
Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2016

CSPC# 790278 750mlx12 13.60% alc./vol.
CSPC# 813891 750mlx6 13.60% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Cabernet Franc, 11% Merlot
Appellation Saint Julien
Classification Second Growth. Deuxième 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.

Winemaker Jean Hubert Delon

Vintage The year 2016 started off with the water tables full, thanks to the heavy rainfall from January to March. Three difficult months for the vineyard workers but which saved the day for this vintage! The mild temperatures in March ensured an early budburst but the colder, rainy mornings in April slowed down the growth cycle. From mid-June to mid-October, rainfall was well below the seasonal average. During the first two weeks of August, the colour change was short and even on each of the properties. The grapes developed in radiant, dry weather conditions. Light showers appeared in mid-September to re-boost the ripening process on the terroirs offering less water retention, thus perfecting the maturation of the tannins. The absolutely perfect weather conditions during harvesttime allowed us to pick grapes boasting remarkable quality.

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 vineyards are comprised of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, and .5% Cabernet Franc.

Harvest Picked between 30 September and 19 October 2016

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 85% new oak barrels.

Tasting Notes This has a very serious nose, with highly polished fruits, reminiscent of perfumed black cherries and blackcurrants, swirled with notes of vanilla and toasted oak. The palate is superb, so savoury and correct, but so textured, sinewy and precise, the structure and fruit of the wine tightly interwoven. It feels so huge in its composition, and yet it is so deft and elegant in the way it moves across the palate; only its trail of rich, polished and velvety tannins, which slowly appear from beneath the curtain of fruit, give any clue to its magnificent future. These tannins linger in the finish, with



Tasting Notes	confidence, supporting the dark and savoury fruits. A classic St Julien, and a wonderful result for this property.
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	13,333 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2028-2078
Scores/Awards	<p>98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>97-100 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>100 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>98-100 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>97 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>97-99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>19 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>100 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018</p> <p>99 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>17.5+ points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>95-97 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2017</p> <p>98 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>95-98+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>20++ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2017</p> <p>100 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2017</p> <p>19-20 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2017</p> <p>98 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This is really dense, yet remarkably polished and poised, delivering wave after wave of blueberry, açai berry, raspberry and blackberry puree notes, all while warm tar and sweet tobacco details cruise underneath. There's a long, smoldering cast iron note through the finish that adds both austerity and authority in a truly unique manner. Best from 2025 through 2045. 13,333 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A brick house, with layers of cold charcoal, smoldering tobacco, warm cassis, dark plum and blueberry reduction flavors all working seamlessly together. The charcoal edge underscores the entire finish, which is focused and ridiculously long. Score range: 97-100"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Very deep purple-black colored, the 2016 Léoville Las Cases (composed of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc) is quite closed to begin, yet with patient coaxing it unfurls beautifully to reveal suggestions of ripe blackcurrants, black raspberries, warm redcurrants and wild blueberries, followed by touches of unsmoked cigars, tilled red soil, cast iron pan, fallen leaves and lavender plus wonderfully fragrant wafts of lilacs and baking spices. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is packed with tightly knit, very subtle layers of minerals, floral notions and black and red berries, all framed by exquisitely ripe, silt-like tannins and fantastic freshness, finishing with epic length and depth. Simply captivating even in its youth, give it at least a decade in the cellar and then enjoy it over the next 50+ years."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Leoville-Las Cases comprises 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc picked between 30 September and 19 October, during which the harvesters were out in the vines for 16 days. It is matured in 90% new oak and delivers 13.60% alcohol and an IPT of 82. It is initially tightly coiled on the nose and needed coaxing from the glass. There are scents of small black cherries, boysenberry, crushed violets and a slight flintiness that emerges with time. The definition is very impressive—you can almost pick the aromas out one by</i></p>

Reviews *one. The palate is awe-inspiring. The tannins are so filigree, in fact not dissimilar to their neighbor across the border at Château Latour. That seam of graphite lends this Léoville Las-Cases a Pauillac-like personality, but ignoring stylistic similarities, it is the intensity, depth and arching structure that astounds, with detail on the finish that rivets your feet to the spot. Then the finish is ultra-precise, one of the most mineral-driven that I have encountered in almost 20 years visiting the estate, plus it is endowed with one the longest aftertastes you will find in 2016. Yeah, it's good."*
- NM, Wine Advocate

"Very complex and alluringly spicy aromas that bubble in and out of the nose, together with fresh tobacco, raspberries and iodine, moving into blackcurrants, blackberries and a gently gravelly, stony edge. The palate has incredible polish that is a foil for the intense power and concentration of this wine. The texture is flawless, building smoothly with fine-grained and focused tannins that sustain a long, fresh finish. The new 1986, which was a legend. This is probably better. A blend of 75 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 14 per cent merlot and 11 per cent cabernet franc. Try from 2024."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A unique Las Cases that harkens back to some of the great classics such as 1985 or 1986 with its solid backbone of tannins and a walnut, licorice and blackcurrant character. Full and powerful, characterized throughout by a steeliness that shows its strength and energy. Better than the 2015. Ultra-classic."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Dominated by the great Cabernet Sauvignon vines of the clos of Léoville las Cases, this wine is superbly rich and smoky while being stylish. Its power comes from the complexity, ripe fruits and dense tannins. This wine has enormous potential. Drink from 2025."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Full of the ripest Cabernet Sauvignon, this is an impressive wine. Dark and tannic, it still has room for considerable fruitiness. It balances dense tannins and layers of black plum fruit along with the freshness of the vintage. Everything is in its place; it just needs time, plenty of time. (RV)"
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Nothing under 20 years old supplies fruit for the grand vin de Léoville. It's extremely dark and rich, a stately purple in colour with some violet around the rim. Right from the off it expands upwards and outwards, showing polished dark, dark fruits such as black cherry and cassis, alongside slate, liquorice and rosemary. It's mouth filling and almost less austere than all of the others, yet it's a serious wine. The tannins close in on themselves at the end, showing how this is built to last. A great advert for the whole of Bordeaux, and for me it's the clear wine of the vintage."
- JA, Decanter.com

"Cabernet Sauvignon makes up 75% of the main blend, with 14% of 80-year-old Merlot and 11% of Cabernet Franc and aged in 90% new oak. It is hard to think of a vintage when this is not a great wine, but in 2016 it is exceptional, comparable to the majestic 1996. It has all the intensity, richness and depth, but it lets the light in. The yield is fairly high at 40hl/ha, with 3.66pH balancing a tannin index of 82IPT. This is the highest ever at this property and yet the wine is elegant, gorgeous and juicy, with an endless array of black fruits and graphite. The tannins are right there pushing at the front of the mouth but remain pliable. No need to worry about this ageing long into the future. 98-100 points. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050"
- JA, Decanter.com

"Jean-Hubert Delon has made the most of the superb vintage in 2016 to produce a Las-Cases that's typically concentrated, backward and even a little forbidding. But scale the walls of the tannins and savoury, compact berry fruit and the view is beautiful. 2030-45"
- TA, timatkin.com

Reviews

"This powerful elixir has peppery cassis, tobacco, cedar, blackberry and forest scents that cannot be avoided. Powerful, concentrated, mouth filling and very tannic, this could be a modern-day version of what the 1986 Bordeaux was supposed to be. The wine is elongated, regal and driven, stern yet refined. With this much tannin and structure, I'm sure at least 20 years in the cellar are needed before this really starts to shine. Produced from a blend 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.6% alcohol with a pH of 3.66. The harvest took place from September 30 to October 16."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Since 1982 this has probably been the top-performing non-1st Growth in the Médoc. The vines are situated alongside those of Chateau Latour. The young Cabernet vines and older Merlot vines are used for the "Petit Lion" label. The most Pauillac-like of all the Saint Juliens with a strong Cabernet Sauvignon character. Much of the Merlot goes into Petit Lion. Very spicy on the nose, with cloves, incense and cigar box. The palate shows great approachability for a Chateau that is normally tough to taste En Primeur. Juicy blackcurrants and black cherries are framed by ripe tannins, building through the mid-palate to provide a firm backbone, but with a precision, ripeness and elegance that allows spice, flowers and sweet vanilla to shine through even at this early stage. With great complexity and density, the finish is long and fine, with lingering fruit purity indicating a real ageing potential despite the (relatively) forward structure. A real success of the vintage."

- Farr Vintners

"Fleshy and ripe the nose has sweet fruit depth the palate ripeness and richness. Fine tannins the mid palate is supple rich with depth of flavour the sweet fruit backed by bramble freshness complexity layers of flavour. The back palate is sweet and ripe the finish has depth of fruit. 2026-40"

- Derek Smedley MW

"Plush, opulent, powerful Las Cases with enormous concentration combined with a supple, velvety texture. Palate offers layers of ripe blackberry fruit, cedar, tobacco and black tea leaves. It is an amazing powerhouse of a wine, made in the classical style to be consumed in 20-30 years, not in the near term. They did less pumping over in this vintage, but the tannins are still tremendous. This vintage is the highest IPT (tannin) levels that Las Cases has ever had. It shows in the wine's density, thick texture and power. 13.6% alcohol."

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2016 Léoville Las-Cases underwent three more months in barrel than usual and was bottled in September 2018. It has an extremely intense bouquet that manages to retain otherworldly delineation. It is not as expressive as its peers at this early stage (but then again, it rarely is). Yet there is palpable coiled-up energy on the nose, and you can feel the mineralité. The palate is medium bodied with super-fine tannin and layers of pure black and blue fruit laced with allspice and a pinch of white pepper. It fans out wonderfully on the finish, which exerts fine grip but never overwhelms. This is undoubtedly one of the best wines ever made by the estate. Close to perfection"

- NM, *Vinous*

"The 2016 Léoville Las Cases is a majestic, seamless, opulent wine. Yes, I am talking about Las Cases, traditionally one of the Left Bank's most austere, forbiddingly tannic wines. Sumptuous and full-bodied, the 2016 takes over all the senses, with seemingly endless layers of inky, purplish fruit. Mint, lavender and white flowers are some of the many notes that emerge from the exotic, arrestingly beautiful bouquet as the 2016 makes its case for consideration as one of the wines of the vintage. The 2016 got an extra three months in barrel and was therefore bottled on the later side, but that does not appear to have done anything to close the wine down. The 2016 was magnificent on both occasions I tasted it. Put simply, the 2016 Las Cases is a total stunner. Don't miss it! (AG)"

- AG, *Vinous*

"Léoville Las Cases is usually a brutish, powerful wine, especially when young. The 2016, on the other hand, is a wine of total finesse. There is almost no sensation of tannin, even though the wine has the highest degree of tannin ever measured here. Sometimes wines can go from the merely outstanding into the realm of the sublime. That is very much the case with the 2016 Léoville Las Cases. I could describe the aromas and flavors, but that seems superfluous for a wine that delivers so much pure pleasure. Silky (yes, silky) tannins wrap around a super-expressive finish laced with the essence of blue/purplish fruit, crème de cassis, lavender and blueberry jam."

- AG, *Vinous*

Reviews *“The 2016 Léoville Las Cases is the finest vintage I’ve ever tasted from this estate; in fact, in this reviewer’s opinion, this magical, perfect wine couldn’t be better. Made from 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc aged 22 months in 90% new oak, it reveals a deep, saturated purple color as well as a thrilling bouquet of crème de cassis, iris flowers, graphite, crushed rocks, and freshly sharpened lead pencils. A perfect example of the old saying ‘an iron fist in a velvet glove,’ it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, a deep, layered, stacked mid-palate, flawless integration of its acidity and tannins, and a monster finish. The balance and purity here are off the charts. Hide bottles for a decade or so and enjoy over the following half a century.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Tasted with Pierre Graffeulle, commercial director. Very profound, very focused and also amazingly exotic, there is a mind-bending amount of class here and it is so dense and so classy that it completely baffles the palate. The weightlessness and also intensity of the flavours are nothing short of amazing. The tannins are complete and not at all drying, but they are incredible, and they will arm this wine for a fifty-year life. The colour and turbidity is insane, too. Sitting here tasting this wine is a seriously unnerving out of body experience and I will make it my mission to taste (and drink) this wine as many times as I can for the rest of my life! This is a truly amazing Las Cases and it is a ‘classic’, at the same time as defining a new era of classicism in this commune. Phenomenal. 20+”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
