

# Château Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2021

CSPC# 813891

750mlx6

13.2% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Merlot.
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Julien
<b>Classification</b>	Second Growth. Deuxième Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.domaines-delon.com/ajax/pdf.php?id=274">https://www.domaines-delon.com/ajax/pdf.php?id=274</a>
<b>Analysis</b>	Total Acidity: 3.66 g/L    pH: 3.71    IPT: 77
<b>Sustainability</b>	The vineyards are managed using <i>sustainable</i> and organic <i>practices</i> , which ensures that the wines are produced in an environmentally friendly manner.
<b>General Info</b>	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.
<b>Winemaker</b>	Jean Hubert Delon
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>This vintage was marked in the vineyard by an early start, a late finish and sudden increases in power requiring the reactivity of the teams at every stage and in every aspect of the vineyard's support. Despite these perilous climatic conditions, the final ripening was complete and homogeneous.</p> <p>The vegetal cycle has been difficult. The team's reactivity in the vineyards was very important: this was certainly a lot of pressure but it was very enriching on a human level, bringing people together. The young people have to toughen up (<i>with a smile</i>)! It was an intense year.</p> <p>Our yields are good thanks to our Cabernets, which are the historic grape variety of our blends. Our Cabernet Francs "match" very well with our Cabernet Sauvignons. They give purity, finesse, freshness and will age well. 2021 has finesse and length. The first tastings are really encouraging.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	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.
<b>Harvest</b>	From 28 September until 8 October.
<b>Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The great early and unique terroir of Léoville Las Cases produced great Cabernets, deep and elegant, complex and straightforward, as well as smooth and aerial Merlots. A noble, fresh and rich Grand Vin de Léoville Las Cases with a beautiful aromatic complexity, signing this vintage with an extreme elegance.
<b>Serve with</b>	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** 11,500 cases made  
**Cellaring** Drink 2025-2036  
**Scores/Awards** **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2024  
**96+ points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024  
**95-97 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022  
**91-93+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022  
**96-97 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022  
**95-97 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022  
**17+ points** - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022  
**95 points** - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022  
**94 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2024  
**94 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022  
**94-96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022  
**96 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022  
**94-96 points** - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024  
**94-96 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022  
**96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024  
**94-96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022  
**95 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024  
**93-95 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022  
**18.5 points** - Matthew Jukes - August 2022  
**95 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022  
**97-98 points** - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2022  
**96 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022  
**97 points** - Vert de Vin - July 2022  
**96-98 points** - Colin Hay, The Drinks Business - April 2022  
**97-98 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - May 2022  
**96-97 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022

**Reviews** *“Shows a rare level of finesse, depth, and balance in this vintage, with a stream of black currant coulis carried by a pinpoint of acidity, while charcoal and sweet tobacco accents run along the edges. The long, iron-tinged finish offers a late hint of violet and almost no grain. A terrific effort for the vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2026 through 2040.”*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*“The 2021 Léoville Barton has turned out beautifully in bottle, wafting from the glass with notes of cassis and plums mingled with subtle hints of pencil shavings, menthol, and spices. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and impressively concentrated, it's layered and refined, built around lively acids and a chassis of sweet, powdery tannin that will reward some bottle age with greater plenitude. It's a real success.”*  
- WK, Wine Advocate

*“One of the wines of the vintage, the 2021 Léoville Las Cases is reminiscent of a hypothetical blend of the 1999 and 1996—only better. Offering up incipiently complex aromas of cassis, plums and dark berries mingled with loamy soil, cigar wrapper and exotic spices, it's full-bodied, layered, and multidimensional, with superb amplitude and concentration, velvety tannins, lively acids and a long, penetrating finish. Uniting classicism and charm, it exemplifies how a great terroir, exigent agronomy and meticulous winemaking can deliver greatness even in a less propitious vintage. It's a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc and a mere 5% Merlot this year, checking in at 13.2% alcohol.”*  
- WK, Wine Advocate

*“The 2021 Leoville Las Cases is a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Merlot, harvested from 28 September to 8 October, and to be aged in 85% new oak. Deep purple-black colored, it opens with profound notes of ripe, juicy blackcurrants, black cherries, and plum preserves, leading to hints of lilacs, cedar chest, dusty soil, and graphite, plus a hint of cumin seed. Light to medium-bodied, the palate delivers a quiet intensity of earth-laced black fruits with very fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and minerally. pH 3.71, IPT 77.”*  
- LPB, Wine Independent

**Reviews** *“This is very tannic and powerful with currant and salty undertones. Inky. Blackberry and blackcurrant, too. Full-bodied with lots of power at the end. 80% cabernet sauvignon, 15% cabernet franc and 5% merlot.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Merlot. Cask sample. Less restrained than usual at this stage, the nose fresh and fragrant with floral and berry-fruit notes. More elegance than power, the tannins present but finely honed and the fruit expressive. Structured, so potential but not a muscular year. (JL) 13.3%. Drink 2030 – 2046.”*  
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*“A brilliant Las Cases in 2021. Quite a savoury nose – dark chocolate covered blackcurrants, like a Black Forest gâteau as well as such signature Cabernet markers - green pepper, black pepper, and mint. This is serious, not as immediately charming, or expressive, but grows in stature, expanding slowly while still maintaining a tight, focused core. Spiced on the tongue, quite marked with sharp fruit that has an almost sour tang to it. You get the Cabernet Franc spice for sure - the highest percentage ever at 15% - alongside structure, length, and intention. The acidity is well balanced, and the tannins are so fine. Such purity of grape characteristics and terroir markers. Classic in the absolute best sense, there's no hiding with every detail on show and in time this will be brilliant. (...). Drinking Window 2027 -2050.”*  
- GH, Decanter.com

*“Right away on the nose this is chiseled and austere in all the right places, with huge depth and character. Concentrated creme de cassis, with a hidden creamy mid palate that lurks underneath the tannic frame. Plenty of estate signature, meaning cassis, espresso, bilberry, slate, and graphite. Great quality, and supremely Léoville Las Cases. 85% new oak, just a touch down from normal in reflection of the vintage.”*  
- JA, janeanson.com

*“Plenty of fruit on display here, with waves of cassis, blackberry, and bilberry along with the more typical of the vintage redcurrant and blueberry, savoury and full of juice, along with cloves, black pepper, slate, and graphite. There is a power here, and estate signature, but the austerity that you often find in young Las Cases is dominant in the architecture and character of the wine right now, and you will need patience over ageing for it to soften. 85% new oak. A strong candidate for up scoring in bottle.”*  
- JA, janeanson.com

*“Dark ruby with hints of purple around the edge, the wine exudes smoke, cedar, tobacco leaf, slate, lead pencil, blackberries, espresso, and currants. One of the more powerful wines of the vintage, the wine offers loads of black and red fruits, ripe, present, salty tannins, and a juicy, almost creamy, yet classically structured finish. Produced from a blend 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Merlot. 13.20% ABV. This is the first time you find more Cabernet Franc than Merlot in the blend in the history of the estate. Drink from 2025-2055.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2021 is 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Merlot being matured in 85% new oak. 13.2% alcohol. Picked 28th September to 8th October. They feel that stylistically it is a modern-day version of the 1988 and perhaps a cross between the 1999 and 2001 in style. Deep ruby colour. Deeply mineral and full of hedgerow fruit on the nose. Structured, deep, and linear on the palate, this is pristine Cabernet with both focus and precision. Tightly coiled but revealing blackcurrant, tobacco, and cedar, this is impressive with refined power. Las Cases can often be brutally structured from barrel, but this effort seems to have just eased off the throttle enough to showcase more refinement and precision. Very long on the finish, it is a strong effort for the vintage.”*  
- TP, Farr Vintners

*“The 2021 Léoville Las Cases is beautifully defined on the nose: blackberry, raspberry, still that subtle marine element, a hint of Japanese wakame and shucked oyster shells. The oak (85% new) is very well integrated, though it needs some time to be completely subsumed. The palate has exquisite balance—very poised and pure. It is not a heavyweight or powerful Las-Cases, yet there is convincing tension and a judicious dab of spice*

**Reviews** *toward the finish that fans out and lingers. It will require several years in bottle, but it will be worth waiting for. This has the substance to age with style."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2021 Léoville Las Cases was picked from 28 September until 8 October and includes just 5% Merlot from the northern sectors of the vineyard due to coulure. They found that increased percentages of Merlot did not contribute to the blend. Matured in 85% new oak, it has an intense nose with black fruit, graphite, and light iris flower aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, quite a potent marine influence at play, almost briny (perhaps accentuated by the changeable weather on the day of my visit). Very impressive in terms of depth and backbone/grip with iodine and oyster shells towards the finish, this is a cerebral Las-Cases that will demand patience. Then again, name me a vintage of Las-Cases that doesn't! Alcohol here is at 13.20%. Drink 2030-2070."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2021 Léoville Las-Cases is a wine of elegance and restraint. Yes, I am writing that about a young Las-Cases. Perhaps it is the higher level of Cabernet Franc in this year's blend that adds an aromatic presence and gives the wine its refined character. Blue/purplish fruit, lavender, mint, spice and rose petal linger on the delicate, understated finish."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2021 Léoville Las-Cases is classy, nuanced and so expressive. There's gorgeous depth, and yet the 2021 is not as explosive as it has been in the recent past. That's not a bad thing, not at all. Cabernet Sauvignon and Franc comprise fully 95% of the blend in a Las Cases that is beautifully persistent from start to finish. It's a wine that has one foot in its rich, historical past, and the other very much in the more modern style of contemporary vintages. There is so much to look forward to. Drink 2031-2061."*

- AG, Vinous

*"Unquestionably one of the wines of the vintage, the 2021 Château Léoville Las Cases is flat-out brilliant and brings that classic Las Cases regalness and structure. Cassis, graphite, lead pencil shavings, crushed stone, and an almost bloody, salty character all define this riveting 2021, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a great mid-palate, ripe, polished tannins, and a great finish. It has more mid-palate density and depth than just about every other wine in the vintage, and despite its structure, it's going to be relatively accessible in just 5-7 years. It will most likely be one of the longest-lived in the vintage."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"I loved the 2021 Château Léoville Las Cases. This deep, chalky, mineral-laced beauty has tons of character and reminds me a little of the 2001. Lots of ripe black fruits, graphite, lead pencil, and hints of iron define the bouquet, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a pure, balanced, layered mouthfeel, plenty of tannins, and a good mix of power and elegance. It shows the fresher, lively style of the vintage, but it brings plenty of depth and density, and it's an undeniable success in the vintage."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Las Cases has a thrilling Cabernet-drenched theme spiked with hints of anise and spice, and yet it stays the elegant and sophisticated side of the track and never lapses into flamboyance or ostentatiousness. This is the beauty of Bordeaux, and it is what makes every wine fascinating and so different. The skill of adapting to the vintage and creating the finest wine possible sets apart the great estates from the rest, and Las Cases has made a beautiful and immutably Las Cases-shaped wine in 2021. Interestingly, Cabernet Franc plays a vital role in this wine, lifting the nose and adding filigree, violet and blackberry leaf details to the Cabernet Sauvignon. This is a fleshy, bold wine with a sublime density of fruit, and yet it is the length that is most impressive. I tasted it directly after Clos du Marquis, and the finish must be two or three times as long! This is another triumphant 2021, and I do not doubt that while it will drink fairly young in the greater scheme of things, it will age perfectly, too. 18.5."*

- Matthew Jukes

**Reviews** *“Vivid dark ruby colour, opaque core, purple tinge to the narrow rim. Nougat, black berries, fresh dark cherries, a touch of savouriness; an inviting bouquet. Taut, tightly woven, very lively, fine tannins, finesse and persistence, subtle sweetness on the finish, red cherry aftertaste. Potential to age for many years, the proportion of Cabernet Franc gives the wine the special touch.”*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is elegant, silky and shows relative delicacy, finesse, complexity, depth, and a certain concentration in finesse. There are notes of blackcurrant, blackberry and slightly liquorice stick combined with fine touches of toast, cardamom, and slightly fresh/juicy black plum as well as nice minerality, fleshy cherry, discrete hints of bergamot, blueberry, lily and a subtle hint of pepper/vanilla bourbon. The palate is delicate, fruity, elegant, nicely juicy, precise and reveals nice definition, depth, some concentration (in finesse). On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy blackberry, crushed cassis and more lightly fresh/juicy small red berries combined with hints of lily, cornflower as well as hints of blue plum, liquorice stick, discrete hints of caramelisation, toastiness, fine graphite, toasted hazelnut. A subtle hint of camphor (in the background), a nice minerality/sapidity on the finish. A nice suppleness and sapidity of the tannins. A nice sapid and airy persistence.”*  
- Vert de Vin

*“If you've ever wanted to know what Las Cases' Cabernet would taste like without (most of) the Merlot, here's your chance (...). The answer, in a word, is wonderful (and please don't take that as a criticism of Las Cases' Merlot in any other vintage). This is serene and profoundly beautiful on the nose. Cool, precise, elegant, suave, and sophisticated, with an intense and gracious dark purple and black fruit. It is the very epitome of cool-summer Cabernet (Sauvignon and Franc) - and that, in a sense, is the point. We have, too, the florality of the vintage – here violets and a more discrete sensation of spring flowers.*  
*With air on the nose - and, again, on the palate (especially when one draws in a little air) - there is an utterly divine intense presence of cedar that both envelops and somehow cosets the dark fruit. As beautiful a Las Cases as I have had the pleasure to taste en primeur and, for me, the wine of the appellation in the vintage. (...) It embraces and works with rather than struggles against the characteristics of the vintage. Tranquility, cool perfection, and supreme elegance. I find this quite an emotional La Cases. Stylistically, my favourite ever!”*  
- CH, TheDrinksBusiness.com

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