

## Château Léoville Poyferré 2018

CSPC# 814275

750mlx6

14.4% alc./vol.

CSPC# 864614

750mlx6

14.4% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	St. Julien
<b>Classification</b>	Second Growth. Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.leoville-poyferre.fr/english/news.html">http://www.leoville-poyferre.fr/english/news.html</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<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>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Michel Rolland consults
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>Extreme weather conditions wildly rocked the 2018 vintage between alternating periods of humidity and dryness.</p> <p>Despite a particularly wet winter and damp springtime with high alert to the risk of mildew, the rest of the year unfolded under the very best auspices. A hot summer with regular temperatures followed by a glorious late season led us into harvest. A veritable vintage of extremes, the weather conditions of 2018 offered optimal ripeness for each variety, revealing wines that have both structure and wonderful aromatic potential. Upon tasting, this vintage sets itself apart by offering perfect harmony with impressive density and delicate freshness. Complex nuances of intense black fruits cascade from the glass. On the palate, the framework is fine, the tannins generous and silky. The fabulous potential of the 2018 should place it amongst the very greatest vintages of Château Léoville Poyferré, reminiscent of the iconic 1982. At the heart of the emblematic graves of Saint-Julien, the vine was able to show us, once again, the magical effect of terroir. From this extraordinary equation is born a vintage that sings harmoniously with elegance, complexity, and balance.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<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>
<b>Harvest</b>	<p>The 2018 Léoville Poyferré was picked from 24 September with the Merlot, the Cabernet Sauvignon following six days later and finishing on 12 October.</p>
<b>Vinification</b>	<p>The wines are fermented in the 35 temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats of varying sizes, then macerated</p>



<b>Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Château Leoville Poyferré is elegant, finely balanced and complex with intense color, velvety texture, and excellent aging potential.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	15,000 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2024-2040
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>97 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2021</p> <p><b>95-98 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p><b>94-96+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p><b>97-98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>97 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2021</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2019</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>17+ points</b> - Tom Parker, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p><b>97-99 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>17+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p><b>94-97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p><b>96-99 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p><b>18.5+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Waves of warmed cassis, mocha and warm tar aromas lead the way, while the core of macerated plum, blackberry and blueberry fruit waits its turn, showing admirable breadth and depth when it arrives, with roasted apple wood, bramble and cast iron buried deeply through the finish. This is a powerfully rendered wine with a cashmere scarf as accent. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2024 through 2040. 15,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is brimming with plum, blackberry and blueberry reduction flavors, backed by grippy, energetic bramble, licorice and apple wood notes. Chockablock with stuff but defined and balanced. A no-brainer for the cellar."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, aged in 80% new oak barriques, the 2018 Léoville Poyferré comes bounding out of the glass with exuberant scents of Morello cherries, plum preserves and blackberry pie, giving way to nuances of cedar chest, unsmoked cigars, vanilla pod and saffras, plus a waft of crushed rocks. The palate is full-bodied, rich, and decadent, delivering hedonic black fruits and lots of spicy accents with a velvety texture and seamless freshness, finishing long and satisfyingly savory. This is a very impressive showing that is delicious out of the gate but has the backbone to give a good 30 years or more of pleasure. Drink 2024-2054."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

**Reviews** *“Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Léoville Poyferré begins sporting a veil of cedar, opening out to reveal profound notions of crème de cassis, warm kirsch, Black Forest cake and Indian spices plus hints of chargrilled meats and Sichuan pepper. Full-bodied and built like a brick house, the taut, muscular black fruit has a solid frame of firm, ripe tannins, and seamless freshness, finishing long with loads of savory nuances. Aging is anticipated to be for 18 months in barriques, 80% new. The current blend is 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc.”*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“Dark cherry, plum, spice and cacao with earthy notes and wood undertones. Cloves, too. Full-bodied, yet in control and poised. Balanced, complex, and flavorful. Firm tannins and a long, precise finish. It goes on and on. Structured is the word. Try after 2025.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This is so powerful and dense with amazing tannin quality that reminds me of dense clouds, because they are agile and light. Multilayered. Extremely long, too. Punchy! One of the best wines I have ever had from here.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Richly dense and impressively concentrated, this is a powerful wine. Swathes of black fruits show off the Cabernet structure and dark, age-worthy character of this wine. Drink the wine from 2027. Cellar Selection.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot. Cask sample. Bright, intense purple – one of the purplest of the 2018s. Extremely sumptuous and even more glamorous and attention-grabbing than usual. Exciting finish and, while sweet, very appetising, and balanced. Massive tannins seem to be covered by even more massive fruit. Something rather lifted on the appetisingly dry end.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot, pH 3.7. Barrel sample. Black core and purple rim. Ripe, pure vanilla-laced blackcurrant and a note of toasty oak. Gorgeously smooth and rounded even if the tannins are many layered, building to a compact finish. A touch of violets on the scented palate but also an attractive dry stony touch to counterbalance all the rich aromatic fruit. It's oaky but the fruit can stand up to it and seems comfortable in its own skin. (JH)”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot. Deep, opaque ruby. Toasted spices and rich cassis on the nose. Initially grippy and firm, the mouth-coating tannins are gradually enveloped by decadent black fruit. A more extractive, modern style, this is nonetheless impressive and balanced. Plump and plush through to the finish, with sweet clove and nutmeg spice lingering together with the kirsch-like fruit. (TP)”*  
- TP, JancisRobinson.com

*“One of the darkest in colour, with an inky ruby that stains the glass. Even on the nose you feel the texture of this wine. Clear damson and chocolate shavings, cocoa beans, and liquorice. This is young and extremely good-quality - straying into gold territory and will age for ages. Still extremely young, the tannins are multiplying as it stays in the mouth, popping up from all over the place, with a slow slate finish that I love. I couldn't wait to find out what this was. It is one that should be left for 10 to 15 years but has ageing potential. Drinking Window 2026 – 2044”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“Smoke, licorice, espresso, spice, blackberry and roasted currants create the intoxicating perfume. Full-bodied, lush, rich, and supple, with velvet drenched tannins, and a big mouthful of coffee bean, dark chocolate, black cherry, and tobacco leaf, this is going to be just great. Patience is needed as the wine. If you are not yet a fan and this style is your thing, one taste is all you need to get hooked! The wine blends 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 32% Petit Verdot, 14.4% ABV.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

## Reviews

*“Before the licorice, black cherry, blackberry, smoke, spice box, espresso and cocoa-filled aromas kick in you were already knocked out by the depth of color in the glass. Velvet drenched black fruits seduce your palate. The wine is sensuous, sexy and mouth-filling. Generous with its fruit, this is a finish you don't want to end. All those layers of ripe, decadent dark berries maintain a presence for close to 60 seconds. If you are a fan of Leoville Poyferré, this needs to be in your cellar. If you are not yet a fan and this style is your thing, one taste is all you need to get hooked! Blending 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 32% Petit Verdot, this wine reached 14.4 alcohol. The harvest took place from September 24 to October 12.”*

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

*“Deep and inky blue in the glass, this is rich and powerful on the nose, with dark chocolate, damson and roasted coffee bean all on show. The palate is rich in glycerol, making for a glossy and rounded texture to support the fleshy black fruit. This is expansive and impressive, supremely polished, and very refined. The density of fruit borders on liquorice sweetness but is tamed by balancing acidity and high-quality French oak. A powerhouse of a wine that is very impressive and long on the finish.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The 2018 Léoville Poyferré has a glorious bouquet of layers of black cherry, blueberry, violet and potpourri that is opulent yet (paradoxically) effortlessly controlled. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins. Some of the puppy fat that enveloped this wine from barrel has gone, revealing more backbone and an impressive sense of cohesion and symmetry on the finish. This is an outstanding Léoville Poyferré that has gained another level of complexity since I tasted it from barrel. Drinking window: 2023 – 2048.”*

- NM, *Vinous*

*“The 2018 Léoville Poyferré was picked from 24 September with the Merlot, the Cabernet Sauvignon following six days later and finishing on 12 October. It has a deep purple colour. The bouquet is sensual and voluptuous with black plum, cassis, and blueberry, very floral with violet and pressed iris aromas, typically quite outgoing in style. [A second bottle displays more dark chocolate aromas.] The palate is medium bodied with saturated tannins and a fine bead of acidity. There is a plushness to this Poyferré that belies good backbone underneath and a saline, truffle-tinged finish that lingers in the mouth. It just feels a little blunt at the moment, but it should flesh out with time. Drink 2023-2048.”*

- NM, *Vinous*

*“Léoville-Poyferré is sensational in 2018. There's not much more to say than that. A wine of explosive power and intensity, the 2018 dazzles from start to finish. To be sure, the 2018 is racy and opulent, but all the elements come together so effortlessly. Bright, red-toned fruit, mocha, pine, and wildflowers all open with a bit of coaxing. The new oak is a bit prominent at this stage, but that will be less of an issue over time. 2028 – 2043.”*

- AG, *Vinous*

*“The 2018 Léoville-Poyferré is a stunning wine that shows a very distinct shift in style under the leadership of Sara LeCompte Cuvelier towards greater energy and vibrancy. The 2018 soars out of the glass with stunning aromatic presence. In its latest incarnation, Léoville-Poyferré is marked by a distinct emphasis on freshness and less extraction than in the past, with sweeter, riper tannins than is the norm. It will be interesting to see if that is an expression of the vintage, or a move toward a gentler approach to winemaking, but I suspect much of it is the latter. Dark red cherry, menthol, pine, and wildflowers abound in a stunning, vibrant Saint-Julien that will leave readers, weak at the knees. Tasted three times.”*

- AG, *Vinous*

*“Every bit as good as the 2009, and I think better than the 2010 and 2016, the 2018 Château Léoville Poyferré is a total thrill that tops out my scale. Based on 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, its dense purple hue is followed by an incredible, full-bodied monster of a wine that, despite massive amounts of fruit, tannin's, and extract, still stays weightless and ethereal, with incredible purity. Loaded with notions of crème de cassis, spring flowers, tobacco, violets, charcoal, and cedar pencil, it's extraordinarily concentrated, flawlessly balanced, and has a finish that won't quit. This is a legendary wine in the making. Give bottles 7-8 years, a decade would be even better, and it will keep for 40-50 years. Hats off to the Cuvelier family for another extraordinary wine!”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“One of the gems in the vintage will be the 2018 Château Léoville-Poyferré, which is a powerful, incredibly sexy wine based on 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, representing just 45% of the total production. In the same ballpark as the 2000, 2005, 2009, and 2010, its deep purple color is followed by a rich, opulent bouquet of sweet black and blue fruits, tobacco, and graphite. Both intellectually and hedonistically satisfying, it fills the mouth with fruit, has remarkable purity and precision for such a powerful wine, sweet tannins, and a finish that goes on for nearly a minute. It's similar in character to the 2009 and will keep for three decades or more. This wine checks in at 14.4% alcohol, with a pH of 3.7, and a massive (one of the highest in the vintage) IPT value of 90. Tasted twice.”*

*- Jeb Dunnuck*

*“(64 Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 Merlot, 3 Cabernet Franc, 3 Petit Verdot) | 80% new oak | 14.4% alc | 90 IPT Commanding and statesmanlike, this is a huge wine with massive power and extract and yet, somehow, it is all in balance. I love the sweeping black fruit, the oak, the mighty tannins, and the bright acid which sweep up the carnage left on your palate after this wine has ploughed a taste furrow across your tongue. I have no doubt that this action will all settle down and that the wine will mellow in time (and my confidence in this statement resulted in a crucial extra half a point on my score), but overall, this is a great vintage to announce Sara LeCompte-Cuvelier to the Château! She picked out one of the great expressions of the vintage with which to describe her wines – ‘2018, Disgrace to Grace’. Clever and jolly accurate, too.”*

*- MJ, matthewjukes.com*

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