

Château Léoville Poyferré 2010

CSPC# 749579

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	St. Julien
Classification	Second Growth. Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.leoville-poyferre.fr/english/news.html
General Info	<p>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.</p> <p>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-Juliens but still selling at non-scary prices. Léoville Poyferré is classified as a 2ème Cru Classé.</p>
Vintage	<p>A cold and wet winter, a hot and dry spring, then a hot, dry and sunny summer followed by beneficial rainfall in September. These extreme weather conditions do not affect our healthy, resistant vines, solidly rooted in their well-balanced soil. The excellent natural drainage and deep rooting of our vineyard ensure regularity in the growth cycle. For this 2010 harvest we are delighted to inaugurate our new truncated vats. Their varying capacities allow a plot-by-plot selection and their thermo-regulated double walls enable a pre-fermentary cold maceration without the use of dry ice. The inevitable comparison is made: after an exceptional vintage in 2009 with a similar climatic profile, can 2010 be even better?</p>
Vineyards	<p>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%).</p>
Harvest	<p>The harvest began 6 days later than the 2009 harvest and was behind other nearby properties. Merlot picking began on October 1st, with Cabernet Sauvignon picking following on October 9th. The harvest finished on October 18th. Leoville Poyferré believes that the 2010 vintage is very promising; it works in a trilogy with 2008 and 2009.</p>
Vinification/ Maturation	<p>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 <i>grand vin</i> 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.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>Rich and fine but closed, new wood and stoniness and blackberry sweet, cassis fruit; beautifully balanced wine with a superb concentration of core of fruit, a vital acidity and marked, but very refined, velvety textured tannins; long and energetic to taste, great complexity and thoroughbred feel, superb fruit presence, great fruit core length. This appears to have even more of everything than the fine 2009, above all terrific freshness, tenacity and persistence. A great Poyferré, the best since 1961?</p>



Tasting Notes	Great matter, but entirely without excess or asperity. Very complete! Long term class and splendor. 2024-40+
Serve with	Leoville Poyferré is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Leoville Poyferré is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted braised and grilled dishes.
Cellaring	Drink 2013-2043
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011</p> <p>98 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013</p> <p>95-98 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - April 2011</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2013</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011</p> <p>98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2013</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011</p> <p>90-93 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011</p> <p>17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011</p> <p>18.5 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011</p> <p>94+ points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012</p> <p>96 points/17.5-17.75 points - Jean Marc Quarin - April 2011</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 8, 2013</p> <p>95-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 24, 2011</p> <p>93-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2011</p> <p>95-97+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011</p> <p>92-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011</p> <p>18+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2011</p> <p>Review only - Alex Shaw, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011 (score only)</p> <p>Review Only - Alun Griffiths, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2011</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Features a coating of warm cocoa, with notes of solid currant paste, steeped fig and blackberry fruit. The pastis- and graphite-filled finish pumps along, revealing a well-embedded structure that should soften in the cellar. Best from 2015 through 2030."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is big, with layers of succulent blackberry, cassis and linzer torte pushed by sweet spice and a long, graphite finish. Shows lots of smoky, fleshy power, but really sails along. Score range: 92-95."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The wine out distances both Leoville Las Cases and Leoville Barton, but all three of them are compelling efforts. Full-bodied, dense purple in color, with floral notes intermixed with blackberries, cassis, graphite and spring flowers, this full-bodied, legendary effort is long and opulent, with wonderfully abundant yet sweet tannin, a skyscraper-like mid-palate and a thrilling, nearly one-minute finish. This spectacular effort from Poyferré that should drink well for 30+ years. Another spectacular wine from the Cuvelier family, Leoville Poyferré (along with Ducru Beaucaillou) may be one of the two best wines of St.-Julien year after year these days. This is a large estate, covering nearly 200 acres, and the final blend of the 2010 Leoville Poyferré is 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, a whopping 34% Merlot and the rest 7% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"One of the prodigious wines of the vintage, the Cuvelier family has produced an outstanding 2010 that must tip the scales at 14.5+% alcohol. It boasts an opaque purple color in addition to a sweet perfume of spring flowers, black raspberries, creme de cassis and a hint of spicy oak. This seamlessly constructed St.-Julien possesses massive concentration, moderately high tannins, abundant glycerin, an unctuous texture, remarkably fresh acids and wonderful precision. It will benefit from 5-6 years of cellaring and last 30-35 years."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London. The Léoville Poyferré has an intense bouquet with blackberry, dark plum, violet and a touch of bay leaf – almost Margaux like in perfume – heady and opulent and not far removed from the 2009. The palate is full-bodied with succulent ripe black fruit laced with spice box and white pepper. It is very harmonious, crescendos to a vibrant, shimmering finish surfeit with minerality. Superb. Tasted Nov2012."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the chateau and twice at the UGC, the Léoville Poyferré is a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, a pH of 3.7 and alcohol at 14%. It has a spellbinding, extraordinarily pure bouquet that in an obtuse way reminds me of a Romanée St. Vivant. So much panache. The palate is medium bodied with silky smooth tannins, one of the most sensual of all the 2010s that I have tasted. Seamless cashmere texture towards the finish with dark cherries, blueberry and creme de cassis all wrapped up in a veil of vanilla. Superb. Drink 2015- Tasted April 2011."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Wow. Very intense and aromatic nose with crushed currants and blueberries with hints of nuts and dried flowers. Full body, with very refined tannins and a lovely undercurrent of fruit. Balanced and juicy."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is so velvety and beautiful with a juicy, orange peel, raspberries and currant character on the nose and the palate. Full with a long, long finish. Wonderful texture to this wine. Dense and yummy"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A wine of architectural strength and classical proportions, this has straight lines that mark the packed, concentrated fruits, which are sustained by its tannins. This is certainly the best wine that Léoville-Poyferré has produced, sumptuous while so finely structured."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"95-97 Firmly tannic, although with wonderful fresh fruit, black currant skins, damsons, followed by bitter chocolate. It is certainly tough and dense, with the juicy acidity of the year giving a lifted finish."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"(61% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot, 6% petit verdot and 3% cabernet franc; 3.7 pH; 14% alcohol) Opaque inky-purple. Fruit-driven aromas of plum jam, smoky black cherry and chocolate-covered blackcurrant. Then increasingly austere and tough on the palate, with black fruit flavors hidden beneath a thick coating of oak. The long finish features clove, vanilla and underbrush nuances. This massive Leoville Poyferré will need plenty of time to shed its tannic cloak but appears to possess enough fruit beneath its oaky veneer."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Very concentrated and luscious looking. Exceptionally deep crimson. Very fine and sophisticated on the nose. Both concentration and lift but then perhaps just a bit too concentrated on the palate? Certainly, very attention grabbing with lots of very ripe, very dry fruit. Lustrous. With some welcoming appeal. Pure, luscious Médoc Cabernet. Very long and vibrant."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Chateau Leoville Poyferré shows a fine extraction of black fruits, both richer and more tannic than the Leoville Barton in 2010, very good ripeness for long ageing."
- SS, Decanter.com

"Once again this property offers us a great bottle. The nose is still discreet but appears very ripe. In the mouth, the wine is broad right from the entry, then fondant and powerful in the mid-palate. This vintage has taste and a great texture. Nicely soft and delicious, a long finish with coated tannins."
- J-MQ

Reviews

"Inky in color, with explosive notes of licorice, smoke, jam, black and blue fruit, fresh brewed espresso and earth, the wine is dense. Packed with ripe, polished, fruits, sweet tannins, and enough freshness to give this life, the wine expands on the palate with a blast of juicy, ripe, lush, sweet berries. Not quite at the level of the stunning 2009, but this blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc is close. This stunning wine should age and evolve for decades."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Blending 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc produced a St. Julien wine that offered earth, caramel, coffee and dark berry liqueur aromas. This powerful, tannic, rich, pure, intense wine combines freshness with opulence, due to the high 14% alcohol and low pH levels. Over the last two months, the wine has fleshed out, becoming better integrated and rounder. Full bodied and tannic, this will require several years of bottle age before it begins to mature. The wine was released at 85 Euros, which was more expensive than the 2009. 95-96 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Léoville Poyferré reached 14% alcohol. Even at this degree of alcohol, there is no feeling of heat. Smoke, earth, jammy dark berries and cassis scents produce the aromatics. This fresh, chocolate covered cassis filled wine is big and almost brawny in style. Its beefy tannins and low pH combine freshness and power which are made better by the long cassis filled, powerful finish. According to Didier Cuvelier, 2010 reminds him of 2005. I see his point. But for me, 2010 is more powerful, while 2005 offers more elegance and charm."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Dense and saturated to the rim; very creamy and real ripeness and bold; layered nose, some toast, but mainly cassis and blackcurrants; real density on the palate, concentrated and quite firm, real density to the wine. Lots of extract and density; real chew and length. Maybe stronger and more concentrated than 2009 but less hedonistic and knockout in my book. Excellent, nevertheless. 94-96+/100 [61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Petite Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc. 14 alc, IPT 90] Tasted 4 April 2011 at Chateau Leoville Poyferré. [Second tasting] Dense saturated colour; cream, blackcurrant ripeness and intensity – very attractive with freshness; palate very attractive, layered and ripe; density; attractive and tannic; grippy too. Lots of depth and concentration; very good length; long term; length. Excellent 94-96+/100 Tasted 5 April 2011 at UGC. [Third tasting] Deep and dense, thick looking; very ripe and clean; lots of fabulous ripeness, good to taste again; very bright and alive; real freshness; lovely creamy wine, strong and full, lots of extract and tannin but lots of blackcurrant fruit. Great mid-palate. Really very good. The leading St Julien here? 95-97+/100 Tasted 7 April 2011 UGC"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"This was, in my view, the best wine made in St Julien this year, at least until I tasted Léoville-Las Cases later on the same day, and even then, it was a close-run thing. Poyferré always seems to have succulence on the palate, which is almost sensual, and, despite the record level of tannin, it is there again this year. The bouquet is complex, redolent of hedgerow fruits with hints of red berries alongside, and a key feature here is the wonderful persistence of flavour along with the very fine-grained tannins. It is wonderfully fresh and yet another in a long string of successful wines from this estate. (61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc)

- AG, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

"The nose is plush the fleshy black fruits enriched by chocolate. Fruit power packs out the mid palate the richness held in check at the moment by firm tannins and the freshness on the back palate. There are so many different layers of flavour on the palate, so much complexity."

- Derek Smedley MW

"Like its neighbour Léoville Barton, Poyferré is always very good value for money when first offered en primeur. The consistently high quality and modest price mean that Poyferré is always a wine to consider purchasing en primeur as mature vintages tend to be much more expensive. Consultant oenologue Michel Rolland produces wines with a smoother, more fleshy character than the seriously structured wines of its neighbours. The result is a delicious St Julien that can usually charm early in its life and can stand the test of time. Made from a lower percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon than most Saint Juliens, this is 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Petit

Reviews *Verdot and 3 % Cabernet Franc and matured in 75% new oak. An opulent nose with rich, creme de cassis and black cherries. A beautifully plump and creamy texture with summer fruits and a silky, polished mouthfeel. There is plenty of structure, but the juicy, plush fruit fills the palate. Beautiful balance, is this another 1990 in the making?"*

- Farr Vintners

"59% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot, 6% petit verdot and 5% cabernet franc. Dark and imposing, with notes of blackberry, dark chocolate, and wet earth on a slightly subdued nose. A class St. Julien, the 2010 Léoville Poyferré displays much of the power of Pauillac to the north while still displaying much of the elegance of Margaux to the south. Silky and almost impossibly supple for a young Bordeaux, the dark purple fruit is slightly subdued, but with beautifully integrated tannins and nicely balanced acidity, this is a true beauty in the making. Lay it down until 2020 and drink over the next 3-4 decades."

- AS, JJ Buckley Wines
