

Le Petit Lion du Marquis de Las Cases 2010

CSPC# 796083

750mlx12

13.88% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot

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.

Le Petit Lion du Marquis de Las Cases is the 2nd wine of Ch Léoville Las Cases.

Vintage

After beginning with a very dry and hot month of April, the growth cycle was then considerably slowed down by cool temperatures in May and June. Bunch closure and colour change took place in perfect conditions thanks to dry, sunny weather in July and early August. The grapes were able to ripen beautifully with the excellent weather of August and September.

Vineyards

In recent years, several vineyard plots in the Clos Léoville Las Cases were uprooted and replanted, and these are now coming into production. To preserve the quality level of the Grand Vin, Château Léoville Las Cases therefore decided it would create a second wine, starting from the 2007 vintage.

Harvest

From 28th September to 13th October 2010

Maturation

"Petit Lion" is elaborated with the same care and the same methods as the great wine. Harvesting is done manually. The winemaking is carried out in a wide range of wooden vats, cement or stainless steel, sizes ranging from 40 to more than 200hl, allowing to adapt to the size of batches with flexibility. The wine, after transfer, is aged about 10 months in oak barrels (about 20% new)

Tasting Notes

This superb 2010 expresses a delicate fruit, but very persistent. A perfectly worked wine, at once accessible and promotor. We are under the spell of superb velvety tannins. A very nice entry into before opening the great wine of Léoville!

Serve with

Roast lamb, red meat in general, duck or goose, game.

Production

8,333 cases made.

Cellaring

Drink 2014-2024

Scores/Awards

91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013

91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011

85 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013

87-88 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011

86 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 30, 2014

89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 30, 2013

90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011

90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2011

15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2014

16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011

16 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011

90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 8, 2013

88-90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2011

88-90 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011

91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)

86 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2011

17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)

15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)



Reviews

"Sleek and well-rendered, this features an iron note that runs from start to finish, along with ganache, charcoal, pastis and crushed plum and blackberry fruit. Not as dense as the top examples, but offers textbook typicity, solid drive and a long finish. Best from 2014 through 2024. 8,333 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Sappy, with lots of kirsch, violet and red currant notes. Very lively acidity drives the finish. Tightly wound for a second wine, with serious acidity. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 91-94"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The second wine at Las Cases is now called Le Petit Lion. The 2010 is a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest equal parts Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. An elegant, light to medium-bodied wine with hints of strawberry and black cherries, this is a pleasant, straightforward style to drink over the next 7-10 years. What I like about tasting at Las Cases is that Jean-Hubert Delon opens one bottle in my presence and has another already decanted four hours in advance to compare. It is nearly unanimous on each visit that the decanted wine shows better, which probably gives you some insight into the aging potential of Las Cases. It is certainly one of Bordeaux's longest-lived wines and seems to have more and more of a character resembling Lafite Rothschild more than its nearby neighbor, Chateau Latour."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"This is the new second wine of Léoville Las Cases, and the 2010 finished with 13.7% natural alcohol from a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest primarily Merlot. It has much of the personality of Las Cases, just lighter, softer, and more obviously fruity. This wine should drink nicely for 7-8 years"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted blind at the Southwold Bordeaux 2010 tasting. The Le Petit Lion 2010 has a rather oaky nose compared to its peers, consequently it is slightly overwhelming the fruit at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, crisp red berry fruit laced with soy and a relatively light red berry finish. This is a bit disappointing since its commendable showing after bottling. Tasted January 2014."

- NM, Wine Journal

"The Le Petit Lion has a light but well-defined bouquet not dissimilar to the Potensac: classic, refined, refreshing. The palate is forward with light tannins, clean fresh black fruit with a touch of sous-bois towards the finish. Tasted November 2012"

- NM, Wine Journal

"The fourth vintage of this Second Wine is a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, raised in 22% new oak. The nose is well defined though quite muted at first, unfurling nicely with aeration. The palate is defined by its silky-smooth tannins that glide across the mouth to the point of being over-polished...but that would be churlish. Very delicious – no more, no less. Drink 2013- Tasted March 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This wine is light and fresh, full of crisp and ripe black currant fruits that lie alongside gentle and open tannins. The wine has weight and a rich underlay, although it will develop well and relatively quickly with its bright fruits and acidity."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Vibrant but a bit sharp on the nose. Lots of acidity. Juicy and fresh. But too tart to be a real winner."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Very healthy dark crimson. Broad and fragrant. Seems quite friendly on the nose immediately after the Potensac! Quite polished. Las Cases Lite, and all the more approachable for it. Though just a little lacking density and potential."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Good vibrant St-Julien fruit, elegant claret, good future. Drinking Window 2015 - 2024"

- SS, Decanter.com

Reviews *“Forest floor, leaves, cedar, cassis and fresh cherry notes work well with the polished sweet, mélange of cherries and wild strawberry that washes over your palate. You can drink this now or give it a few years of age. This is an outstanding value Bordeaux wine.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Le Petit Lion de Marquis de Las Cases - The official second wine of Chateau Léoville Las Cases offers sweet cassis and blackberry with bitter chocolate, medium/full body and juicy cabernet in the finish.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep and dense; some cassis, some mineral, graphite; palate sweet entry, quite thick but well handled; chewy and dense; good length. Quite attractive 88-90/100 [52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot 13.7 alc, IPT 63] Tasted 7 April 2011 at Chateau Léoville Las Cases.”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“This wine has juicy dark berry fruit with copious amounts of ripe tannins. The aromatics are lovely - ranging from plums, blackberries, cedar, tobacco. The palate promises future pleasure, but the tannins right now are too obtrusive. Don't approach for at least 5 years. This wine is made from young vines from Léoville Las Cases' vineyard of 3-15 years of age. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com
