

Château Léoville Poyferré 2017

CSPC# 814275

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

CSPC# 864615

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

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.

Sustainability

Château Léoville Poyferré is committed to its impact on the environment. As a testament to our engagement, we joined a voluntary collective initiative that is particular to the wines of Bordeaux called an Environmental Management System (SME)* in 2016. Château Léoville Poyferré is also certified HVE Level 3** since the 2017 vintage. The SME allows us to take into consideration the environmental impact from vine to bottle to continually improve and optimize our systems. HVE, meaning High Environmental Value, measures our environmental sustainability at various critical points in all aspects of the business. Level 3 is the highest level achievable.

Winemaker

Michel Rolland consults

Vintage

2017, not too dissimilar to its companions of misfortune in sevens, started off on the wrong foot. A very dry winter and late severe spring frosts were then turned around with a warm pleasant summer. This beautiful weather coupled with our unique terroir really raised the bar for our 2017 vintage. The result is a wine that is dense, marked with an exquisite aromatic expression, all wrapped in a vintage with surprising cellaring potential.

AN OUTSIDER, QUITE CONTRARY TO ITS REPUTATION!

As the years go by, we see a shift in patterns between the winter months. 2016 was exceedingly wet, whereas 2017 was the complete opposite. A vintage of extremes, it was particularly dry and very cold with rare frosts in January that were much more frequent than what we usually see here in Saint-Julien.

Come March, daytime temperatures were mild encouraging an early bud break. April was dry and warm offering ideal conditions for the continued development of the vine. By May, during a warm dry spell, the flowering was also early, but quick, and homogenous with a peak of heat during the month of June. Frequent rainfall during May and June ensured replenished water stores.

The beginning of summer was marked by heatwaves with record temperatures of 35.3°C on three separate dates, moving through July with much more even summer heat. The temperatures went up a little in August with lots of sunshine. The veraison, also precocious, was equally rapid and homogenous in the vineyard.

Frequent spells of rain in September washed away the late season dryness and brought forward the harvest dates for the Merlot. Optimal ripeness was preserved for the Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot, ensuring the full expression of the fruit and silky tannins.



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	The harvest took place between 20th September to 3rd October. Yields 44.34 hl/ha.
Vinification	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	The Leoville Poyferré 2017 is a very imposing specimen. True to the house style, quite made, but impressive in its style. Plush and perfumed, rich plummy fruit, Chambord, and a hint of spicy perfume from the Petit Verdot. There is ample extract, lots of charming cassis and crème de mûre, lavish and expressive, but not excessive. It actually feels quite athletic with good energy and precision of fruit and ripe muscular tannins. It is as always, the most flashy and least natural of the Leoville's, but it is a very fine effort and there is much to admire.
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.
Production	208,000 bottles made
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2037
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018</p> <p>94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p>93-95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p>95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2020</p> <p>17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2019</p> <p>17- points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2019</p> <p>16+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018</p> <p>17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018</p> <p>94 points - Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018</p> <p>16+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2018</p> <p>90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020</p> <p>92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018 (score only)</p> <p>95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020</p> <p>18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018</p> <p>18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2018</p> <p>17.5-18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2018</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Warm and rich in feel, with layers of steeped plum, fig and blackberry paste flavors cruising along, framed by cocoa notes and backed by a swath of graphite structure on the tar-tinged finish. Shows a bit more heft than purity, but this is rock-solid, nonetheless. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2023-2037."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Warm, displaying a slightly rounded feel for the vintage, this sports plum, cassis and blackberry compote flavors. A mouthwatering anise edge shows on the polished finish, with a well-buried graphite spine"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews *“Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Léoville Poyferré needs a little coaxing to reveal pretty scents of violets, Black Forest cake and blueberry preserves with hints of raspberry leaves, roses, cigar box and fragrant earth. Medium-bodied, the palate has a quiet intensity with loads of subtle layers and a well-poised frame of soft, fine-grained tannins, finishing long and refreshing. Drink: 2022-2045”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“The 2017 Léoville Poyferré is very deep purple-black in color with super intense notes of freshly crushed blackcurrants, wild blueberries and Sichuan pepper with hints of lavender, baking spices and wood smoke. The palate is medium-bodied, firm and grainy with restrained, understated fruit and a long, mineral-laced finish.”
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“A red with currant and blueberry aromas and flavors and some citrus and vanilla. Medium body.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Very tight and energetic finish to this young, new red with currant and blackberry character. Hints of crushed stones. Dense and four-square with a chewy tannin structure and a long finish. Very muscular.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This wine brings balance to the solid tannins and luscious fruits. Firm tannins plus layers of acidity give freshness and great aging ability. The wine has a great future. Drink from 2024.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Glowing deep crimson. Ripe and glamorous. Not overdone. Rather sweet with silky tannins. Less obvious acidity than the Langoa 2017. Very seductive, and fully ripe. Appetising and long.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Fairly dark crimson. Strange damp-rope nose. Sweet start. Rather contained and definitely sweet enough – nothing scrawny or tart about this. More tannic than most 2017s – a success!”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Very dark crimson – the darkest 2017 of this tasting. Rich, sweet ink. Definitely more ambitious than most 2017s. But still a little sinewy – not the fully rich all-holes-filled structure of a great vintage. But good for 2017.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Very dark crimson with black core. Gorgeous cassis intensity and purity on the nose and just a hint of oak sweetness and spice. Firm but really supple tannins, compact and deep but with a lightness of touch to let the fruit flow first. Mouth-watering and super-fresh. Long. 13.2%.”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“This has lower alcohol than usual but doesn't sacrifice the mouthfeel. There's a succulent damson and cappuccino expression through the finish here, along with tautly constructed, bouncy tannins that are both expressive and powerful. It's one of the more rich and round wines in St-Julien, as fits the house style. Extremely accomplished, it's powerful and will clearly age well. It's somewhere between 2014 and 2015 in quality, but not touching the majestic 2016. A success in the vintage, underlining again that St-Julien has had an extremely lucky 2017.”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Slightly earthy notes on the nose, with brambly fruit coming through on the attack. A real sense of lightness and delicacy, with some attractive brushed tannins. Clear precision to the structure of the wine, and it opens up in the glass, allowing the initial austerity to fade as the fruit fattens up in the glass. Lacks the plush concentration of some vintages of Poyferré, but extremely enjoyable and accomplished, with plenty of house style.”
- Decanter.com

Reviews

"Before the licorice, black cherry, truffle, and cocoa-filled bouquet seductively arrives, you'll notice a startling depth of color. Full bodied, rich and flowing with the darkest of red fruits and gently dusted with a blast of even darker chocolate, this wine is wrapped in cashmere. It is graceful and fresh from the very first dance to the long good-bye. This is the final vintage with Didier Cuvelier at the helm and it is a testament to his many accomplishments at Leoville Poyferré."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Intense, savoury and meaty oak aromas. Concentrated and deep. Flavour packed and deep black and red fruits. Concentrated and still elegant, with good acidity and rounded tannins. Juicy fruit finish."

- TA, timatkin.com

"A deep colour with sweet, plush and ripe black cherry and damson on the nose, supported by plentiful roasted, toasty notes from oak. This is rich, fat and plump on the palate, with generous, opulent fruits and rich but refined tannins. This is very textural, with the plush tannins and sweet smoke of oak bold but still kept in balance with the fruit. Velveteen through to the long and ripe finish."

- Farr Vintners

"The fruit is sweet ripe the nose has richness depth of flavour. Mid generosity the tannins are fine the richness and sweetness underpinned by the fresher black fruits. It fills out at the back and finishes with a rich mix of cassis and black cherry. 2027-42"

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2017 Léoville Poyferré has a very well-defined bouquet with irresistible cranberry and crushed strawberry aromas, a lighter and more refined take on Poyferré with more mineralité than many recent vintages. The palate is medium bodied with slightly grainy tannin, a fine line of acidity, more black fruit than red intermixed with tar, smoke and cracked black pepper. There is just a touch of grittiness towards the finish but otherwise this is a wonderful Léoville Poyferré with plenty of character. Drink 2022-2045."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Léoville Poyferré was cropped at around 50hl/ha between 20 September and 6 October at 44hl/ha. It has a gorgeous bouquet that is very pure with scents of black cherry, cassis, cedar and a touch of graphite, all very focused and neatly entwined with the 85% new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, crisp and focused, very harmonious with a touch of cedar and black pepper towards the finish. I appreciate the combination of weight and finesse here, a really quite enthralling valedictory Léoville Poyferré who is due to retire this coming July. Bon vin. 2021 – 2040"

- NM, Vinous

"A ravishing Saint-Julien, the Léoville-Poyferré is also very clearly one of the wines of the vintage on the Left Bank. Raspberry jam, blood orange, mint, spice and mocha all race out of the glass as this sumptuous, flamboyant wine shows off its exotic personality. With its vertical lift and explosive energy, the 2017 has so much to offer. It has been nothing less than stunning on the three occasions I have tasted it so far. Because of the late season rains, only 3 out of the 5 parcels that typically inform the Grand Vin were used. This a tremendous effort from the Cuvelier family. Don't miss it. 2025 – 2047"

- AG, Vinous

"The 2017 Chateau Leoville-Poyferré saw malolactic in barrels and spent 18 months in 80% new French oak. Sporting a deep ruby/purple hue, it delivers big, powerful notes of blackberries, blackcurrants, crushed violets, tobacco, and a touch of chocolate. Possessing medium to full-bodied richness, a rounded, opulent texture, and sweet tannins, it's unquestionably one of the biggest, richest wines in the vintage. Give bottles 4-6 years of bottle age and enjoy over the following 2-3 decades. Tasted twice."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Very attractive on the nose and palate, this is an indulgent wine with depth and succulence. The oak is fairly dominant and there is some dark extraction here, but there is no astringency. Fondant fruit and chocolate tones make this seem very forward, but this is not the case because the tannins are powdery and persistent, and they roll on for minutes. This is a superb wine with flair and control in equal measure."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
