

Château Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2005

CSPC# 872874

750mlx6

13.15% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc.
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	https://www.domaines-delon.com/en/leoville-chateau_leoville_las_cases_vins.html
General Info	Chateau Leoville Las Cases is a second growth Bordeaux estate located on the northern end of the Saint-Julien appellation adjacent to the Gironde River. Leoville Las Cases is a perfect example of why the 1855 Bordeaux classification desperately needs to be updated. Although rated a second growth, Leoville Las Cases consistently produces wine of first growth quality. Like its next-door neighbor, Chateau Latour, Leoville Las Cases maintains a reputation for making stellar wine even in difficult vintages. It is the undisputed crown jewel of St. Julien, and unequivocally one of the best wines in Bordeaux.
Winemaker	Jean Hubert Delon
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	The vineyards of Léoville-Las-Cases lie in the northernmost tip of the St Julien appellation, abutting the Gironde, and only separated from those of Château Latour to the north by the <i>Juillac</i> , which drains into the <i>Gironde</i> . Whereas the other Léoville vineyards, those of Barton and Poyferré, consist of a patchwork of numerous plots, those of Las-Cases are largely concentrated in this single block. This is the <i>Grand Clos</i> , a walled vineyard, the stone wall contiguous with that running around Latour, the highlight of which is the stone archway surmounted by the lion of Las-Cases, which can also be found above the doorway to the tasting room at the <i>château</i> (above), and which also graces the label. Totalling over 200 acres, Leoville Las Cases vineyards are comprised of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, and .5% Cabernet Franc.
Harvest	From 21st September to 7th October 2005
Maturation	The fruit is harvested by hand, usually by a team of workers from Spain, before transport to the <i>chai</i> , where the berries are destemmed before a gentle pressing and then fermented under temperature-controlled conditions. The fermentation vessels include a fascinating mix of wooden, cement and stainless-steel vats. When finished the wine is pumped from the <i>chai</i> to the barrel cellar on the other side of the road through an underground pipe. Aged in 85% new oak barrels.
Tasting Notes	This has a distinctive nose of sweet black cherry ripened to the point of degradation, overlaid with some more typical aromas of cigar box, and old wooden desks. There is a light sweetness to it as well though, a streak of toffee, as well as hint of rosemary freshness. The palate is very restrained, almost steely in its resolve, with a polished presence and a reserved, savoury presence of fruit. This is a very staid, restrained style, still packed with tannin, the texture slightly austere still, the overall impression being that this is still very much a baby. A long, peppery, tannin-infused finish only reinforces this thought. A classically styled wine, very impressive, and destined for greatness.
Serve with	Leoville Las Cases is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.



Production 15,000 cases made.
Cellaring Drink 2023-2050
Scores/Awards **98 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2018
100 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 2008
95-98 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 2006
97+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #219 - June 2015
98 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008
94-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007
92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006
95+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - February 2015
95+ points - Neal Martin, 0709 - January 2009
96 points - Neal Martin - October 2007
96-98 points - Neal Martin - April 2006
99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - June 2011
100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2008
95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2006
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2008
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2017
18++ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2015
18.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2006
97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2018
98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 2018
98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2015
96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - November 2012
97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - December 2019
97+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2021
98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - November 2015
95 points - Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar - May 2008
95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019
19.5 points - La Revue du Vin France - November 2014
19 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2007
18.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2006
98-100 points - Falstaff Magazine - May 2006
18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2006
98 points - Wine & Spirits Magazine - October 2008

Reviews *"Sleek and racy, with black currant and fig fruit laced liberally with a bright iron streak and singed alder notes. This is very tightly coiled, as the fruit seems to be preserved for now, while the cold fireplace character holds sway. A superb energy in reserve gives this more than enough time to wait. Could outlast them all in this vintage."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"This is breathtaking. Black in color, with incredible aromas of crushed blackberry, mineral, licorice, and lead pencil. Full-bodied, with a mind-blowing texture of seamless tannins that coat every millimeter of the palate. Goes on and on, with licorice, currant, and flowers. Time will tell if it's better than the 2000. Best after 2017."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Sensational aromas of currants, berries, minerals and flowers. Full-bodied, with big, chewy tannins. Starts off slowly, then builds on the palate and goes on and on. Could be even better than 2000, and I gave that 100. Amazing. Layered and long."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"This is a prodigious effort. A blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and the balance Merlot and Cabernet Franc (only 37% of the crop qualified for Las Cases), this dense ruby/purple wine has a stunningly pure bouquet of dark fruit, wet rocks, graphite, and subtle background toast/vanillin. Full-bodied, masculine, and very deep and concentrated, this titanic effort is at least 8-10 years away from its plateau of maturity. The Delon family have produced another legend."

- RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews

“Another titanic effort from the Delon family, the 2005 Leoville Las Cases is probably the greatest wine made at this estate since Jean-Hubert Delon’s father produced the 1986 and 1996. Only 37% of the production made it into the 2005, a blend of primarily Cabernet Sauvignon with less than 13% Merlot and Cabernet Franc. An inky/ruby/purple color is accompanied by reticent aromatics that, with considerable coaxing, offer up subtle notes of toasty vanillin intermixed with lead pencil shavings, wet rocks, and enormously ripe, intense black cherry and creme de cassis. The wine hits the palate with a full-bodied, layered mouthfeel as well as enormous extract, concentration, and purity. This ageless, monumental claret requires a minimum of 15-20 years to approach maturity and should last for a half century. It is about as classic a Leoville Las Cases as one will find.”
- RP, Wine Advocate

“The 2005 Leoville Las Cases is revealing more power, weight, and richness than it did last year. Made from 37% of the total production, it is a blend of 87.6% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot and Cabernet Franc. A dense ruby/purple hue is accompanied by abundant amounts of sweet black cherry and blackcurrant fruit, pain grille, graphite, and crushed rock-like characteristics. The high tannin levels and freshness noted a year ago remain intact, but the wine has filled out in the middle, revealing greater richness as well as fuller body. It appears set for an incredibly long life. From its birth, Jean-Hubert Delon has compared the 2005 to the 1996 and 1986 produced by his father, and that has become even more evident as it has aged in barrel. This classic St.-Julien should be at its peak between 2018-2050.”
- RP, Wine Advocate

“For Jean-Hubert Delon, Leoville Las-Cases’ 2005 is reminiscent of the 1996 and 1986. Only 37% of the production made it into the final blend. The 13.1% alcohol content is actually lower than the 2002’s, because of the high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon. The vibrant, fresh 2005 reveals high tannin along with a beautiful deep ruby/purple color, and classic notes of cassis and cherries intermixed with minerals and a judicious touch of toasty oak. This concentrated, classically built, structured claret is meant for the long haul, but it will not provide much pleasure over the next decade. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2030+.”
- RP, Wine Advocate

“The Château Léoville Las-Cases 2005 has a surprisingly backward bouquet that has clearly decided to let Poyferré have all the fun at the moment. This is very well defined but extremely tight, reluctantly offering blackberry, wet tobacco, and iris scents to eke from the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins and acidity. It is not as deep or as concentrated as I was anticipating, brutally shy in the glass with a linear finish that says: “Come back another day. Say in 2025.”
- NM, Wine Journal

“Tasted single blind at Southwold. There are layers and layers of new oak on the nose with touches of vanilla and coconut lacing the sappy black fruits. The full-bodied palate has immense concentration, smooth and voluptuous in texture with pure blackberry and blueberry. The finish has very good definition and poise. Powerful – iron fist in velvet glove etc. Drink 2015-2030+ Tasted January 2009.”
- NM, Wine Journal

“Tasted with Jean-Hubert Delon in the chai. The nose has shut down since I last tasted this at en primeur with faint notes of blackberries, cassis, and violets. Very pure, still quite feminine but tight and compact. The palate is full-bodied, symmetrical with breathtaking definition even at this nascent stage. Not as muscular as other primordial Las-Cases, but all the better for it in my opinion. Refined and quite minerally on the finish. Huge potential. Drink 2020-2050. Tasted October 2007.”
- NM, Wine Journal

“Probably the most surprising wine of en primeur. I was expecting a tannic, monster of a wine, not this lithe, feminine beauty. An opaque purple hue. The nose is very intense with blackberry, morello cherry, violets and vanillary oak, as if a little chateau Margaux had been blended into the wine. A very intense, concentrated palate with supreme balance. The tannins are for more refined than I expected, allowing that pure fruit of blackberry, cassis to shine. Touches of cedar and even sea-salt. Perhaps it could do with a little more persistency on the finish, but still I was smitten by this understated, but very complex Las-Cases. Tasted April 2006.”
- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews

"A stunningly complex and complete nose of flowers, dark fruits, and minerals. Very perfumed and subtle at the same time. The palate is full, yet tight and powerful with perfect tannins and a long, long finish."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Black in color, with amazing aromas of crushed blackberry, mineral, licorice and lead pencil. Breathtaking. Full-bodied, with a mind-blowing texture of seamless tannins that coat every millimeter of the palate. Goes on and on, with licorice, currant, and flowers. An incredible red; time will tell if it's better than the 2000."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Sensational aromas of currants, berries, minerals and flowers. Full-bodied, with big, chewy tannins. Starts off slowly, then builds on the palate and goes on and on. Could be even better than 2000, and I gave that 100. This wine makes my head spin. Amazing. Layered and long. This is so 100-points."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A big wine with dense tannins, but so elegant. Dark, intense, with layers of acidity underneath that only show through at the end. Unusually, Cab Sauv dominates this wine, a sign of the ripeness of the Cabernet fruit."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

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

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Mid to deep crimson. A stony, mineral undertow on the nose but with lovely lift and haunting scents too. Firm with a very ripe spread of flavours that almost distract from the weight of fine tannins underneath. Unlike some wines, this wears its tannic charge effortlessly. Racy and lifted. A very successful Las Cases."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Very, very, deep crimson. Very, very, stereotype 'masculine' and savoury to Clos du Marquis' more feminine and silky charms on the nose and then wonderful energy and bright fruit yet lovely texture - much less tough than usual. Vibrant and full throttle without being jagged and uncompromising. Fine and dense and really, really St-Julien. Extremely opulent without being at all sweet. The clay gives the intensity, but the soils are very complex. As at Latour, the tannins are very silky and round yet the fruit is amazingly intense. There's a real stylistic relationship between Latour and Las Cases this year. Drink 2017-35"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"To some, this is the best wine estate in St-Julien. Château Léoville Las Cases is one of the three Léoville's and is the largest at 97 hectares. Though the wine is a 2ème Cru Classé, or second growth, many see this old estate rivalling the first growths and have prices to match. I've been lucky enough to taste this a few times this year, and the last one (at a Christie's dinner in early November) confirmed once again what an incredible wine this is. ... the colour here is rich ecclesiastical purple, and the fruit still tight and brooding, although it starts to soften up with a good carafing even now. It's the texture of Léoville Las Cases that often hits you, and the confidence of a wine that knows it has years ahead of it. Dark fruits, bitter chocolate, black truffles, all perfectly in place. One to savour."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Saturated ruby-red. A confiture of dark berries on the nose, with a complicating torrefaction note of coffee. Fat, sweet, plump, and full, with a silky, enveloping texture rare for this wine in its youth. The highly concentrated cassis, violet and bitter chocolate flavors really take over the mouth and stay awhile. The huge, chocolatey finish features big, ripe, building tannins. One can easily taste this massive wine today, but there are great reserves here to ensure a long and slow evolution in bottle-and I would not be at all surprised if it shut down soon for a very long time."

ST, International Wine Cellar

"This is a super wine, that in time, should go up in score. But patience is needed here. Decanted 4 hours, that was not enough to tame the strict tannins. Still, it was impossible not to enjoy the perfectly ripe, regal, red and black fruits, intensity, length, and concentration found here. This is what the older British writers called good breed. I get their point, even if the term is archaic. All that being said, perhaps, this will be ready between 2025-2030 for the start of its long, 100-year life."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Deep ruby in color, with just a bit of lightening on the color, the wine is big, powerful and concentrated. Everything is balance. The ample level of tannins are ripe, the fruit is fresh. The fruit really lingers on your palate, leaving you with a finish that remains for 50 seconds or more that sings with fresh, ripe cassis and spicy blackberries. This needs at least another decade, or more in the cellar. But even now, it’s easy to see the high level of quality in the wine here.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“At close to 8 years of age, this looks and feels like an infant. And for Leoville Las Cases it is. Tobacco, cassis, forest floor, blackberry, coffee, and earthy aromas open to a powerful, full bodied, tannic wine with polished tannins and a long, sweet, fresh, mouth filling finish with a beautiful, purity of fruit essence. Give it at least a decade before popping a bottle. I would think the score should improve with time. Experienced tasters know, Leoville Las Cases demands more time than most wines to come around.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2005 Léoville–Las Cases is a wine that needs more time. The nose remains broody compared to the 2007, but is an absolute joy, featuring brambly red fruit, tobacco, smoke, morels, and light estuarine scents. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins that have become more supple over the last couple of years. There is wonderful depth and gentle grip, superb balance and a sense of symmetry on the finish that is quite brilliant. I suspect this will turn out to be one of the château’s greatest achievements of recent years.”

- NM, *Vinous*

“The 2005 Léoville Las Cases is one of the most brooding, potent wines of the year. When will it be ready? The answer is not yet. Although I have had other bottles that have been showier. Inky, powerful and potent, the 2005 is a real showstopper. If opened now, the 2005 needs a good 12 hours in the decanter to start performing well. Over time, the 2005 shows it is just at the very beginning of a first plateau of maturity, with lovely aromatic complexity, layers of radiant fruit and tremendous structure to back it all up. The high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon (88%) foreshadows the style that has now become the norm.”

- AG, *Vinous*

“A wine for the ages, the 2005 Léoville Las Cases is slow to come out of the gate, but its beauty and pedigree are evident. The 2005 Las Cases is one of the only wines in this tasting that still needs time in bottle, something that won't come as a surprise to fans of this St. Julien estate. The 2005 offers plenty of the typical Las Cases power, but it is also remarkably nuanced and translucent for a wine of its sheer size. When all is said and done, it is in my top three or four wines of the night.”

- AG, *Vinous*

“Deep dark ruby garnet, black core, violet reflections, ripe fruit inviting on the nose, fine nougat, fascinating precision. Transparent fruit on the palate, a wine of great finesse, freshness and complexity, red berry nuances, silky-sweet tannins, wonderful length, a perfect wine that gets by with almost 13% alcohol.”

- *Falstaff Magazine*

*“After an hour of settling, it still shows impenetrable and tight to the nose. The mouth is impressively fiery. The aromas of fresh fruit and the tannins line the palate. Endowed with a monumental volume and impressive length, this wine can wait until less than a decade.”- *La Revue du Vin, France**

“Here is one more vintage to prove Las Cases deserves to be elevated to first growth. The Delon family has tended this great terroir as if they were already there. And the wine has the assured stance, the persistence of flavor that lasts long enough to become a memory, an imprint on whatever synaptic connection may store and recall the greatest pleasures of taste. The energy in the wine is remarkable: beautiful, lithe juice that carries a flavor close to tiny currants and black cherries, but a flavor all its own. The deep stones of Le Clos and the roses with their view of the Gironde seem to be there in the wine as well. Harmonious and jazzed. Perhaps this is the vintage”

- *Wine & Spirits Magazine*