

Château Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2010

CSPC# 866173

750mlx6

13.92% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc.
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	https://www.domaines-delon.com/ajax/pdf.php?id=194&langue=
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	After having started with a hot and very dry month of April, the vegetative cycle was then markedly slowed down by the cool temperatures of May and June. The closing of the bunch and the veraison went perfectly well thanks to the dry and sunny July and early August. The ripening of the grapes benefited from conditions exceptional in August and September.
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. Totaling over 200 acres, Leoville Las Cases vineyards are comprised of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, and .5% Cabernet Franc.
Harvest	28th September to 13th October 2010
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	Chateau Leoville Las Cases is one of the largest and oldest classified growths in the Medoc region of France. The fruit is harvested by hand. The fermentation vessels include a fascinating mix of wooden, cement and stainless-steel vats. When finished the wine is pumped to the barrel cellar. Here it is transferred into oak barrique, between 50% and 100% new for the grand vin, depending on the vintage.
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	12,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2040
Scores/Awards	99 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2013 95-98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 2011 98 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - August 2022 97+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020 96+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013 95-98 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011 99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013



Scores/Awards **100 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2013
17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011
100 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - January 2020
19.5/20 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011
98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2015
98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2013
95-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2011
97 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2011
95 points - Farr Vintners - April 2011
92-96 points - Derek Smedley MW - April 2011
96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2020
92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020
96 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - March 2015
95 points - Tom Cannavan, wine-pages.com - January 2011
19.5/20 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2012
19.5/20 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2011
19/20 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - March 2015

Reviews *"Stunning and pure from the get-go, with intense cassis and blackberry fruit. Ultimately takes a slightly austere approach, with a wrought-iron structure driving along while pastis, black tea, licorice snap and asphalt notes course underneath. Long and loaded with grip, this remains remarkably fine-grained. A very chiseled Cabernet that is wonderfully precise and incredibly long. Best from 2020 through 2040. 12,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This has almost searing acidity running through it, but it's ripe and mouthwatering, harnessing a massive core of black currant and red licorice notes. Super tight but very fine-grained, this gets tighter, but also longer, as it moves along. This could age in reverse for a while before it starts to unwind. A brick house. Tasted non-blind."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The most powerful wine in this vertical is the 2010 Léoville Las Cases, a full-bodied, deep and multidimensional behemoth redolent of rich berries, cassis, burning embers, pencil shavings and loamy soil. Broad-shouldered, layered, and muscular, with huge reserves of concentration and sweet, powdery tannin, it concludes with a broad, resonant finish. This is a prodigious, somewhat imposing Las Cases that is still an infant a decade after bottling."
- WK, Wine Advocate

"Composed of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, the deep garnet colored 2010 Léoville Las Cases delivers tons of evolving black fruits on the nose with notes of crème de cassis, prunes, and incense plus wafts of cloves, cedar, cigar box and powdered cinnamon. Full-bodied, rich, bold, and decadently fruited, it has a solid frame of grainy tannins, and the oak is faintly notable on the palate. It finishes impressively with long-lingering mineral notes. This one probably needs 3-5 more years to really hit its stride!"
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2010 is a quintessentially elegant, classic wine of Bordeaux – firm, rigid, perhaps slightly lighter than most of the other St.-Juliens, but stylish, potentially complex, and reminiscent of the style of the 1986, but more concentrated and powerful. It is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc with a normal pH of 3.56. It was raised in 75% new oak and the alcohol came to 13.7%. This wine displays loads of black currants, cedar wood and vanillin, but needs a good 7-8 years of cellaring, if not much longer. It should last for 30+ years. What I like about tasting at Las Cases is that Jean-Hubert Delon opens one bottle in my presence and has another already decanted four hours in advance to compare. It is nearly unanimous on each visit that the decanted wine shows better, which probably gives you some insight into the aging potential of Las Cases. It is certainly one of Bordeaux's longest-lived wines and seems to have more and more of a character resembling Lafite Rothschild more than its nearby neighbor, Chateau Latour."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"As one would expect, this is a powerful, concentrated wine with 13.7% natural alcohol (compared to 2005's 13.2%). The pH is quite normal at 3.56, and its relatively high total acidity gives it a classic, fresh, yet backward style. Given how long vintages such as 1982, 1986, and I suspect, 2000 are taking to reach maturity, prospective purchasers of this wine should easily invest in a decade of cellaring, although I suspect it will be closer to 15 or

Reviews *more years before it reveals secondary nuances. A good 40- to 50-year wine, it is a dense purple, full-bodied style of Las Cases, with classic sweet kirsch, graphite, and black currant fruit as well as hints of new saddle leather and subtle oak. Backward, layered, and multi-dimensional, the wine is stunningly rich, but brooding. Forget it at least until 2020 or later.”*
- RP, Wine Advocate

“The aromas to this wine have a beautiful purity of raspberries, blueberries, currants, and flowers that follow to a full body, with super integrated tannins that are like the finest silk in texture. It shows elegant and pretty fruit character and a reserve and finesse of such great years as 1989 and 1995. The bright strong acidity gives a crunchy and creamy texture. This has a tiny bit more Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend than 2009. Give it at least six to eight years of bottle age.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“A hugely powerful wine, full of dark, brooding tannins. It's a wine for seriously long-term aging, a sculptural vision of classic Bordeaux structure with classy, ripe blackberry fruits. It has fresh acidity and an immense full-bodied character, cut through with mineral acidity. A great wine, with great potential. *Top 100 Cellar Selections of 2013, No. 21*”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Excellent deep crimson. Very introvert and very dry. Super-sweet start and initially seems much rounder and less obdurate than usual. Though those dry tannins certainly creep up on you at the end! Some silkiness and glorying in the special ripeness of the Cabernet in this wine. Very dry end. Not that long funnily enough. A certain transparency that is not usually there.”
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

“Layered, textured, deep, cigar box, cassis, and earth, managing to simultaneously stretch out, and burrow down. The edges open slowly but surely and seductively. Still inky in colour, this has all the powerful texture and tannic architecture that you expect from Leoville, and unlike the 2009 at its ten year point it is still keeping plenty of secrets close to its chest. But you are going to want to be around when it fully opens.”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Stunning concentration of fruit, precision and purity, a great vineyard expression and a totally great wine in the most simple sense of the term. Drink 2025-50.”
- SS, Decanter.com

“Closing down, this is going to need extensive cellaring to display its ample character. This wine is concentrated and filled with layers of perfectly ripe berries. The tannins are polished, the acidity keeps it fresh, the texture is refined, the fruit is regal.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“With a good depth of color, the wine pops with earth, tobacco, blackberries, smoke, cocoa, cigar box, coffee, and cedar chest aromas. On the palate, the wine is powerful, rich, and concentrated, yet balanced and harmonious, long, and deep. The tannins are ripe, leaving you with a fresh, fruit filled finish that remains for at least 50 seconds. However, patience is going to be required as Leoville Las Cases is one of the longest-lived wines in all of Bordeaux and this tannic vintage will demand quite a bit of cellar time before it really comes around.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Leoville Las Cases A blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc represents 36.7% of the harvest. The wine reached 13.7% ABV, which is lower than the 13.8% level recorded in 2009. Opaque purple in color, this big, concentrated, thick wine is stuffed with ripe cassis and fresh blackberries. Powerful, tannic, ripe, fresh, and dense, this masculine wine requires serious cellar time to become civilized.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"In the last 25 years this has been the top-performing non-1st Growth in the Médoc. The vines are situated alongside those of Chateau Latour and the rigorous pursuit of quality is demonstrated by the demotion of much of the production into the excellent Clos du Marquis. Now the young vines are not even used for Clos du Marquis with the creation of "Le Petit Lion". Las Cases will never be cheap, but this is a wine that wants to taste like a First Growth, and it frequently does. This year, however, the style seems to have changed with the sometimes monolithic, black, strapping, backward samples of the past replaced by something smoother and more supple. It is still big and dense of course, but less brutal than normal at this stage with an elegant body and a touch of cream and polish. Ripe cassis fills the mouth and there is a plush texture and spicy new oak. The surprise is the finish which seems a little short today. Easier to taste than usual but not quite the beast that we were expecting."

- Farr Vintners

"Black fruited power is balanced by red fruited freshness a lovely complex mix of flavours. The mid palate is sensuously fleshy the fruit enriched by dark chocolate, coffee beans and liquorice but towards the back there is freshness that gives a lighter feel to the finish."

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2010 Léoville Las Cases has a clean and precise bouquet, beautifully focused with blackberry, melted tar, cigar humidor and crushed stone aromas. It gains intensity with aeration without ever losing its precision. The palate is medium-bodied with lithe tannins, a fine bead of acidity, a sense of abiding symmetry and detail as it fans out on the mineral-driven finish. This is an absolutely awesome Saint-Julien with a long life ahead. Drink 2026-2060."

- NM, Vinous

"Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections. Black berry fruit on the nose with a hint of eucalyptus, delicate cassis, almost reminiscent of the best New World red wines, a hint of mint indicates a proximity to Pauillac. Complex, juicy, structured with finesse, ripe cherries and sour cherries, silky tannins, delicate touch of chocolate, very persistent, a wine with class and length, mineral finish."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"A tiny bit reduced, this sample not releasing its aromatics willingly. On the palate the beautiful quality of fruit comes powering through. There's a fabulous concentration of cassis and black plum, a big, ripe, very generosity to this, the creamy, sweet oak and the bright fruity acidity are mouth-filling and creamy. There are tannins aplenty, but they too have a ripeness and creamy, suede-like plushness. A lovely wine, with real potential to be a charmer - but a long lived one - down the line."

- TC, wine-pages.com
