

Château Léoville Poyferré 2021

CSPC# 814275

750mlx6

13.11% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot
Appellation	St. Julien
Classification	Second Growth. Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.leoville-poyferre.fr/english/news.html
Analysis	Total Acidity: 3.5 g H ₂ SO ₄ /L pH :3.84 IPT: 78
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.
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-Julien's but still selling at non-scary prices. Léoville Poyferré is classified as a 2ème Cru Classé.</p>
Winemaker	Château Oenologist: Isabelle Davin. Consultant Oenologist: Michel Rolland Cellar Master: Didier Thoman
Vintage	<p>The mild and rainy winter awakens the vines in a homogeneous way with an early ripening. A few plots of merlot in the lowest part of the hilltops of the estate are impacted by the frost during the month of April. The spring was not sunny but rainy until the end of May. This imposes a slow pace of growth.</p> <p>At the beginning of June, the return of sunlight and the sudden spike in temperatures ensures the smooth flow of the flowering on almost the entire estate. Some merlots, the most sensitive ones, are affected by "coulure". Mid-June, from the fruit set, a capricious weather forecast punctuated by a number of rainy episodes will be installed until the end of the "veraison" at the beginning of August. It will be necessary to wait for the summer to be finally here with 4 weeks of magical weather which could permit us to catch up with the delay of the ripeness.</p> <p>The right ripeness of the plots only arrives the last week of September. At the beginning of October, the cabernet sauvignon expresses at last their full potential, the freshness and tension remind us of historical great vintages.</p>
Vineyards	Léoville Poyferré has 80 hectares of vineyards planted with Cabernet Sauvignon (65%), Merlot (25%), Petit Verdot (8%) Cabernet Franc (2%). 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.
Harvest	The harvest took place September 28, finishing October 12
Vinification/ Maturation	Double-walled, temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats. Vinification: Plot-by-plot with pre-fermentation cold macerations (6-8 days), alcoholic fermentations with selected yeast. Malolactic fermentation in new barrels. 18 - 20 months in French oak barrels (80% new, 20% second-fill). Traditional racking and egg white fining in barrel.



Tasting Notes	<p>“Surprise is the test of true courage”, Aristotle. Our teams have had courage in spades in the face of the increasingly unpredictable nature of the vintage.</p> <p>Keeping on the path of excellence with patience and dedication, interpreting with expertise and experience what nature entrusts to us. Yet willing to follow our intuition, to take risks, to adapt, to take up challenges every day and to win battles. This is precisely what being a winemaker is all about. And this year, we have experienced all its contours to be rewarded with the pleasure of a fresher style vintage letting ourselves be captivated by its purity of fruit and elegance.</p>
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	unknown
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2041
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>93-94 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Zekun Shuai, JamesSuckling.com - December 2023</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>17+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - December 2023</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>92-95 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024</p> <p>94-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>18.5 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“The 2021 Léoville Poyferré opens in the glass with notes of minty berries, dark berry compote, pencil shavings and toasty oak, followed by a medium to full-bodied, deep, and dense palate that's quite muscular and extracted, built around a chassis of sweet, abundant tannins that assert themselves on the youthfully firm finish. This will require a bit of patience.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“The 2021 Léoville Poyferré shows considerable promise, wafting from the glass with aromas of sweet berries and plums mingled with spices, licorice, and petals, framed by a deft touch of creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, supple, and fleshy, it's a polished, charming wine with a pretty core of fruit, lively acids, and ripe, powdery tannins, concluding with a penetrating finish.</i></p> <p><i>With some 80 hectares under vine, Léoville Poyferré's parcels are inter-fingered with those belonging to the Delon and Barton families by the river and on the plateau of Saint-Julien. The soils are cultivated less frequently and less deeply these days, and conversion to organic methods is gradually being rolled out, parcel by parcel, some being easier to farm this way than others. Winemaking features a five- to eight-day cold soak, followed by comparatively long macerations, and maturation is in 80% new oak, with lots destined for new barrels completing their malolactic fermentation in barrel. Combined with an elevated percentage of Merlot in the vineyards (though the tendency here, as elsewhere, is to replant with more Cabernet Sauvignon), this delivers the richest, fleshiest, most flamboyant of the three Léoville estates, but while it's generally the most open out of the gates of the three, that hasn't come at the expense of longevity. The Cuvelier's and their team have turned in a fine performance in 2021, harvesting young vines interplanted in older parcels first, then their Merlots, and finally, daring to wait, their Cabernets. Some saignées were performed on Merlot lots where berries were large and rich in juice.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2021 Leoville Poyferré slowly expands from the glass, revealing notes of warm cassis, blackberry pie, and black cherry preserves, followed by hints of menthol, pencil lead, red roses, and charcoal. Medium-bodied, the palate offers great intensity of youthful black fruits with firm, fine-grained tannins and bold freshness, finishing long and peppery.....harvested between 28 September and 12 October, is to be aged 18-20 months in French oak, 80% new. The wine has a pH of 3.84 and an IPT of 78. 2027-2052.”*
- LPB, Wine Independent

“Excellent depth and complexity with a nice modern touch of cocoa powder to the black olives, pencil shavings, cassis, violets, black mushrooms, and dark earth. Full-bodied palate with fresh, vertical tannins and lots of juicy fruit that seamlessly dissolve into the flavorful, persistent finish. Refined power with real length. Drink or hold.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is very typical for St.-Julien with violets, berries, blackcurrants, and crushed stone. Medium to full body with very fine tannins that run the length of the wine. Powdery tannins and a rich finish. Velvety texture.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Deep, bright colour. Attractive nose with dark-fruit and floral notes and a creamy edge. Rich and round on attack with ample substance and a juiciness to the fruit. Tannins plentiful but fine and integrated. Grip and persistence on the finish. Clear potential. 17+/20 points.”
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

“Beautifully fragranced on the nose - floral-edged ripe bramble fruits. Nicely detailed and presents, despite a clear youthful tannic structure this has layers of flavour with ripe and sweet fruit nuances balanced by a mineral grip, salty touches, and cool fresh mint leaf notes. It's more of a contemplative wine, needing a few minutes and several tastes for the flavours to expand in the mouth, gaining in density yet keeping a lightness of touch and refinement. Such finesse going on here. The austerity is balanced with the ripe fruits so you're getting so many elements at play at once. This is complex and sensuous, you have the precise defined and well-worked fruit, so clear with poise, then the tannic strength though fine texture and a long, lifted finish. This has real class, and such estate signature with dark sweet liquorice touches at the end too. Really very captivating and a success. 5% Petit Verdot completes the blend. Julien Viaud consultant. Tasted twice. 3.84pH. Ageing 18 to 20 months in oak barrels, 80% new, 20% one year.”
- GH, Decanter.com

“Vivid plum colour, not quite inky but certainly one of the deeper of the vintage, and this is well extracted, carefully balanced with cloves, sage and white pepper spice, blueberry fruit, with coffee and cocoa bean, with silky tannins. Good ageing potential. Michel Rolland consultant, 45% new oak, 45% 1st wine, 24hl/h yield. Harvest September 28 to October 12. Tasted twice, absolutely one to look out for, one of the wines of the vintage, to lay down but not for as long as in a normal year. A great example of where 2021 can really offer something worth taking up.”
- JA, janeanson.com

“Enjoyably supple texture, silky and juicy with blueberry, raspberry, blackberry, and redcurrant fruit, along with liquorice, fennel, and a touch of cocoa bean. This is a serious Poyferré with a firm tannic structure and clear ageing potential, more austere at this stage than you often find. Michel Rolland consultant, 45% new oak, 45% 1st wine, 24hl/h yield. Harvest September 28 to October 12.”
- JA, janeanson.com

“Licorice, tobacco leaf, chocolate, espresso, black cherries and smoked peppery notes create the perfume. On the palate, the wine is soft, polished, fresh, elegant, and fruity with sweetness to the red fruits and a creamy-texture to the finish. Drink from 2026-2055.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Dark garnet in color, the wine exudes flowers, cherries, currants, black raspberries, espresso beans, tobacco leaf and mocha in the perfume. Soft, silky, fresh, and vibrant, with a hint of spice, the wine is forward, polished, and fruity, with loads of crushed berries and a tint of cocoa in the backend of the creamy-textured finish. 13.11% ABV. The harvest took place September 28, finishing October 12. The yields were quite low at only 24 hectoliters per hectare. Drink from 2026-2055.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The yield was extremely low at 24 hl/ha. Deep purple colour. The nose has more than a whiff of black pepper at this stage, layered with game and blueberry. The palate follows in the same vein with sweet fruit and silky fine tannins building grip and depth towards the finish, and bright acidity persistent throughout. This is a spicy, smoky, sweet-fruited effort in 2021.”

- TP, Farr Vintners

“The 2021 Léoville-Poyferré was picked from 28 September until 12 October at just 24hl/ha and matured in 80% new oak, the remainder second-fill. It has a high-toned, concentrated bouquet with iodine-infused black fruit, becoming floral in the glass with scents of crushed violet. The palate is medium-bodied with Poyferré’s trademark velvety smooth tannins. Fine depth, though clearly not as ostentatious as the previous three vintages, it is a more streamlined Poyferré, though that renders the wine well-balanced. There is just a dash of black pepper on the finish, though it just misses a little persistency on the aftertaste. But overall, a fine Saint-Julien that should give many years of drinking pleasure. 13.0% alcohol.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 Léoville-Poyferré has developed into a fabulous wine. Surprisingly rich, the 2021 possesses notable depth. Kirsch, blood orange and wildflowers open first, lending a decidedly exotic, perfumed quality. On the palate, the 2021 is fleshy and expressive. There’s a bit of new oak that needs to integrate. Otherwise, the 2021 is impeccably balanced. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2021 Leoville-Poyferré is classy and polished right out of the gate. All the classic Poyferré signatures come through, but in miniature. The 2021 impresses with its pliant fruit, silky tannins, and fine balance. To be sure, the 2021 is a smaller-scaled wine than the norm here over the last few years, but that is the charm of this vintage. Inky dark fruit, pencil shavings, licorice and menthol build into the super-expressive finish. Tasted three times.”

- AG, Vinous

“The Grand Vin 2021 Château Léoville Poyferré from this brilliant estate checks in as 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot. It has a serious, concentrated, inward style as well as impressive red and black currant-like fruit supported by notes of graphite, smoked tobacco, spicy oak, and chocolate. With terrific richness, a layered, concentrated mid-palate, and fine tannins, this is clearly one of the gems in the vintage. It needs to be forgotten for just 4-5 years, and I wouldn't be surprised to see it evolve for over two decades.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The top wine, the 2021 Château Léoville Poyferré is a beauty and certainly makes the most of the vintage. Based on 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that hit 14% alcohol (with an IPT of 78 and a pH of 3.85), its dense purple hue is followed by a rich, concentrated, medium to full-bodied Saint-Julien that has terrific purity of fruit, notes of cassis, violets, and spicy wood, ripe tannins, and remarkable overall balance. It brings more richness and depth than most in the vintage and is unquestionably going to offer tons of pleasure over the coming 20-25 years.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“I asked Sara Lecompte Cuvelier to remind me of the mottos she and her team used to describe the past few vintages. 2018 was a disgrace to Grace, 2019 was solaire & Estival, 2020 was a Promise Kept, and now 2021 is victorious vintage. Her victory is not dissimilar to my triumphant, as both suggest winning. But I think Sara’s words imply that she and her team at Poyferré had more personal confidence about the outcome than many. In contrast, my word is a region-wide summation of the battle against nature that some won and others failed to overcome. So, I am even more excited to report that victorious is indeed the correct expression for Léoville Poyferré because this is a massive success in this vintage. It is a wine that I imagine will appeal to lovers of

Reviews *expressive, highly perfumed wines with sleek chassis and long finishes. The interplay between the wine, the oak, and the tannin elements excites me most. The tannins are not shy here, sitting proudly at the core of the flavours and playing a superb supporting role for the indulgent, fondant fruit. This is one of the most exotic and layered wines I can remember from L-P, and this is perhaps because there is a forward air here that is so ravishing. You could put any number of vintages of Léoville Poyferré on the table in years to come, and I think 2021 will always be a jewel in this particular crown.”*
- Matthew Jukes

“Dark ruby core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the rim. Delicate herbal-spicy-tobacco aromas support black cherry fruit with a hint of cassis, liquorice, and hints of tangerine zest. Juicy red cherries and elegant blackberry fruit concentration on the palate with vivid, ripe tannins and elegant savouriness on the finish. Tightly meshed and taut with a significant length. Highly impressive with great ageing potential.”
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fruity and shows nice definition, a classicism of fruit. There are notes of pulpy/juicy cherry, raspberry and, to a lesser extent, juicy blackcurrant combined with fine juicy/fresh purple plum with fine/subtle hints of nutmeg, bourbon vanilla, a subtle hint of blueberry and bergamot. The palate is fruity, delicate and reveals some power/root in delicacy/subtlety, elegance, a nice classicism in its elegant sense, a nice finesse of the guideline. On the palate this wine expresses juicy/pulpy violet plum, bright blackcurrant and more lightly violet notes combined with fine touches of fresh flowers (almost white flowers, blueberry), juicy/pulpy violet plum as well as fine cherry, vanilla, chocolate, toasted hazelnut. The tannins are mellow.”
- Vert de Vin
