

Clos du Marquis 2012

CSPC# 771462

750mlx12

12.92% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

92% Cabernet, Sauvignon, 6% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Julien

Classification

AOC

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. 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 2012 vintage was characterised by a slow, late growth cycle due to a very cool and wet spring. The budburst was spread out over time and created a variation in the stages of development that was to be partially evened out by the dry, sunny period that began in mid-July. The colour change and ripening occurred in ideal weather conditions that continued through to harvest-time. The grapes remained perfectly healthy despite rainy spells during picking.

Vineyards

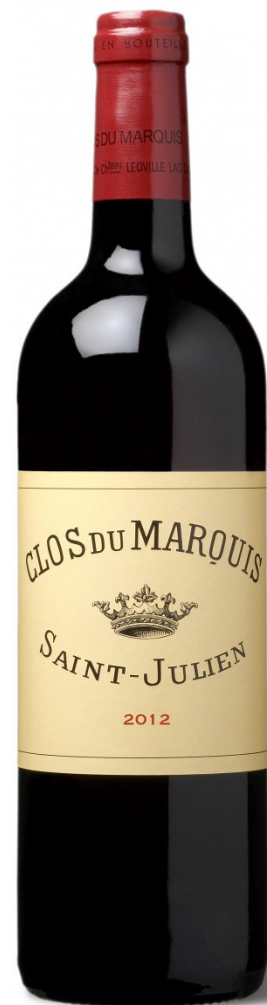
As Clos du Marquis hails from a separate vineyard it is a separate cuvée – and not a Second Wine. The grapes are grown in the Petit Clos (Clos meaning an enclosed garden or field) which is surrounded on all sides by other Second Growths. The Petit Clos vineyard is to the south of the Leoville Las Cases Grand Clos vines and covers 12 acres. It is planted with 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc.

Harvest

4th to 18th October 2012

**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 50% new oak.



Tasting Notes	Interestingly, there is more Merlot in the blend this year than last, but the 2012 was particularly rich in Cabernet Sauvignon. Excellent intensity. Pure, fresh cassis, capsicum and a hint of cedar. Well edged with clean lines and refined definition. The tannins are firm yet well-judged. A subtle hint of red plum and bergamot adds more lift and charm. A very good result.
Production	9,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2013-2033
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015</p> <p>88-91points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013</p> <p>91-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013</p> <p>90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015</p> <p>91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2013</p> <p>94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2015</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 11, 2013</p> <p>88-90 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2013</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013</p> <p>17.5 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013</p> <p>89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>89-90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 18, 2013</p> <p>92-93+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com – April 2013</p> <p>92 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013</p> <p>89-91+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2013</p> <p>Review only - Justerini & Brooks Wine Merchants - April 2013</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>15 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p> <p>16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A textbook St.-Julien, with a core of plum sauce and blackberry paste framed with roasted apple wood and backed by a solid graphite spine. Has the lightly chewy edge of the vintage, but offers good, pure fruit for balance. Best from 2016 through 2022. 9,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Light but lively, with damson plum and cherry fruit, showing a lightly briary edge on the finish. Score range: 88-91"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The wine is pure with lots of creme de cassis, crushed rock and vanillin characteristics in its long, medium to full-bodied personality. Given the fact that this vineyard was once part of the larger Leoville Las Cases estate, it is no surprise that it is similar to its more famous as well as more expensive cousin. A strong effort in this vintage, it should drink well for 15-20 years.</i></p> <p><i>A brilliant effort from Jean-Hubert Delon, Clos du Marquis is now an entirely separate estate from Leoville Las Cases and its second wine, Le Petit Lion. The outstanding 2012 Clos du Marquis is a blend of 92% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot and Cabernet Franc and came in at 13.5% natural alcohol. About 50% new oak is used."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The Clos du Marquis is a blend of 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc cropped at 33hl/ha and matured in 40% new oak. It has a tobacco-scented bouquet of blackberry and a touch of blueberry fruit. It is tightly coiled compared to recent vintages. The palate is medium bodied with grainy tannins. There is good density of fruit here with plenty of blackcurrant and raspberry fruit, although it is presently rigid and conservative towards the finish. Fine. Tasted April 2013."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"Lots of minerality here, with iron undertones. Full body with firm tannins and a salty, citron and dark-fruit character on the finish."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

Reviews *"This is very tannic and powerful with a full body and intense backbone. Chewy finish. Not up to the Leoville Las Cases level though."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Firm and tannic, this dark berry-flavored wine comes from a specific parcel in the Léoville las Cases vineyard. It's full of tannins and structure, firm and concentrated. At the end, both tannins and tight black currants promise aging. Drink from 2020.

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"92–94. Barrel sample. Made from grapes grown in a specific parcel in the Léoville Las Cases vineyard, Clos du Marquis is a ripe wine that's also promises seriously good aging. Tannins and structure dominate the black fruits and acidity."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"(92% cabernet sauvignon, 6% merlot and 2% cabernet franc; 5.3 g/l total acidity; 3.65 pH; IPT 65; 13.5% alcohol; 33 h/h yield; 40% new oak): Bright ruby. Aromas of fresh blackcurrant, spicy minerals and violet. Then sweeter in the mouth, with an element of sweet spices complicating raspberry and cassis flavors. Harmonious acidity and silky, persistent tannins are the hallmark of yet another great wine from Jean-Hubert Delon in 2012. It's also a unique version of Clos du Marquis with this much cabernet sauvignon, though ever since the creation of LLC's true second wine, Le Petit Lion (which now gets most of the estate's lesser merlot fruit), the cabernet sauvignon percentage has steadily increased in Clos du Marquis."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Dark purple. Sweet start. Friendly and very, very Cabernet - lots of cassis. A Las Cases attempt at openness! Which is still very taut!"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Dense colour, floral richness and density from 92% Cabernet Sauvignon fruit, very fine St-Julien. "

-SS, Decanter.com

"Winemaker Bruno Rolland is as adept at handling difficult vintages as he is at expressing great ones. This is no shrinking violet, but it's packed with old vine concentration. It's backward and quite tannic at the moment, but there's focus, freshness and a lot of tightly wound fruit lurking in the background. Drink: 2022-35. 93"

- TA, timatkin.com

"With a high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon at 92%, the rest of the blend comes from 6% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. Aged in 40% new French oak, the wine reached 13.5% alcohol. Roasted black raspberries, cedar, spice and cassis notes lead to a rich, refined mouthful of sweet blackberry and cocoa, ripe tannins and a fresh finish. 89-90 Pts (18-Apr-2013)"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Very saturated looking; cassis, blackcurrants, freshness and purity; lots of stuff going down here; real polish and layers; full; quite taught palate with lots of extract and material and very nicely handled it all is too. Very concentrated but manages surprising elegance and freshness. Really lots of material here and grip too. Tannin feels ripe. No problems here at all. Good length. Good buy I expect. 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. 40% new oak, 13.5% alc, IPT 65 pH3.64 Tasted at Chateau Leoville-Las-Cases Friday April 12, 2013. 92-93+"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

Reviews *“Vibrant and fresh with lovely depth and velvety tannins. There is only 6% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, 92%, and only 2% Cabernet Franc. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (04-Jan-2014)”*
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2013 Clos du Marquis is beautifully layered in the glass. Sweet tobacco, licorice, savory herbs and plums meld together in a finely knit, graceful wine with lovely overall balance. The 2013 turns brighter and more lifted on the finish, where hints of rose petals and red berries add perfume and finesse. In 2013, the blend is 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc. Tasted twice.”
- AG, Vinous

“There is a whopping 92% Cabernet Sauvignon in the 2012 Clos du Marquis. The vineyards are surrounded by Leoville Poyferre, Leoville Barton and Pichon Lalande, but were not part of the original Leoville estate. Intense purple colour, much more aromatic (than Petit Lion), floral, sweet earth and coal dust. There is plenty of pure, ripe, velvety fruit on the palate: blackcurrant, earth, gravelly minerals. There is real vitality and definition here and powerful tannins; a very impressive wine.”
- Justerini & Brooks Wine Merchants
