

# Château Leoville Poyferre 2000

CSPC# 742661

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**General Info**

63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc  
St. Julien

With origins dating back to 1638, Léoville was the largest vineyard in the Médoc region at the time of the French Revolution. Léoville Poyferré springs from various divisions and successions in 1840. Its outstanding quality wines gained early recognition when it was ranked 2nd Growth in the 1855 classification. Château Léoville Poyferré was acquired in 1920 by the Cuvelier family. Château Léoville Poyferré was the Léoville that got left in the starting blocks in terms of reputation and in the quality of its wines.

Léoville Poyferré has been owned by the Cuvelier family (who also own Château Le Crock) since 1921, yet it was not until the 1970s, when Didier Cuvelier took control at the château, that quality began to improve. In the last 20 years, Didier, with the assistance of Michel Rolland since 1995, has turned Léoville-Poyferré into one of St-Julien's finest estates. Now up with the best of the St-Julien's but still selling at non-scary prices. Léoville Poyferré is classified as a 2ème Cru Classé.

**Vintage**

The 2009 vintage did not start out under the most favourable auspices. The soil had received plenty of rainfall (488 mm from November to March), so there was little risk that the vines would suffer from drought. There was regular precipitation during the following months, which maintained strong atmospheric humidity. However, the temperatures were higher than average. Bud break was later than usual but, as we will see, the vines went on to make up for this delay. Flowering and véraison (colour change) took place 7 days earlier than in 2008. The thermometer went up to 31.4°C in the month of May and even reached 38.8°C on the 30th of June. There was frequent precipitation thereafter, but temperatures remained high. A maximum of 40.6°C was attained on the 1st of July. The warm, hot weather continued throughout August and September. Light showers from the 15th to the 18th of September were very welcome. These brought the weather conditions in 2009 to a perfect end and explain the vintage's outstanding character.

**Vineyards**

The various divisions throughout the history of the estate have split the vineyard of Léoville Poyferré into five large areas. They include all the main types of gravelly soil present in Saint Julien. This diversity contributes to the amplitude and complexity of the Léoville Poyferré wines. Léoville Poyferré has 80 hectares of vineyards planted with Cabernet Sauvignon (65%), Merlot (25%), Petit Verdot (8%) Cabernet Franc (2%).

**Vinification/  
Maturation**

Léoville Poyferré traditionally produced the softest and most supple wine of the 3 Léoville's, yet in the last decade the wines have definitely put on weight and body. This is largely due to the grapes being harvested riper and later and because of the increased exposure to new oak in the maturation process. The wines are fermented in the 35 temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats of varying sizes, then macerated for three to four weeks, before selection is made. The *grand vin* is Château Léoville-Poyferré (20000 cases per annum), which goes into barrel where malolactic fermentation occurs. Typically, the oak is now 75% new each year for 18 months.

**Tasting Notes**

Colour: Intense, dark robe. Nose: complex and elegant. Empyreumatic with black fruit and spicy notes. Palate: Great amplitude in the mouth. Ripe, silky, elegant tannins on the finish. Smooth and opulent. Pleasantly lingering aromatic finish. 2009, a vintage full of sunshine.

**Production**

20,000 cases made

**Cellaring**

Drink 2010-2040

**Scores/Awards**

**97 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 2010  
**95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003  
**92-94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 2002  
**92-95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001



**Scores/Awards** **94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003  
**95-100 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001  
**95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2010  
**96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2008  
**94-96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2002  
**89 points** - JM, Wine Enthusiast - April 3, 2004  
**17.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 23, 2010  
**90 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2003  
**Highly recommended** - Steven Spurrier, Decanter - April 2003  
**17 points (4 stars)** - Decanter.com  
**17 points (4 stars)** - Decanter.com  
**90/17.25 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - July 1, 2003

**Reviews** *"Superb. Vivid, with lovely aromas of berries, minerals, toasted oak and leather. Full-bodied, with extremely well-integrated tannins and a long finish. A wine to remember. Best ever from this estate. Best after 2010. 20,000 cases made."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Superb. Vivid aromas of crushed blackberries and currants, with mineral undertones. Full-bodied, with big velvety tannins and a long, long finish. This will be a wine to remember. Best ever from this estate. Score range: 95-100"*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"The plushest, most ostentatious and dramatic of all the Leoville's in 2000, this wine is already sumptuous, displaying some nuances in its huge nose of vanilla bean, black chocolate, jammy black cherries, cassis, and graphite in a flamboyant style. Opulent, savory, rich, and full-bodied, it is a head-turning, prodigious wine and a complete contrast to the extracted behemoth of Leoville Barton and the backward, classic Leoville Las Cases. The Poyferre's low acidity, sweet tannin and an already gorgeous mouthfeel make it a wine to drink now as well as over the next 25 or more years."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Wow, this wine has really come on strong. A brilliant effort, it boasts an opaque purple color in addition to a gorgeously sweet nose (make that explosive nose) of blackberries and creme de cassis intermixed with minerals, smoke, and earth. The 2000 is opulent, full-bodied, and much more accessible than either of its two Leoville siblings, Leoville Las Cases or Leoville Barton, with low acidity, sweet tannin, and a layered, sumptuous finish. It continues to improve dramatically and looks to be a great success, rivaling the brilliant 1996 and 1990. Anticipated maturity: 2009-2030."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"This admirable effort builds incrementally in the mouth with a cunning display of power that is not initially evident. At first, the wine seems subtle and elegant, but then, wow! The length, impressive purity, and layers of concentrated fruit build upwards like a skyscraper. There is sweet tannin as well as copious quantities of glycerin, concentrated creme de cassis fruit intermixed with minerals, smoke, and earth. This 2000 may even improve further given the manner in which it has developed over the last year. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2025."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"This fabulous effort boasts a saturated blue/purple color as well as thick-tasting blackberry and black currant fruit intermixed with licorice. There is true opulence in addition to gorgeous levels of fruit, glycerin, and extract. The tannin is elevated, but the 2000 is a sensational Poyferre. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2030."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"A solid wine, well structured, with soft but supple tannins that frame a core of blackberry, cassis, toast, coffee, anise and herb notes. The finish has a hint of sage and thyme, ending with moderate length. Good Bordeaux from a good year. Kosher"*

- JM, Wine Enthusiast

**Reviews** *"Tasted blind at Bordeaux Index's 2000 tasting in London. A sensuous, ripe, harmonious bouquet soars seductively from the glass; red-berried fruit, leather, scorched earth, orange peel and a touch of marmalade. Very good definition. The palate is medium bodied with firm tannins, lovely focus and purity, seamless texture, cedar and smoke laced black fruits with a touch of graphite towards the finish. This 2000 just does not put a foot wrong. Bravo Didier! Drink 2013-2035."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"This has an incredibly intense nose, not decadent but surfeit with fruit concentration and brilliant delineation. Blackberry, plum, sandalwood, cedar and a touch of tar. Very complex, very enthralling. The palate is full-bodied, delectable balance with wonderful delineation and poise. Perhaps it is beginning to close up, but there is still evidence of perfectly ripe black fruits, minerals, blueberry and blood orange. Very refined on the finish, this is a fabulous wine. Drink 2015-2035+ Tasted March 2008."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"A personal favourite of mine. A beautiful nose of burn toast. Voluptuous feminine palate with tons of class. Sweet cassis. So elegant. A brilliant Poyferre. Then tasted again in November 2002: deep ruby. A beautiful elegant perfumed nose. Very smooth with notes of black cherries. The palate is a little tart with ultra-ripe fruits but with wonderful definition and poise. Saturated tannins. Succulent blueberry towards the finish. Good length. Approachable even now at this early juncture, but a long-term future ahead."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Mid crimson with a bit of evolution. Fragrant. Much less concentrated than the Barton but an attractive expression of the vintage and appellation. Dry overall and quite sinewy. You could start to drink this even though it is far from its apogee. Drink 2010-2025."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Good full medium ruby. Subdued, slightly roasted nose combines cassis, cherry and chocolate mint. Chocolatey-sweet but less deep and expressive than the '02 and '01. Offers good currant and cherry flavors but seems a bit dry-edged and medicinal for a 2000, without quite the harmony of components of the subsequent vintages here."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Colour Deep red. Average to good intensity. Crimson. Nose Clean. Average intensity. Fresh. Fruity. Vanilla. Quite delicate. Palate The first taste is fruity and too flabby, and the fruitiness lacks freshness as if the grapes were harvested too late. The tannins are plump and rich. The wood is also quite marked on the finish. It has a very particular sort of style which, in my opinion and to my taste, lacks flavour. I will have to check this during the maturing process. "*

- Decanter.com

*"Deep colour with mature rim, quite earthy nose, broad and spicy, good broad fruit, quite forward but will last. Drink up to 2018"*

- Decanter.com

*"Very big colour, rich and thick, smoky ripe fruit, high in blackcurrant Cabernet ripeness, but doesn't have the balance and elegance of Leoville-Barton, big and chunky, and will last very well. Ready 2008-2030."*

- Decanter.com

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- JMQ