will be aged in 80% new oak. The pH is 3.63. Inky in color, this is one of the darkest, most concentrated wines of the vintage. Espresso bean, black cherry, truffle, gravel, cedar wood, tobacco and cassis are found in the perfume. Powerful and rich with ample tannins, acidity and structure, this classic wine ends with a long, fresh cassis and ripe blackberry finish. Like all the best vintages of Leoville Las Cases, this needs a lot of time in the cellar before consumption. 93-95 Pts"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"13.4 alcohol. Here we are, violet rim, proper en primeur blush, crimson blush. Certainly, this has impact, it holds you tight, reveals itself slowly, stunningly good tannins, rich black fruits, this is a delicate but heavyweight wine, here is the velvet glove. Gorgeous. And they battled against things, as did many estates - yield was only 27 hl, because had slight hail in May, then drought in the early summer, then sun grilling in June, then butterflies affecting the grapes later in the summer. Well, whatever they did to get overall that, I am grateful. For me a contender for wine of the vintage. 96-97."*

- JA, The New Bordeaux

**Reviews** *“Deep black, dense; tight to rim; brooding and deep; sweet fruit but pretty backward; lots of depth; smoky note; layers and layers of fruit on the palate; saturated and dense but with very nice tannin. This really is St Julien’s answer to Latour and made from excruciatingly low yields of 27 hl/ha. Exceptional length. Very focused effort, bags of potential here in this brooding, powerful wine. 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc. 13.4% alc. 80% new oak. Tasted 5/4/12 at the chateau. 94-96+ Apr ’12 UGC primeur tasting”*  
- JW, [winewordsandvideotape.com](http://winewordsandvideotape.com)

*“The aromatics are subtle on this wine, but on the palate, the flavours are generous, tannins velvety and the finish long. This wine has many subtleties and is classic Leoville Las cases. Great depth, well balanced wine with wonderful potential to age for decades. A classy St Julien that is one of the stars from this appellation”*  
- JCL, [asianpalate.com](http://asianpalate.com)

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