

Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2012

CSPC# 744983

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	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	The 2012 vintage was characterised by a slow, late growth cycle due to a very cool and wet spring. The budburst was spread out over time and created a variation in the stages of development that was to be partially evened out by the dry, sunny period that began in mid-July. The colour change and ripening occurred in ideal weather conditions that continued through to harvest-time. The grapes remained perfectly healthy despite rainy spells during picking.
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 is comprised of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, and .5% Cabernet Franc.
Harvest	From 4th to 18th October 2012
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 75% new oak barrels.
Tasting Notes	Tasted straight after Lafite, one might expect the Las Cases to be somewhat overshadowed, but as is normally the case, Domaines Delon's flagship estate is more than up to the challenge. Intensely floral, with notes of crème de cassis, cherry jam, gravelly terroir, meat, hedgerow fruit and griotte cherry. This is powerful, concentrated and refined. It possesses wonderful depth but is clearly not a result of heavy extractions. It is lithe, full of vigour, seductive, regal, long and firm. An epic Las Cases which is qualitatively a match for the First Growths.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2043
Scores/Awards	94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015 93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013 93+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015 93-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013 93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013 93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015



Scores/Awards **94-95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013
96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2015
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 11, 2013
92-94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2013
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013
18.25 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013
96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2013
94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 23, 2013
94-96+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013
17+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2013
93-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - March 2013
93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013
18.5 points - John Berry, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2013
19 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"This is very tight at this early stage, with a wall of smoldering charcoal holding the core of dark plum, blackberry paste and cassis in reserve. The sleek finish shows admirable length and a mouthwatering echo of iron. This harnesses the austerity of the vintage to its advantage and should unwind slowly in the cellar. Best from 2018 through 2030. 10,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Displays a solid core of plum, blackberry and cassis, lined with roasted apple wood and backed by a hint of ganache and briar. Shows excellent integration overall, with a serious iron note buried on the finish. A rock-solid version for this vintage. Score range: 93-96"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The bigger sister or brother of Le Petit Lion, depending on your point of view, the 2012 Leoville Las Cases has gorgeous minerality, plenty of blueberry and blackcurrant fruit that is super-pure, an opaque ruby/purple color, medium body and firm structured, slightly austere personality. This wine is built for the long-term. A blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc, it attained 13.5% alcohol, which is substantial for a 2012 Médoc. It has depth and richness, but also a boatload of tannin. Forget it for 8-10 years and drink over the following 15-20."
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The seriously endowed 2012 Las Cases exhibits a dense purple color as well as surprisingly sweet tannin and a forwardness that one does not normally find at this address. Medium to full-bodied with beautiful black currant, graphite, crushed rock and subtle oaky notes, it possesses lots of minerality and precision, impressive power, a rich mid-palate (which sets it apart from other St.-Juliens), and a long finish. It appears this beauty will be drinkable in 5-6 years, and last for 25 or more.
One of the best, if not the finest wines made in St.-Julien in 2012 is Jean-Hubert Delon's famed Leoville Las Cases. A blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc, it tips the scales at 13.5% alcohol, which is interesting given the fact that its next-door neighbor, Latour, only hit 12.8%. Delon said rot was no problem in their well-drained, gravelly vineyards (which are of first-growth quality in fact if not in name)."*
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Picked over 12 days between 4th and 18th October, the Grand Vin is a blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc with 9% pressed wine and it will be matured in 80% new oak. It has a deep, clayey-scented bouquet with blackberry, briary and espresso. The palate is fresh and lively on the entry and the tannins appear very fine, lending this Las-Cases the potential to be very feminine and lithe. It demonstrates admirable focus; it is not a particularly overly ambitious Grand Vin and appears extremely well controlled on the finish. Tasted April 2013."
- NM, Wine Journal

"So pure on the nose with aromas of blackcurrants, raspberries and licorice. Hints of stones. Full body, polished yet chewy tannins and a long and racy finish. Layered tannins. Citrusy undertones. Bright acidity. Better in 2019."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *"A structured and powerful Las Cases. It really grabs you and makes you take note. Yet there is polish and refinement in the texture. Full body, with intense tannins and long, lively finish. The fruit acid balance is very pretty."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This combines considerable power and concentration with rich, impressive fruits. It has both style and elegance, with density to give it great aging potential. The tannins are firm while also having a velvet texture. The wine, dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon, is for serious aging. Drink from 2025."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"95–97. Barrel sample. This is a very solid wine with tannins that are very firm and dense. There is power without excessive alcohol, lending a classic feel, and a pure line from fruit, acidity and tannin. The result is as much about fruit as structure."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"(74% cabernet sauvignon, 15% merlot and 11% cabernet franc; 3.6 pH; 5.4 g/l total acidity; 70 IPT; 13.5% alcohol; 80% new oak; 33 h/h): Dark ruby-red. Spice and vanillin nuances complicate red cherry, blackcurrant, cedar and graphite on the captivating, classic nose. Then suave and refined in the mouth, with clean flavors of blackcurrant, cedar and herbs. Finishes very long and pure, with insidious complexity and atypical levels of sweet creamy flesh for a 2012 Bordeaux from the Left Bank. I found this outstanding wine to be very LLC in style, not unlike a lighter version of the 2010. The grapes were picked on 12 different days between October 4 and 18. For my money, it's one of the two best wines from the Left Bank in 2012. "

- ID, International Wine Cellar

"Black crimson. Angular and savoury. Appetising above all. Not deep, nor sweet. Even slightly skinny. Very vibrato with the vintage character. Not one of the standouts of the vintage. Too angular."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Superb colour, great depth of concentration shows the Pauillac character of Las Cases, severe and uncompromising now, but a great future."

- SS, Decanter.com

"74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc, that was harvested from October 4 to October 18, produced a wine with deep color that reached 13.47% alcohol and will be aged in 80% new French oak. With a perfume that wants to get noticed due to its jammy blackberry, cassis, licorice, forest floor, tobacco and vanilla notes that get better with each swirl. On the palate, the wine is big, polished, intense and powerful, yet there is a refined side to the tannins. Made to age, this should develop well. 93-95 Pts

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and saturated looking; vibrant edge; very deep nose; enticing, focused and precise; layers; excellent depth of fruit on the nose. The palate is full of fruit, material and ripe tannin; there is a lot of stuff here, but it is very focused indeed. There is a roundness and ripe quality which gives a balanced and harmonious feel to the palate. Excellent length and very nicely done. 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc 80% new oak, 13.47 alc IPT 70 pH 3.6. 94-96+ Tasted at the Chateau Friday, April 12, 2013." 12 UGC primeur tasting"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"A wine that isn't far from being great" is how Jean-Hubert Delon modestly describes his 2012, comparing it favourably to his 2010. It's certainly one of the Left Bank successes of the vintage: precise, dense and almost chiseled in that classic Las Cases way. The wine is surprisingly rich for its alcohol level, with very serious Médocain tannins and a touch more plumpness than the 2011, thanks to the addition of a little more Merlot. A claret for grownups. Drink: 2022-40"

- TA, timatkin.com

Reviews

"In the last 25 years this has been the top-performing non-1st Growth in the Médoc. The vines are situated alongside those of Chateau Latour and the rigorous pursuit of quality is demonstrated by the demotion of much of the production into the excellent Clos du Marquis. Now the young vines are not even used for Clos du Marquis with the creation of "Le Petit Lion". Las Cases will never be cheap, but this is a wine that wants to taste like a First Growth and it frequently does. This has a huge black colour that stains the sides of the glass. The palate is massive and full of cassis, black cherry, and dark chocolate with hints of tarmac, lead pencil and wood smoke. Big, succulent, fat, with a slick and polished texture. Long firm finish."

- Farr Vintners

"The nose is full of ripe fruit lots of black cherry and black plum and this richness of flavour gives depth on the palate. The tannins are rounded the mid palate fleshy quite supple with a lovely depth of flavour. It is firm at the back but there is lots of fruit to show. 2020-35."

- Derek Smedley MW

"Nice density and depth in this wine with balanced, velvety tannins that are firm and ripe. There is 74% Cabernet with 15% Merlot in this blend. This wine needs at least 7-8 years to open up. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (04-Jan-2014)"

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"This has a wonderful elegance yet comes in a powerful package. Once again, Ch. Léoville-Las Cases has produced the iron fist in the velvet glove. Whilst it is quite muted on the nose, it has dark cassis and cocoa notes on the palate. The finish is extremely long and there is a wonderful integration of tannin offset by good acidity levels. This possesses the multi-layered dimension that has not been as evident elsewhere in this 2012 vintage. It is another great success."

- JB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants
