

Clos du Marquis 2005

CSPC# 763556

750mlx12

13.45% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Website
General Info

50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Saint Julien

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

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. 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

The buds burst at the beginning of April, after a dry and rather cold winter. The blossoming began in the last week of May in good weather conditions and was quick and even on all the grape varieties. The hydric stress became more visible throughout June, stunting the growth in the young grapes and limiting their size early in the summer. The colour change was quick and even and the bunches continued to ripen through August, which was still very dry and sunny, although not excessively hot. These ideal conditions resulted in very concentrated and perfectly balanced grapes.

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 Léoville 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.

Harvest

From 21st September to 7th October 2005

**Vinification/
Maturation**

At Léoville 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 for 20 months in French oak (20% new oak).



Tasting Notes Clos du Marquis's grapes actually come from a separate area of vineyards (rather than younger or less successful vines at Léoville-Las Cases) surrounded on all sides by other Second Growths. This is made with much more Merlot (38%) than the Léoville-Las Cases and is very rich, with sweet, creamy, overripe raspberries and blackberries with leather overtones. It is a very precise wine within a beautifully integrated framework of new oak and classy tannins. This is a cracking Claret and one of the best value wines of the vintage.

Production 20,000 cases made

Cellaring Drink 2015-2022

Scores/Awards **93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008
92-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2006
91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008
89-91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006
93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - February 2015
93+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2011
92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - October 2007
92-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2006
92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2012
93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2008
92-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2006
90 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012
16.5 points - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - September 2017
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2017
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2015
16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - February 2011
15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2009
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2006
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2015
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - October 2011
89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
92-94 points - Falstaff Magazine - (score only)
16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
18.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
1 star - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2009

Reviews *"Fabulous aromas of crushed raspberry, blackberry, mineral and licorice follow through to a full-bodied palate. This is chewy yet silky, with a long, long finish. Balanced and powerful. Best after 2012. 20,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This is very solid, with currants, minerals and berries on the nose and palate. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Lots of licorice and cassis. Tight. Always excellent in top vintages. Score range: 92-94"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The superb second wine, the 2005 Clos du Marquis, reflects the utter brilliance of the 2005 grand vin. It boasts an inky/ruby/purple color along with a sweet perfume of lead pencil, ripe cherries and black currants, and hints of earth and vanillin. Dense, chewy, fleshy, and full-bodied, this beauty will be drinkable in 3-4 years, and should keep for 15-20"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"As usual, this estate's second wine, the 2005 Clos du Marquis, is top-flight. Possessing more alcohol than the grand vin (13.45%), it offers gorgeous purity, plenty of red and black fruits, and a style similar to its more famous sibling. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2035."
- RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"The Clos du Marquis 2005 is evolving into a little beauty. It has an opulent, downright sexy bouquet with macerated dark cherries, briary, mint interlaced with candied orange peel that is beautifully defined. The palate is medium bodied with sturdy tannin cloaked in spicy red fruit, hints of red peppercorns and graphite infusing the finish that fans out gloriously. Yet everything remains tightly controlled thanks to the tight rein on acidity. Cannot afford Léoville Las-Cases? Then you know where to come."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at Roberson's Las-Cases vertical. A dark garnet core. The nose is youthful and very well defined with blackcurrant, a touch of truffle and pencil shavings, lending this a Pauillac-like personality. Gaining intensity in the glass, the ripeness really coming through with touches of honey and dried apricot. The palate is full-bodied with a dry, swarthy entry, good acidity, very closed and broody but there is great depth and vigour. The finish is a little abrupt at the moment: this is a Clos du Marquis that should not be broached for another 5-8 years. Tasted February 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This is a superb Clos du Marquis. Muted on the nose at first then notes of raspberry, black cherries, iodine. The palate is beautifully balanced, a touch of spicy but with great weight and finesse. Cohesive, grippy tannins with a touch of oyster shell on the finish. Great persistency and complexity. Superb, long potential here. Drink 2010-2030. Tasted October 2007."

- NM, Wine Journal

"An opaque, purple hue. A well-defined nose of black cherries, raspberry and like the Grand Vin with a touch of violets and a hint of brine. Lovely balance on the concentrated palate with firm grip and tannins. A little coarseness on the cedary, tarry finish. Excellent. Tasted April 2006."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Musty and mushroomy, with red fruit chasers on the nose and palate. Round and fruity, but still needs three years."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is very solid, with currants, minerals and berries on the nose and palate. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Lots of licorice and cassis. Tight. Always excellent in top vintages."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Good full red-ruby. Super ripe aromas of plum, mocha, coffee and spicy oak. Big, dry, broad and rich, with a chewy quality and noteworthy sweetness to the plummy flavor. This has more baby fat than the young 2006 but not quite as much detail or verve. Finishes quite broad, with major ripe tannins and lingering sweet fruit."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. Ferrous and mineral on the nose, with fruit that seems decidedly staid on the palate. Lots of deposit too, incidentally. It's a good second wine, which shouldn't be hugely expensive, but probably is. Sigh."

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

"Tasted blind. Dark purplish crimson. Straightforward and a bit austere. Lots of acidity – and tannin."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Light to mid crimson. Light, rather attractive sandpaper nose. Mellow already. Correct rather than sumptuous. Just a bit introvert and dry on the finish. The acidity is a bit marked. 13% Drink 2017-2027"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *“Deep crimson. Cool but rich and spicy on the nose. Lots of sweet dark fruit, a bit meaty, lot of oak spice. Succulent but dry firm tannins. Good balance and depth. Well structured, firm, but clothed in fine fruit. Luxurious but elegant too. Rich and powerful. Oak still quite marked. Touch of chocolate. (JH)”*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“Very dark and glossy looking. Not much nose and then very ripe and gentle texture but a bit inky and unyielding and drying on the finish. Fast fade. I seem to have over-estimated the wines from the Las Cases stable en primeur – or perhaps they are just in a very surly stage. “
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Very bright crimson. Energetic bright fruit with lovely suppleness and almost electric impact. Sweet start and lots of chew but still great vibrancy. Very nice wine on its own account - no suggestion of sweeping up the leftovers (this is the second wine of Léoville Las Cases). Silky and winning yet very compact and dense. Lots of tannin but not a heavyweight. Drink 2016-26”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Forest floor and cedar chest notes are easy to find. On the palate, a generous dose of ripe cassis and black cherries is young, yet approachable, due to the high quality of the tannins.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Dark in color, tobacco, truffle, blackberry, cassis, oak and black cherry scents lead to a full bodied, concentrated wine that in any blind tasting would crush several famous Classified Bordeaux wines. Powerful, rich and intense, this round textured wine fills your mouth with layers of sweet, ripe, juicy, Cabernet Sauvignon. Give it a few more years (as it's still tight at the moment) and start drinking it in 2015 and over the 10-15 years.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
