

Le Petit Lion du Marquis de Las Cases 2012

CSPC# 796083

750mlx12

13.53% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 8% 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.

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

Vintage

The vintage 2012 was characterised by a slow, late growth cycle due to a very cool and wet spring. The budburst was spread out over time and created a variation in the stages of development that was to be partially evened out by the dry, sunny period that began in mid-July. The colour change and ripening occurred in ideal weather conditions that continued through to harvest-time. The grapes remained perfectly healthy despite rainy spells during picking.

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 4th to 18th October 2012

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

The Petit Lion shares the philosophy of its elder brother; it is vinified and aged in order to preserve its fresh and ripe fruit flavor throughout its life. However, designed as a second wine, Petit Lion is more accessible and for earlier drinking with a significant proportion of Merlot used in the blend.

Serve with

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

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2030

Scores/Awards

88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015

86-89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013

85+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015

87-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013

87-89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013

88-89 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013

90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2015

90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 11, 2013

16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only)

87 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013

88 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2, 2013

87-89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 23, 2013

89-91+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013

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

90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - January 4, 2014

16 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)

16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)



- Reviews** *"Has a woody edge, with juniper and allspice notes lining the core of crushed plum, blackberry and anise flavors. Well-built, featuring a graphite-fueled finish. Best from 2016 through 2023. 7,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator
- "Iron-tinged and pure, with bright cherry and damson plum notes receiving a floral lift on the finish. Not big, but focused and precise. Score range: 86-89"*
- JM, Wine Spectator
- "The second wine of Leoville Las Cases, the 2012 Le Petit Lion, has a dense ruby/purple color, loads of tannin, undeniable minerality, blackcurrants and earth. It is medium-bodied, firm and austere, but should age for 10-15 more years and soften somewhat."*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- "The second wine, the excellent 2012 Le Petit Lion, is composed of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc. It, too, boasts 13.5% alcohol. Offering abundant notes of black cherry liqueur, graphite, vanillin and spring flowers, it is a rich, supple, medium-bodied effort with excellent, possibly outstanding concentration and ripeness. It should drink well for 10-15 years. Delon said rot was no problem in their well-drained, gravelly vineyards (which are of first-growth quality in fact if not in name)."*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- "A blend of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, the Le Petit Lion has quite a complex tertiary, cedar scented bouquet that is already quite open. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannins on the entry. There is great purity of fruit here and the 20% new oak is deftly integrated into the sensual, quite silky finish. Fine. Tasted April 2013."*
- NM, Wine Journal
- "Good chewy tannins with currants and blueberries. Medium body integrated and refined. Well done for a second wine in this vintage. From Leoville Las Cases."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "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. Drink from 2016."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "This is a ripe and fruity wine with smooth tannins within a densely-textured palate. It's weighty in the mouth with richness, elegance and a purity of character. The acidity on the finish is already delicious."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Good vibrant St-Julien fruit, elegant claret, good future."*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "Campfire, strawberry and cassis on the nose, with a blast of fresh, chewy, red fruits in the finish."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The true second wine of Leoville Las Cases reached 13.53% alcohol with a pH of 3.59. From a blend of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, the wine requires effort to find the cassis and black berry jam notes. Medium-bodied, fresh, and spicy, there is a hint of dryness in the cassis-filled finish. 87-89 Pts"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep and saturated; minerality; blackcurrants; cassis and some blackcurrant lift; purity here; life and spice too; nice entry; cassis; blackcurrant; nice balance this is attractive and quite supple and round. 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc 13.53 % alc 20% new barrels yield 33hl/ha IPT68. pH 3.59 89-91+."*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Closed, tannic and firm with dark berry fruits and hint of cedar. The wine has dark, savoury intriguing flavours with a firm, tannic finish which will require time. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young."*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
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