
Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2015

CSPC# 744983

750mlx12

13.80% alc./vol.

CSPC# 864613

750mlx6

13.80% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, 6% Merlot
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	https://www.domaines-delon.com/en/leoville-chateau_leoville_las_cases_vins.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.
Winemaker	Jean Hubert Delon
Vintage	The 2015 vintage began with the water tables nicely replenished. The particularly hot and sunny weather of early April set off a rapid and regular budburst. This exceptional homogeneity was to continue through the other stages of the vine's development this year. All the key stages proceeded in ideal conditions: the beautiful weather at the end of May and early June allowed the flowering to take place quickly and evenly for each of the different grape varieties. As this incredibly beautiful weather stayed with us, we observed a moderate hydric stress from mid-July, very beneficial at this stage for the synthesis of the polyphenol precursors. The welcome rainfall at the end of July and through early August arrived just in time to allow a quick and even colour change. From mid-August to harvest-time, the final ripening stages continued through alternating sunny periods and stormy rain showers. A mild month of September ensured the grapes maintained a wonderful aromatic freshness.
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 vineyards are comprised of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, and .5% Cabernet Franc.
Harvest	Picked between 22 September and 9 October, a total of 15 days picking
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 85% new oak barrels.
Serve with	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.
Production	16,667 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2045



Scores/Awards **97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018
94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016
98+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018
95-97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018
98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016
99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2018
96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016
17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
96 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016
97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017
95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
95-97+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016
95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
17.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016
93-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
96 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016
98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
95-98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
99 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018
19.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016
95-97 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016
19 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016
19.5 points - Bettane & Desseuve (score only) - April 2016
19 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016

Reviews *"Filled with blackberry, black currant, fig and boysenberry preserve flavors, this starts off showy, but a back end of brambly grip, warm tar, and pastis-soaked apple wood emerges slowly before taking an authoritative lead on the finish. All the while, a cool charcoal note weaves in and around everything. Best from 2025 through 2045. 16,667 cases made.*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Very tightly focused, with both charcoal and iron harnessing the core of dark currant and blackberry fruit flavors. Sleek in feel, but not for lack of depth, as this is brimming with dark fruit and terroir, just in a more austere fashion. Score range: 94-97"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Composed of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc and 6% Merlot, the medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2015 Léoville Las Cases has a slightly closed nose, revealing notes of crème de cassis, baked blueberries and black forest cake with touches of licorice, violets and Indian spices plus a waft of dusty soil. The palate is medium to full-bodied, concentrated and built like a brick house, with firm, ripe, velvety tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and spicy."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Leoville Las-Cases has the highest Cabernet contents in recent years, 85% and 9% of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc respectively, partly because some of the old Merlot vines were blended into the deuxième vin. Picked between 22 September and 9 October, a total of 15 days picking, it will be matured in 85% new oak. The alcohol level is 13.8%, higher than 2010 for example. Jean-Hubert Delon has crafted an extremely pure and tensile bouquet, almost pixelated with blackberry, briary, slate and oyster shell aromas that blossom in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied, svelte, and sensual on the entry, the tannins a little edgy with a gentle crescendo: black fruit, tons of minerals, real focus, and precision towards the finish. This is a superlative Léoville Las-Cases with the substance to suggest long-term aging will be repaid."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"Bottled in July 2017, the 2015 Leoville-Las Cases is a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc and 6% Merlot cropped at 39 hectoliters per hectare. It has an arresting bouquet, very intense with blackberry, blueberry, and oyster shell aromas, becoming more floral with aeration with hints of crushed violet developing.

Reviews *This is quite a “punchy” bouquet that demands your attention. The palate is medium-bodied with svelte tannin, a fine line of acidity, very impressive tension and an involving, mineral-driven finish (you can feel the tongue tingling after the wine has departed). It will require at least a decade in bottle, but it will be worth the wait.”*
- NM, Wine Journal

“Blackcurrant, blueberry and currant aromas with hints of black licorice and hot stones. Full-bodied with dense and integrated tannins and a long, long finish. It is all there and all about proportional harmony. Excellent focus and beauty. Drink in 2022.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is an ethereal young wine with blackberry and violet aromas and flavors. Full body, very firm and silky tannins and a superb finish. Lovely length and purity to this.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This wine that comes mainly from a magnificent walled vineyard within sight of the Gironde estuary is structured and dense. Its tannins and firm character show its enormous aging potential. Powerful black fruits come from the 85% Cabernet Sauvignon in this rich, juicy wine. Drink from 2027.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“96–98. Barrel Sample. Seriously structured, this is a dark, brooding wine. Layered plums, blueberries and blackberries are enveloped in a dark structure of tannins and wood flavors. This will be a wine to age over many years with its concentration and density.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot 9% Cabernet Franc - highest proportion of Cab ever. 85% new barrels. More voluptuous nose than some earlier vintages. Bone-dry finish. Pretty concentrated and with some richness. Solid and mineral but not (quite) as obdurate as it used to be. Fruit and ink combo. Minerals like Pauillac on the end. Grabs the attention. “
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“At 94% (85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Cabernet Franc) this is the highest-ever Cab content in this grand vin. Very dense at first but full of power and elegance, with lots of energy. Beautifully made and seems more Pauillac than St-Julien. This will be a very great wine.”
- SS, Decanter.com

“The grand vin is heavily Cabernet Sauvignon dominant, as you would expect, with a touch of 80-year-old Merlot and Léoville’s wonderfully expressive Cabernet Franc. Aromas of cedar, cassis are slow to reveal their secrets. This is very closed right now, and the palate is inky with graphite and pencil lead notes, showing the power of the terroir here. There is a creamy edge to the tannins which eventually emerges. (JA)”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Two records set here: the highest ever percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon and the highest alcohol level at 13.8! This is a ripe style, but has the classic Las-Cases backbone, with cassis and fruitcake notes, fine tannins, and excellent oak integration. Drink: 2023-32.”
- TA, timatkin.com

“Showing a good depth of color, this wine is firm yet elegant, powerful yet polished. Full-bodied and loaded with ripe fruits and a wall of tannins to match, there are multiple waves of cedar, earth, blackberries, and cassis. It’s hard to say when this will be ready to drink but this is a very high quality, classically built wine for patient consumers, as it’s going to take 15-20 years to show its best. Produced from a blend with an unusually high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon at 85%, followed by 9% Cabernet Franc and 6% Merlot, this wine reached 13.8% alcohol with a pH of 3.70 and is now aging in 85% new, French oak barrels. The harvest took place from September 22 to October 9.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Opaque; colour tight to the rim; deep earthy purple at edge; lovely seam of blackcurrant fruit on the nose; really sits there up in front of you and begs you to drink it! More composed on the palate; tighter with interwoven oak; plenty of guts and matter and vibrant acidity; lots going on here; really good palate impression and finish; excellent length. [13.8% alc, TA 3.74, pH 3.70, IPT 76, 85% new oak]. Drink 2025-2045. 95-97+.”
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.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. .The yield was 39 hl/ha, and it is being aged in 85% new oak. It is the most Cabernet-based Las cases ever. Deep purple colour. Black coffee, pure cocoa, and deep blackcurrant aromas with a hint of all spice. The palate is big and powerful with intense, dense black fruit tempered by palate coating, ripe, rich tannins. This is a blockbuster Las Cases with superb intensity and structure that will warrant time in bottle before opening. The finish is long, spicy, and intense.”
- Farr Vintners

“Brooding depth, the nose is sweet the start of the palate has the richness of ripe fruit. Chocolate and liquorice in the middle add to the richness but there is an underlying bilberry freshness layers of flavour lots of complexity. The finish is long bright and elegant.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“A great Las Cases with amazing intensity and power and immense concentration. Layers of dark berry fruit, cedar, and spice with tobacco notes. The finish is long and very persistent. A wine to cellar for several years.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2015 Léoville Las Cases is simply captivating. Sumptuous, racy, and explosive in the glass, the 2015 is endowed with tremendous energy from start to finish. An exotic mélange of crème de cassis, graphite, menthol, and licorice bursts onto the palate as the 2015 shows off its alluring personality. Spectacularly rich, dense and full-throttle, with huge tannins that are nearly buried underneath the fruit, the 2015 is an unusual Las Cases. It is also breathtakingly beautiful. Readers who can find it should not miss it. 2030 – 2055.”
- AG, Vinous

“A vivid, mesmerizing wine, the 2015 Léoville Las Cases is stunning in its beauty. Unusually rich and sumptuous for Las Cases, the 2015 possesses magnificent intensity and power from start to finish. Blackberry jam, charcoal, smoke, licorice, and asphalt are some of the many notes that take shape in the glass, but the 2015 truly stands out for its vertical structure and overall intensity. At the same time, the 2015 is an unusually ripe, exotic Las Cases with much more flesh and voluptuousness in its curves than is the norm. In that sense, the 2015, is not at all typical for Las Cases. And yet it is striking. The 14.5% alcohol is the highest recorded here.”
- AG, Vinous

“A legendary wine in the making from the Delon Family is the 2015 Leoville Las Cases and there are very few wines more impressive in the vintage. This full-bodied, tight, super-concentrated, focused 2015 boasts an awesome bouquet of crème de cassis, graphite, charcoal, lead pencil, and minerality. Deep, layered, with perfect ripeness and building tannin, hide bottle for 6-7 years and enjoy this prodigious effort over the following 3-4 decades. 2024 – 2064”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“This is the highest ever alcohol levels at Las Cases (mainly because Cabernet was harvested at 13.5%) and also the highest combined Cabernet percentage ever of 94%. Pierre Graffeulle, commercial director, explained that less and less Merlot will be used here in the future because of global warming. I had to take a deep breath several times while tasting this wine because it not only possesses extraordinary intensity balanced with extraordinary weightlessness but the sheer style and panache here is shocking. Utterly sublime in every way this is a tour de force for Las Cases. The tannins are immense but also fit and lithe and there is, once again, the dramatic spiciness from the July heat spike which seems to joust with the ultra-fine tannins coming from the stunningly ripe skins. The aroma alone is worth the entry fee. This is a truly great wine.”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
