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## Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2014

CSPC# 790278

750mlx12

13.8% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Julien
<b>Classification</b>	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="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</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>Vintage</b>	<p>A prodigious succession of mild weather, humidity, heat and sunshine characterizes the 2014 vintage. The Indian summer helped promote perfect ripeness of the grapes. The winter was exceptionally mild and characterized by high humidity (only 7 days of frost). The beginning of spring was sunnier than usual. Temperatures went up slowly and bud break was early. The vines grew steadily thanks to regular temperatures and rainfall. Flowering was also early, occurring over a period of temperature fluctuations and light rain. June finally experienced a real warming (with peaks above 30°C from the first two days of summer) and even beat the records for temperature and sunshine since 1920! With constant heat, July was significantly warmer than June, and recorded only 51mm of rain throughout the month. August was a little cooler, the first half marked by light, regular rainfall. The incredible sunshine in September totaling 265 hours, +31% compared to the average of the last 30 years, gave the vintage all its qualitative potential.</p> <p>The magnificent late season associated with constant care and attention in the vineyard gave birth to this successful vintage. Its quality is the reward for energy invested, and approaches that of great classic vintages.</p>
<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>	Picked between 30 September and 13 October over 12 days
<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>	Another powerhouse of a wine that could be the best of the non-firsts in the Médoc. A little backward now but will blossom and soften up in the cellar. Age it a minimum of 10 years.
<b>Production</b>	12,500 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2021-2045



**Scores/Awards** **95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017  
**94-97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015  
**96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017  
**94-96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015  
**98 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017  
**96-97 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015  
**97 points / Cellar Selection** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017  
**96-98 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015  
**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015  
**95 points** - Decanter.com - April 2015  
**95-96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015  
**94-95 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015  
**95 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**96 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015  
**17 points** - Farr Vintner - March 2015  
**90-94 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015  
**96 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015  
**95 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017  
**91-94 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015  
**19 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**19 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**19 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)  
**18 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)

**Reviews** *“Densely packed, with cassis, steeped plum and blackberry coulis notes that are compressed with layers of cold charcoal and graphite. Very pure, giving this a long, sleek and racy feel, while an iron underpinning drives the finish. Best from 2020 through 2040. 12,500 cases made.”*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*“A pure, coiled and focused wine, with a super dense core of red and black currant fruit, carried by a mouthwatering iron spine. The long finish features gorgeous notes of dried anise and smoldering charcoal, while the fruit stays pure and racy. The grip takes over in the end, big time. Another brick house in the making. Score range: 94-97”*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*“The 2014 Leoville-Las Cases is a blend of mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, with Cabernet Franc and Merlot, cropped at 33 hectoliters per hectare and matured in 85% new oak. There is 6.8% vin de presse this year. Picked between 30 September and 13 October over 12 days. It has a delectable bouquet with very precise, mineral-rich black fruit infused with oyster shell, which appears to be a leitmotif of Jean-Huber Delon's 2014s! The palate is medium bodied with wondrous purity and tension, the acidity beautifully poised and imparting the palpable sense of energy from start to finish. Where it really excels is on the finish: exquisite structure, very complex with enormous persistence that lingers for more than a minute. Surely the wine of the appellation, ditto one of the best Left Bank 2014s.”*  
 - NM, Wine Advocate

*“The Château Léoville-Las-Cases 2014 is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 10% Merlot cropped at 33 hectoliter per hectare matured in 85% new oak. There is 6.8% vin de presse this year. Picked between 30 September and 13 October over 12 days, it has an intense, graphite-scented bouquet, one of the most Pauillac-like that I have encountered, extremely precise and perhaps less flamboyant than recent vintages. This is very controlled. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, succinctly pitched acidity and an almost pixelated finish that lingers long and tenderly. I love the elegance here – this is an outstanding wine from Jean-Hubert Delon and his team and dare I say, equal to some of the First Growths.”*  
 - NM, Wine Advocate

*“I love the nose of blackberries, blueberries, flowers and citrus. Hints of stones and wet earth. Full body and ultra-fine tannins that are so long and seamless. Incredible length. A wine that you want to drink now.”*  
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

## Reviews

*“The aromas to this wine are enchanting with blackberries, dried flowers, blueberries, citrus and stones. Full body, ultra-fine tannins and bright acidity. Citrus skin undertones. Very, very long. Structured. This is 13.8 alcohol meaning the cabernet was incredibly ripe for the vintage. Yet it remains agile, structured and bright.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This is a great wine. It has all the elements in place to produce a wine that will last for years: powerful fruit, rich tannins and a structure that is built to last. This is elegant, impressive and concentrated. Almost entirely Cabernet Sauvignon, the grape gives the wine its fruit and its tannins. Drink from 2028.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“96–98. Barrel Sample. This is a sophisticated wine, already one of the stars of the vintage. It has a concentrated color and serious tannins that are presented in a stylish package of smooth, polished fruitiness and ample acidity. It is certainly for long-term aging.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Very dark crimson. Intense nose but much lighter and more transparent than Las Cases of old. A little tough at the moment. Dry finish but neither austere nor overdone. Almost delicate - not an adjective I would normally associate with Las Cases. 13.8%. Drink 2025-2040”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Fragrant density from 79% Cabernet Sauvignon. Fine chalky tannins and great purity and depth â “ quite severe in the Las Cases style but clearly a wine of great class.”*

- Decanter.com

*“With a deep, garnet hue, this full-bodied, concentrated, powerful wine starts off with cedar, earth and cassis. The firm, polished tannins leave your palate loitering about with spice and blackberry. This powerful, structured, bright, crunchy wine has a classic, fresh style. It’s important to note that its ample tannins and classic demeanor will require over a decade—probably two— before it really begins to drink well. Produced from a blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 10% Merlot, the wine reached 13.8% alcohol with a pH of 3.49 and is now aging in 85% new French oak barrels. 95-96 Pts”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Deep and saturated colour; opaque; pure blackcurrant aromatics; some cassis; wonderful purity; creamy notes; blackcurrant fruit; some black cherry then there is oak; little dominant on the palate but will fill out; lots of texture and fruit; balanced; material and density but also balance. Really nicely done. [79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 33hl/ha, 85% new oak, 3.49 pH, TA 4.11 13.8% alc, IPT 70.] Drink 2025-2035. Tastes at Las-Cases 30 March 2015. 94-95+”*

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

*“There's no denying that this is built to last, as Las-Cases often is, but it also has an immediacy that is not always apparent in young samples. Aromatic, cedary and very complete with compact tannins, tightly wound fruit and a sheen of mostly new oak. One of the best Left Bank wines of the vintage.”*

- TA, timatkin.com

*“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 Clos du Marquis. Nowadays the young vines are not even used for Clos du Marquis with the creation of the “Petit Lion” label. The most Pauillac-like of all the Saint Juliens. 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, with 85% new oak used at 33hl/ha. Deep purple colour, with blackcurrant, cedar, bitter dark chocolate, and wood smoke on the nose. The palate is robust, muscular and concentrated, with mouthcoating cedary tannins and a dense black fruit core. Classic and uncompromising typicity from Leoville Las Cases. Impressive but not hedonistic and will need plenty of time to resolve in bottle.”*

- Farr Vintners

**Reviews** *“The nose is closed the start of the palate tight but behind the firmness ripe fruit gives richness and sweetness. Cassis and black cherry are underpinned by liquorice and although it closes down at the back the finish a bit tight there is fruit to show. 2027-40”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*“Layers of flavors that range from spices and dark berries to earth and fine herbs. There is both freshness and minerality in this vintage which is wonderful - subtle, layered and intense. A powerful wine by Las Cases this year with a high alcohol level of 14% that is higher than 2009, 2010 or 2005.”*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com

*“Readers will have to be patient with the 2014 Léoville-las-Cases, as it is not likely to show well for a number of years. Tightly wound but also medium-bodied and classic in its construction, the 2014 is going to need quite a bit of time to come together. Léoville-las-Cases is so often a wine of power, but here the refined site of the vintage is very much in evidence. The 2014 is a Las Cases built on finesse. (AG)”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2014 Léoville-las-Cases is striking, even if it is reticent. Crème de cassis, blueberry jam, pencil shavings, cloves and new leather are all woven together effortlessly. Today, the 2014 comes across as restrained and finessed, with less of the volume and energy that is common. It's hard to imagine the notoriously slow-to-mature Léoville-las-Cases won't blossom during its élevage, but at this stage the elements aren't fully put together. The blend is 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 10% Merlot.”*  
- AG, Vinous

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