
Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2017

CSPC# 813891

750mlx6

13.28% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 10% Merlot
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/leoville-chateau_leoville_las_cases_histoire.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	Thanks to its proximity to the estuary, Léoville Las Cases was spared from frost damage in 2017. There was only a small amount of frost on the western edge of the Clos du Marquis vineyard, which was until 2007 a second wine, but now comes from its own dedicated vineyard to the west of Léoville Las Cases, but of course still in Saint-Julien. All the final blends were made in December and the wines were in barrel before Christmas.
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	The harvest took place from September 15 to October 4 and the wine was made from 60% of the harvest.
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	The 2017 vintage has brought us first wines offering an excellent ripeness and second wines that are especially successful thanks to the great care bestowed upon our young vines. The Merlots are rich, the Cabernet Francs refined and elegant, and the Cabernet Sauvignons powerful and well-structured. The Grand Vin blend boasts notes of ripe fruit along with an attractive freshness. The tannic structure, powerful yet very silky and elegant, lingers through to a particularly long, complex finish
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	12,500 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2040



Scores/Awards **96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020
93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018
98+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020
96-98 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018
98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020
96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018
96 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018
18 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018
97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018
97 points - Decanter.com - April 2018
96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018
18 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
95-97 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018
16.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2018
93-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018
94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018
97+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020
94-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018
97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020
95-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018
18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018
19 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
18-18.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
18-19 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"A very focused, very pure rendition, laden with cassis, plum reduction and boysenberry puree fruit that is mostly waiting in reserve. A cold cast iron edge imparts a sense of restraint, while smoldering tobacco, charcoal and alder notes are deeply buried on the finish. The opposite of flamboyant. In need of time. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Best from 2025 through 2040. 12,500 cases made."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"This has the vintage's fresh acidity, which does a wonderful job of driving the core of blueberry, black currant and blackberry fruit along. Light anise and graphite accents lend typicity, with a sleek mineral edge on the finish. Rock solid. 12,500 cases made."
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"This comes from 50- to 90-year-old vines and is a blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 10% Merlot with 13.28% alcohol, 3.72 pH and an IPT of 71. The 2017 Léoville Las Cases is deep garnet-purple in color, and wow, the nose bursts with beautiful blackcurrant cordial, blackberry pie and blueberry preserve notes followed by hints of lilacs, dark chocolate, cedar chest, saffras and licorice with emerging wafts of oolong tea, lavender and iron ore. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is an exercise in elegance and soft-spoken nuances within a mouth-coating palate of almost electric black and blue fruits, framed by very firm, exquisitely ripe, fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing epically long and wonderfully perfumed. Damn, that's good. Drink: 2023-2070"
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2017 Léoville Las Cases is deep garnet-purple in color and simply sings of crushed blackcurrants, wild blueberries and plum preserves with notions of wood smoke, cigar boxes, crushed rocks and beef drippings. Medium-bodied with wonderful intensity and vivacity, it gives a firm, fine-grained frame and a densely packed mid-palate, finishing long and earthy. This should age incredibly!"
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

"The purity here is really something. Blackberries and blackcurrants with sandalwood, mint and other classic herbs. Full-bodied and dense with ultra-fine tannins. Silky in all ways. Goes on for a long, long time. Joyous and serious wine for the vintage. And comparable to 2014 and 2015."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *“This is very muscular with formed and bright tannins that give the wine super drive and length. The tannins build on the finish with a lovely integration of black fruits. Serious for the vintage.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“The watchword for this wine is style. Tannins underline the fruit. This rich structure, while not losing the swaths of berry flavors and crisp black currants, presents the balance between the ripeness and freshness of the vintage. Drink this wine from 2024.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“95–97. Barrel Sample. This normally serious, complex wine has a smile on its face in this vintage. Even at this young stage the black fruits shine. It is certainly concentrated and dense, but the intense fruitiness cuts the tannins. This very fine wine will certainly age, although it is likely to be accessible sooner than usual.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Very dark with black core. This invites you in but doesn't say much in terms of aroma. It is dark, intense and sober at heart but with flashes of colour to suggest a future revelation. Super-fine texture, so much finer than I remember earlier vintages, especially at this young age. Seems almost delicate already but has amazing and effortless concentration. Already elegant. And unexpectedly juicy on the finish. Very, very long. Fruit purity persists to the end. 18/20 points. (JH)”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“One of the very few wines in this vintage that truly stains the glass with its wonderfully vibrant anthocyanins. This is an exceptional wine - Léoville just knows how to knock it out of the park again and again. An early vintage meant everything was blended and in barrels before Christmas, with 7.5% press wine, so this has had some time to settle down already. There's huge persistency through the palate, very similar to last year. It has presence and a grip that doesn't want to let go, and you don't want it to either. It continues to reveal itself over the course of the glass, showing slate, cassis, blackberry and charcoal. It's not as powerfully knitted as the 2016 but watch out for those tannins. I expect this will be a wine that, like the 1996 and 2016, will close down and evolve extremely slowly. Stunning aromatics. 90% new oak. (JA)”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Rich ruby in colour if a little less inky than the 2015, 2016 or 2018. Clear layers of fruit, the nose is one of the rare ones in the vintage where you want to spend time just thinking about the different strands that are coming at you. Black truffle, liquorice, cinnamon spice, saffron, slate and cigar box all comprise - this is a standout wine in the vintage. They just know how to tease flavour out of the ground at this place. Yes, it is closed, not exactly forbidding but certainly austere, with big tannins, but less so than in some vintages at this stage, and it unrolls in the mouth.”
- Decanter.com

“Deep purple colour, but not black. Coffee and spicy oak and seed-wood aromas. Packed extract and very complex flavours of spices, clove, earth, toast and black fruit. Very complex. Balanced fresh acidity with bright cherry-like freshness, but deep cassis and almost nutty complexity. Very good indeed. Barrel Sample: 95-97”
- TA, timatkin.com

“It is not often you can use the word fruity to describe Leoville Las Cases, but it is certainly fitting for 2017. Yes, the wine is fruity! And in addition, you'll find complexities of licorice, cigar box and lead pencil with tannins so refined it's almost precocious. The fruit is airy and bright with a sweetness that carries through from start to finish. This is the perfect vintage to enjoy while waiting for the bigger, more tannic vintages to come around. The wine reached 13.28% alcohol with a pH of 3.72. The harvest took place from September 15 to October 4 and the wine was made from 60% of the harvest.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“A deep colour with an extremely expressive nose of exotic spices, espresso, graphite and dried flowers. The palate is dense and richly extracted, with tight, concentrated fruit compacted by chewy tannins. Despite this, there is a sweet core of black fruits, black tea, and dark chocolate. With the level of structure much of the ripeness is subsumed beneath the tannins for now, but the lingering finish suggests this will reward patience and flourish in its second decade after bottling.”

- Farr Vintners

“Violets and lavender the nose has a fragrant charm the start of the palate has bilberry freshness. Depth in the middle ripe black cherry backed by dark chocolate the tannins fine the back palate fleshy and supple. The finish is lighter stylish and long. 2027-45”

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2017 Léoville Las-Cases, which was bottled in July 2019, has a fragrant bouquet with rose petal and briary aromas married with cranberry, pomegranate and raspberry. A touch of tobacco emerges with time. It is certainly a more understated bouquet for this property. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin and a fine bead of acidity. This feels very pure and harmonious, quite complex, more so than in barrel, with darker, more savory and ferrous fruit towards the finish. This is an excellent Léoville Las-Cases with plenty of character. Drink 2023-2050.”

- NM, Vinous

“It has a very clean and precise bouquet with blackberry, just a touch of blueberry, violet and a hint of bay leaf. This gains intensity with aeration, but it is not as detailed as last year’s 2016. The palate is medium-bodied with more supple tannins than usual (that word is apt – there is nothing “soft” about this Saint-Julien). It has great depth with layers of black fruit laced with graphite and a pinch of white pepper, whilst it delivers fine salinity on the sappy finish. Excellent.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 Léoville Las Cases captures all the best the vintage has to offer. Rich, unctuous and stunning in its beauty, the 2017 possesses tremendous richness and textural intensity that carry through to the very long finish, all with the regal, statuesque feel that is the quintessential signature of Las Cases. Just as it was from barrel, Las Cases is wonderfully polished. Tasted two times. What a wine! 2027 – 2047”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2017 Léoville Las Cases is remarkably elegant and polished for this typically brutish Saint-Julien. Persistence more than power is the key element that distinguishes the 2017 from most other vintages and most other Saint-Julien as well. The classic Las Cases flavor profile is very much in evidence, but in a wine that is silky, nuanced and exceptionally polished. In 2017, Las Cases is truly magical, and one of the most complete wines of the Left Bank. In a word: sublime. Don't miss it. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“The grand vin 2017 Chateau Leoville Las Cases has an incredibly classic style that carries loads of creme de cassis, crushed rock, graphite, and smoked tobacco-like aromatics. These carry to a full-bodied, concentrated, elegant Las Cases that has fine tannins, flawless balance, and a great finish. It shows the refined, regal style of this estate, has beautiful richness and depth, and is going to drink nicely with just 5-7 years of bottle age.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The flagship 2017 Léoville Las Cases is unquestionably one of the greatest wines in this complex, far from homogenous vintage. Inky black colored with sensational richness in its black currants, scorched earth, graphite, and charcoal aromas and flavors, this blockbuster barrel sample is full-bodied, powerful, and concentrated. It has bright acidity, building tannin, and is going to need 5-7 years of cellaring to be drinkable.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“A song to Cabernet Sauvignon and this time, Cabernet Franc is the main backing singer. The density of fruit is superb and yet there is a depth and a power here, without necessarily being heavy, which is superb. The oak is lovely, adding a layer of complexity which doesn't interfere with the fruit. Long and supple and not seemingly a wine which requires decades to get going, this is a stunning and fruit-driven Las Cases.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
