

Château Leoville Poyferré 2015

CSPC# 749579

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

CSPC# 790276

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% 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

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

Everything in 2015 contributes to a remarkable vintage.

Winter cold, strategic rains and summer sun ensure the perfect development of the key stages of the vine cycle. The work of man will make it an exceptional vintage.

The winter of 2015 is characterized by frosts succeeding from December to February, the low temperatures allow an optimal rest of the vine. Heavy but dense precipitations, from November to March,

give back to the soils all the reserves useful to the vegetative cycle of the vine.

At the beginning of spring, the temperatures rise slowly creating good conditions of budding at different grape varieties. April knows a net warming, accompanied by weak and regular rains.

May temperatures are more moderate.

The arrival of hot weather in June allows a homogeneous, rapid and early flowering for all varieties. Follows a beautiful sunny and warm summer.

The regular heat and well-distributed rains make June and July suitable months for the practice of stripping. The grapes thus benefit from maximum exposure to the sun and the bunches, for a better ventilation.

August, a little cooler, will be marked by good rains for a fast and homogeneous veraison. The first checks of maturity are very positive and suggest early harvesting.

In September, good weather and cool nights promote maturity and a beautiful concentration

aromatic. A rainy episode slows down the maturity. The berries do not fill with water and the sanitary state remains perfect thanks to the stripping

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%).

Harvest

24th September to 10th October, 2015

Vinification

Léoville Poyferré traditionally produced the softest and most supple wine of the 3 Léovilles, 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



Maturation	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.
Tasting Notes	Colour: deep and bright. Nose: beautiful aromatic complexity dominated by red fruits. Notes of cedar and spice are revealed upon aeration. Palate: The attack is marked, leading in to a fleshy, powerful mid-palate. There is a fine balance between the freshness of the aromas and the density of the tannins. The finish reveals superb aromatic persistence worthy of a great vintage of Leoville Poyferré. 2015, the number 5 keeps its promise.
Production	18,439 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2021-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>96 points / Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>18.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018</p> <p>18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com – May 2018</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>94-96+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - May 2016</p> <p>93-95+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>17 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>92-94 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>94-96 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>17.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Dark plum cake, blueberry reduction and acai berry fruit tilts this to the exotic side of the ledger, with warm ganache, melted black licorice and tar notes providing the spine through the lush finish. Displays some serious latent grip, so there’s no rush despite the showy fruit. Best from 2022 through 2040. 18,439 cases made.”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“This features depth and focus, with a really solid core of currant and blackberry lined with ample iron and briar notes. Not shy with the toast, but the finish is energetic, and everything is pulling together. Score range: 92-95”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“The 2015 Leoville Poyferré is deep garnet-purple colored with a nose of grilled meats, baked plums, crème de cassis and baker’s chocolate with nuances of dusty soil and iron ore plus a hint of bay leaves. Medium to full-bodied, very firm and muscular in the mouth, it is built like a brick house with a mineral-tinged finish. 2021 – 2038”</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2015 Léoville Poyferré is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc that was harvested between 24 September and 10 October. The IPT comes in at 80 with a pH 3.69. It has a typical Léoville-Poyferré bouquet at this stage: quite bullish and forthright, packed full of dense black cherries, red plum and cassis, the 85% new oak pronounced, but will be subsumed with bottle age. The palate is full-bodied with mouth-coating tannin: layers of graphite-infused black fruit, cedar and mint, almost Pauillac-like in personality with a sustained graphite finish. This is a sophisticated Saint Julien built for long-term ageing, perhaps less flamboyant than recent vintages, but the terroir shows through. Expect it to land at the top of my banded score, possibly higher. Drink: 2027 - 2050."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Leoville Poyferré had a deep purple/ruby color. The bouquet is very concentrated, more so than its peers but not excessively so, laden with pure blackberry, raspberry and light cassis scents, the new oak (85%) neatly integrated although it will require several years to be completely subsumed. The palate is medium-bodied with impressive weight and presence. It is a voluminous Poyferré with ample ripe blackberry, white pepper and cedar notes, that seam of graphite that I noticed en primeur extant and lending that Pauillac-like personality toward the creamy finish. It is an excellent 2015, although it is going to require longer in bottle to reach full maturity, 8-10 years or so. Anticipated maturity: 2024 - 2050."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A rich and intense red with blackberries, tar and spices. Black tea and blueberries. Full-bodied, very layered and multi-dimensional. Very long and flavorful. Such great texture. A dynamic and superb red. Drink in 2023."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A dense and savory red with plenty of phenolic texture and ripe fruit character. Hints of walnut and spice too. Chewy finish. Solid center palate."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Following the style that this estate has now adopted, this is an ultrarich, concentrated wine. However, its acidity and bright black-currant fruits contrast well with this solid base. Drink this impressive wine from 2026."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"95–97. Barrel Sample. This is a generous, rounded, juicy wine, with already a fine balance between tannins and fruit. Black currant flavors are contrasted by a dry, solid core that shows the wine's impressive potential."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot.

Very deep crimson indeed. Gloriously polished and exciting on the nose. Racy but rich as well as fresh. Immediate gratification but masses of tannins hidden under here – though no excessive alcohol. Really very impressive indeed. Just what modern claret should be.

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Deep crimson. Sweet and round and polished – so extraordinarily different from Léoville Barton! There is some gravelly texture, but it's overlaid with fruit and come-hither appeal. Although this is much more restrained than some vintages. 18/20 points"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Deep purple. Glowing. Flattering nose but without the undertow of some. Lots of energy and just a hint of sweet oak. A solid performance.

Drink 2026-2040"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Lovely concentration of fruit already showing excellent florality, purity and density. Robustly elegant in the Poyferré style – 'juicy and silky', according to owner Didier Cuvelier. This is one for the long term."

- Decanter.com

Reviews *“This stands out for its layers of flavour, with licks of charcoal and liquorice. It has robust power and stakes its claim as one of the best of the appellation in 2015. (JA)- SB, Decanter.com*
- JA, Decanter.com

“One of those wines that seriously improved from barrel to bottling, the wine is lushly textured, with waves of sweet, dark fruits. There is length, purity complexity and the structure to age along with endnotes of blackberry, dark chocolate, licorice and tobacco.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Taking a big leap from barrel to bottle, this is a beauty. With a serious depth of color, the wine offers velvet textures, waves of concentrated, perfectly ripe, sweet, dark fruits, length and purity. The wine coats your palate, and hangs in there, with an expansive, fruit filled finish, leaving you with blackberry, cassis, licorice, smoke, tobacco and the essence of wet earth.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Dark in color, silky in texture, complex in nature and sensuous, ripe and concentrated in its personality, this should score in the middle or the top of my range.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Deeply colored with an initial blast of cassis and blackberry, this wine has freshness, polished tannins and a long, lingering, tannic finish with both depth and structure and gust of sweet, ripe, dark-red skinned fruit. Blending 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc, this wine reached 13.47% alcohol. The harvest took place from September 24 to October 10.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deeper and concentrated; plenty of gloss and polish; very fine and concentrated aromatics; focused; minerality too; pent up as you’d expect; slowly opens up in the glass; floral note; blackcurrants; cassis tones; nice entry on the palate; wood integrated; chew and depth here; not a flashy wine but very complete with depth and elegance. Nice chew on the finish and matter. Very fine. Very good wine here. Very definitely a long term Poyferré – but harmony and balance here. [65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 13.5% alc, IPT 80, TA 3.45, pH 3.69]. Drink 2025-2040. 94-96+ “
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“[Additional note] Deep and saturated; ripe; fruitcake spices; menthol; layers of fruit on the nose; intense palate with lots of matter and density; extracted but the material excellent and the tannins ripe; chewy finish. Pretty long-term Léoville-Poyferré this. Tasted UGCB 5/4/16. 93-95+”
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Ripe and slightly jammy, with lots of oak and tannin, this is a good rather than a great Léoville-Poyferré. There’s a figgy note to the fruit, too, but the underlying structure is good, with freshness on the finish and firm, fine-grained tannins. Drink: 2021-28”
- TA, timatkin.com

“Like its neighbour Léoville Barton, Poyferré is always good value for money when first offered en primeur. 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. Plantings in the 80-hectare vineyard are 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc. Deep, opaque purple colour. The palate is sweet with black cherry in an almost resinous, chocolate cake intensity. Opulent black fruit gives a powerful, viscous, rich texture to the palate with a concentration of firm tannins as well as fruit ripeness. There is a glycerol plushness to the finish that leaves an exotic, plush, juicy character to the lingering flavours.”
- Farr Vintners

“Bright and fresh on the nose the palate is richer with ripe blackcurrant and cherry. Mid depth the sweet fruit backed by dark chocolate and coffee but there is an underlying balancing freshness the finish is long and bright.”
- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews *“Vibrant and modern in its aromatic profile with ripe blackberries and dark plum flavors - the palate is equally ripe and generous. This is one of the most intense Leoville Poyferre's I have tasted young and its aging potential given its structure is great.”*
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2015 Léoville-Poyferré is spectacular. Inky, dense and explosive, the 2015 possesses off the chart richness, with soft contours, no hard edges and exceptional balance. All the elements are simply fused together. inky blue/purplish fruit, chocolate, new leather, blueberry jam, exotic spice and violet notes are all beautifully delineated throughout. Fresh, vibrant and totally sexy, Léoville-Poyferré is one of the wines of the vintage. Don't miss it! Tasted two times. (AG)”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2015 Léoville-Poyferré is simply magnificent. Rich, creamy and voluptuous in the glass, the 2015 captures all the best qualities of the vintage in spades. Layers of flavor blossom in the glass as the wine fill out its broad-shouldered frame with impeccable grace. A host of floral notes, including violet, lavender and rose petal grace the utterly exquisite finish. There is so much to like here. Specifically, the interplay of ripeness, texture and freshness is compelling. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times.”
- AG, Vinous

“They champion Merlot here and while they will have to replace the rootstocks on two plots in the future, this is a wine which benefits from a stunning Merlot component. The ripeness is superb with Cabernet at 12.5% and Merlot at 14.5% but the amalgamation of these two with Petit Verdot for spice is delicious. The tannins are fantastic and very evolved, and this wine is very true to the classy ‘house style’, which I adore. I was lucky to taste the 2014 here, too, and they are different but strikingly similar, too, and I like them equally for completely different reasons. Plush 2015 might win the hearts of many but structured 2014 is a star, too.”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“The 2015 Leoville Poyferré is cut from the same cloth as the 2016, yet is more sexy, rounded and opulent. Notes of cassis, licorice, crushed rocks, lead pencil shavings and graphite all emerge from this unctuous, ripe, pedal-to-the-metal beauty that's absolutely loaded with fruit and texture. Reminding me of the 2003, yet only fresher, don't miss this beauty. It should be drinkable in 3-4 years and last for 3-4 decades.”
- Jeb Dunnuck
