

Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 1999

CSPC# 766137

Gift pack: 750mlx6 (various vintages)

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc.

Appellation

Saint Julien

Website

<http://www.domaines-delon.com/en>

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.

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.

Harvest

Harvested between September 22 and October 5

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. Here it is transferred into oak *barrique*, between 50% and 100% new for the *grand vin*, Château Léoville-Las-Cases.

Tasting Notes

The massive Leoville Las Cases is not for the faint-of-heart. This deeply extracted, black wine has splash of ripe raspberries and black fruits. Very tough to judge now because it's so commanding. The layers of fruit filling all corners of the mouth and give you the impression it could last forever. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, and 19% Cabernet Franc.

Serve with

Roast saddle of lamb, fried poultry, Chateaubriand and ripe hard cheese

Production

15,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2006-2022

Scores/Awards

- #10, 94 points** - Wine Spectator's Top 100 Wines of 2002
- 94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
- 94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2002
- 91 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #140 - April 2002
- 90-92 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001
- 90-92 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #128 - April 2000
- 91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2011
- 91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2009
- 92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2008
- 92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2003
- 92 points** - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2002
- 17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only)
- 18 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2002



Scores/Awards **93 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
16.5 points - Farr Vintner - June 2000
Review Only - John Berry, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2002
17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
3 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2004

Reviews *"Despite extremely difficult conditions in Bordeaux in 1999, proprietor Jean-Hubert Delon and his team managed to make one of the top wines of the vintage. Roughly two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon with the balance comprising Cabernet Franc and Merlot, the '99 Las Cases compares favorably with versions from top vintages such as 1995 and 2000. 15,000 cases made."*
- Wine Spectator

"This is so fresh still, just a baby. Blackberry, mineral, floral and blueberry aromas follow through to a full body, with focused, subtle fruit and a racy, refined and reserved tannin structure. This really needs time. Cuddled up in a ball of tannins. —'89/'99 Bordeaux blind retrospective (2009). Best after 2013. 15,000 cases made."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Warm and exciting wine from a slightly frigid vintage. Black ruby color. Rich and powerful nose, with loads of currant, smoke and tobacco. Full-bodied and silky, polished and long. Best after 2005. 15,000 cases made."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"The 1999 Leoville Las Cases possesses a dense purple color as well as classic aromas of vanilla, black cherries, and currants mixed with subtle toasty oak. The wine is medium bodied with sweet tannin, yet it remains young, backward, and unevolved (unusual for a 1999). Its extraordinary purity and overall harmony give it a character all its own. This excellent Las Cases will be at its finest between 2006-2022."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A seductive, dark ruby/purple-colored offering, the 1999 exhibits aromas of sweet black fruits intertwined with cedar, lead pencil, and vanillin. Medium to full-bodied, with low acidity, it is forward, precocious, and already delicious. This seductive effort will drink well, atypically, at a young age. Anticipated maturity: 2003-2015."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Reasonably powerful and concentrated, this is an elegant, low acid, surprisingly forward, medium-bodied Las Cases with a well-displayed, intense black fruit character nicely buttressed by new oak, mineral, and spice. Harvested between September 22 and October 5, only 31.8% of the production was included in the grand vin. A blend of 62.4% Cabernet Sauvignon and equal proportions of Merlot and Cabernet Franc (no Petit Verdot was included because of its lack of maturity caused by the late harvest rains), the 1999 is seductive and hedonistic. This successful, forward Las Cases will offer delicious drinking early, yet it has the richness, depth, and overall balance to age for 15-20 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Las-Cases off-line at The Square. A consistent tasting note here. The '99 retains a rather backward nose of cigar box, cedar and undergrowth, here with a faint touch of rose petals. The palate is medium-bodied and well defined though remaining stubborn and backward. Yet there is a lovely silky texture and over time it loosens its tie and develops intriguing honeyed notes towards an increasingly plush finish. The '99 may merit a higher score in a couple of years. Tasted February 2011."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the 1999 horizontal at Bordeaux Index. The Las-Cases has an introspective bouquet: blackberry, cedar, cigar box, mouldy Satsuma and some undergrowth scents evolving...but these aromas are very tight and reticent. The palate is medium-bodied, well-defined, very closed, tight as a clenched fist at the moment. Dry tannins, masculine as usual, a little furry towards the finish. Moderate weight and length, this is a conservative Leoville Las-Cases that needs another 8-10 years, but it needs to develop a personality...please. Drink 2016-2030. Tasted June 2009."
- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews *"The 1999 is just beginning to show signs of maturity on the rim. The nose is ripe with notes of blackberry, smoke, a touch of dried orange peel and bacon fat. Improves with aeration in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied (for Las-Cases) but very well balanced with good acidity, quite linear in the middle. Fine, slightly "furry" tannins, nice poise though it closes down towards the abrupt finish. Still, a very fine 1999 although outclassed by the 2001. A bit gritty. What you might call a "restaurant" Las-Cases. Drink 2012-2025. Tasted December 2007."*
- NM, Wine Journal

"July 2002 at the chateau: inky core. Very dense black fruit, violets. Quite feminine nose. Underlying sweetness. Spicy tannic palate. Huge. Quite fleshy, more forward than 1998. Very complex. Real class here. Superb wine. Then at the MW tasting: a subtle sweet black mineral nose, quite light and elegant for Las Cases. Well-defined. The palate is supple and approachable, certainly an earlier drinking Las Cases but there is a nice balance with a good grip. Harmonious. Lacks the usual persistency on the finish but still a very fine wine. Drink in 8 to 12 years. Tasted November 2003. "
- NM, Wine Journal

"Full ruby-red. Captivating nose of roasted currant, cedar and minerals, with a floral lift; quite fresh for the year. Sweet, supple, dense and full, with no dip in the middle. This is impressively chewy and concentrated for a '99. Finishes long and flavorful, with sweet, building tannins."
- ID, International Wine Cellar

"Broad-shouldered and muscular for the vintage, with mouth-filling fruit, loaded down with soft tannins. Power and control."
- Decanter.com

"The Delon's have managed to extract great concentration here. The wine is black in colour and remarkably powerful and muscular. Stacked with ripe cassis fruit. Stylistically and geographically (and probably pricewise too) this tastes like a cross between Léoville Barton and Latour. One cannot fail to be impressed."
- Farr Vintners

"Swathes of Cabernet fruit here. This wine has wonderful concentration, impressive layers of new oak, opulent fruit and a marvelously long finish. This is a wine that can be enjoyed in its youth, middle age and in 10 years time. Outstanding!"
- JB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants
