

Clos du Marquis 2004

CSPC# 763556

750mlx12

13.50% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Julien

Website

<http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/>

General Info

One of the oldest Medoc estates, Domaine de Léoville belonged to some of the wealthiest and most influential noble French families before it was acquired by the Las Cases family. The estate was split up between 1826 and 1840 as a result of the French Revolution. (Expropriation of emigrants' property and constitution of egalitarian redistribution). Château Léoville Las Cases was created, thanks to a kind of birthright, from 3/5 of the original estate and the heart of the domain.

The Grand Vin's current *terroir* has therefore been at the historic heart of the original *terroir* since the 17th century. Pierre Jean, Adolphe and Gabriel de Las Cases were successive heirs to the property until 1900, when Théophile Skawinski purchased a share in the estate and became its manager. Léoville Las Cases has now been managed by the same family since the late 19th century and is today represented by Jean-Hubert Delon, sole owner of the Château and proprietor of Château Potensac in the Medoc and Château Névin in Pomerol.

Created in 1902, the Clos du Marquis has its origins in the "Petit Clos" adjacent to the Château de Léoville, home of the Marquis de Las Cases. It was created as a "brand", a second wine to Léoville Las Cases which would absorb the barrels not deemed fine enough for the grand vin. Over time it became a wine in its own right and since 1989 has been produced from separate parcels which lie outside Léoville Las Cases' main vineyards. The Clos du Marquis comes from the great *terroirs* of the Saint-Julien appellation that were not part of the former Léoville estate.

These *terroirs* are located further west and surrounded by prestigious Crus Classés (Classified Growths) including Second Growths from the Saint-Julien and Pauillac appellations: Léoville Poyferré, Léoville Barton and Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande. The Clos du Marquis thus displays typical Saint-Julien characteristics: structure, complexity, balance, distinction and great ageing potential.

Clos du Marquis has the ability to challenge many other châteaux of the Medoc. Indeed, it is the equal of most 3rd, 4th and 5th Growths and has been an outstanding performer for many years.

Vintage

2004 was cool. It was characterised by the moderate, marginal maritime weather for which Bordeaux is supposed to be the benchmark. The torrid 2003 vintage desiccated yields. Vines compensate (endearingly, I've always thought) for a tiny yield one year with profusion the next. So, this was not only a cool vintage, but a large one. It was a struggle for ripeness.

Bordeaux yields are not that tiny, and don't need to be. (2000, for example, combined quality and quantity). But in 2004 the cool, wet August sharpened the imperative to reduce yield and aerate the canopy. Bunch and leaf removal were essential for quality, meaning a whole lot of (costly) work in the vineyard. It was less a question of depth of soils (although some *terroirs* did fare better than others), and more of depth of pockets. Diligence is expensive.

The 2004 troughs - hard and green - are lower than in 2003, a vintage which bestowed a certain fleshy, sunny charm on otherwise dutiful Petits Châteaux. But I thought some highs were higher in 2004 than in 2003. Top wines in 2003 had no space for the nuance and unfolding that makes them so great. In 2004, they do. In general, these are not concentrated, dense wines, even at the very top end. But the best is balanced, fragrant, and still vibrant.



Vineyards	As Clos du Marquis hails from a separate vineyard it is a separate cuvée – and not a Second Wine. The grapes are grown in the Petit Clos (Clos meaning an enclosed garden or field) which is surrounded on all sides by other Second Growths. The Petit Clos vineyard is to the south of the Leoville Las Cases Grand Clos vines and covers 12 acres. It is planted with 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc.
Vinification/ Maturation	At Leoville Las Cases, the wine making remains traditional. Grapes are harvested by hand and fermented in temperature-controlled wood, concrete, or stainless-steel vats of varying size. The stainless-steel tanks range from 40 hectoliters all the way up to 216 hectoliters. The oak vats also range in size from 176 hectoliters up to 270 hectoliters per vat. The oak vats also range in age, with the oldest vats dating back close to 50 years! Malolactic fermentation takes place in tank. Aged in 40% new oak.
Tasting Notes	Color of a black blue dress, its bouquet proves slowly to offer a rich blackberry and blackcurrant fruit and flavors of smoked oak and Havana. In the mouth one finds this same feeling of complexity perfectly controlled with spiced, mineral and mentholated notes.
Serve with	Roast Beef / Steak, Steak, Casseroles & Stews & Cheese - Hard
Cellaring	Drink 2006-2021
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2007</p> <p>89-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2005</p> <p>87-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #165 - June 2006</p> <p>90-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2005</p> <p>90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2007</p> <p>88 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar (score only)</p> <p>17 points - Decanter.com - April 2005</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - August 2008</p> <p>15 points - Farr Vintner - April 2009</p> <p>16.5 points - John Berry, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2012</p> <p>88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>1 star - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2008</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Aromas of raspberry and citrus, with just a hint of sweet tobacco. Full-bodied, with a solid core of fruit and a caressing, layered tannin structure. Very well made. Excellent. Best after 2011."</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Lots of blackberry character, with hints of toasty oak and earth. Full-bodied, with chunky yet velvety tannins and a medium finish. Very well done. Almost 92-94. Score range: 89-91"</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"One of Bordeaux's top second wines, the 2004 Clos du Marquis exhibits crunchy, juicy, red cherry and currant fruit along with notions of herbs and spice box. Well-made, medium-bodied, elegant, and reminiscent of its bigger sibling, it should age well for 10-15 years."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The nose takes some coaxing with faint raspberry and black cherry aromas emerging with time. The palate has a fine balance, firm and tannic. Medium rather than full-bodied. Quite rigid and tough, though there is some attractive sweet, floral, cassis fruit on the finish. Very fine. Tasted April 2005."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"This is the second wine of Léoville-las-Cases, big and black, stunningly perfumed with eucalyptus and violets. Herbs and ripe black fruit flavors are given shape by the tannins that go straight through the wine. The aftertaste has great acidity."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"Very correct and notably dense with the 2004 trademark acidity. Some velvet in terms of texture. Fruit picked very late - a slight lack of freshness. Seductive but not perfect. Drink 2012-2022. Date tasted 6th Aug 08."</i> - JR, JancisRobinson.com</p>

Reviews *“Very deep colour, fine fragrant nose, ripe with lively fruit, finely grained tannins, ripeness, character and elegance, not for the short term. Drink 2012-25.”*
- Decanter.com

“Like next-door neighbour Latour, Léoville Las cases produces a second labels that is not really a second wine but is a wine of classed growth quality in its own right. Indeed, this is the equal of most 3rd, 4th and 5th Growths and has been an outstanding performer for many years. 57% Cab Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 66% of the production of Las Cases. A forward version of the backward Grand Vin. This is a very impressive performance with lots of chewy black fruits. Excellent weight to balance the tannins. After a sweet cassis nose. the palate is fat and rich with an attractive spicy toastiness. Quite layered and complex and better than most classed growths.”

- Farr Vintners

“Clos du Marquis is consistently one of the best value Clarets you can buy. Often mistaken for Ch. Léoville-Las Cases's second wine, it is actually a separate vineyard within the Grand Vin's boundaries and is a wine of classed Growth quality in its own right. With a much higher proportion of Merlot (38%) in the blend - 57% Cab Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc - than its Cabernet-dominated sibling, Clos du Marquis is a softer, richer and more approachable wine. Rich, warm and hedonistic with a lovely cream and raspberry finish, this is as impressive as their 2000 and 2002. Drink 2008-2020.”

- JB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants
