

## Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 1983

CSPC# 744983

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

*Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc*

### Appellation

Saint Julien

### Website

<http://www.domaines-delon.com/en>

### 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.

### 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 *Juillac*, which drains into the *Gironde*. 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 *Grand Clos*, 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 *château* (above), and which also graces the label. Totalling over 200 acres, Leoville Las Cases is comprised of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, and .5% Cabernet Franc.

### Maturation

The fruit is harvested by hand, usually by a team of workers from Spain, before transport to the *chai*, 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 *chai* to the barrel cellar on the other side of the road through an underground pipe. Here it is transferred into oak *barrique*, between 50% and 100% new for the *grand vin*, Château Léoville-Las-Cases.

### Tasting Notes

Good depth of colour here. Good intensity up to the rim, paling just a fraction. Mineral, elegant, stylish nose; little notes of coffee-toffee, overlaid with a somewhat organic note. Intriguing. Firm palate, with ripe tannins showing quite strongly. Great flavour and good fruit still. And superb depth. This is exuding quality in the glass and is clearly a first-growth pretender. Excellent wine, still on the way up. Drink now or watch it improve for another five years at least.

### Serve with

braised oxtail *and* black angus ribeye

### Cellaring

Drink 2003-2014

### Scores/Awards

**87 points** - James Suckling, *Wine Spectator* - October 15, 1994

**88 points** - HS, *Wine Spectator* - February 15, 1992

**89 points** - Robert Parker, *Bordeaux Book 4<sup>th</sup> Edition* - January 2003

**91 points** - Robert Parker, *Wine Advocate* #101 - October 1995

**92 points** - Robert Parker, *Wine Advocate* #88 - August 1993

**94 points** - Neal Martin, *Wine Journal* - July 2011

**92-94 points** - Neal Martin, *Wine Journal* - December 2003

**16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, *JancisRobinson.com* (score only)

**87 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

**Review Only** - John Berry, *Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants*



**Reviews** *"A deceptive Bordeaux which shows extremely gamy, roasted, ripe fruit character, medium body and a silky, slightly austere mouthfeel. Drink or hold. --The Bordeaux 50."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"A sturdy, pleasantly fruity wine, with solid structure supporting currant, berry and slightly toasty aromas and flavors. May shed some tannin and gain some polish with cellaring. --Léoville Las Cases vertical. Best from 1993 through 1995."*  
- HS, Wine Spectator

*"Like so many 1983s, this wine entered full maturity 6-7 years ago and now seems to be suggesting that it needs to be drunk up quickly, as the tannins and acidity continue to take hold, and as the fruit fades. The wine has a dark plum/garnet color with some amber at the edge. The wine is medium bodied with a bit of sharpness in the finish. However, the aromas and attack of the wine are still intact, but consumption definitely seems warranted. Anticipated maturity: Now-2010. Last tasted, 3/02."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"This tasting consisted of each of the varietal components of Las Cases, followed by the final blend for Leoville-Las Cases. The 1983 Merlot was fully mature, displaying medium ruby color with some amber at the edge, a curranty, coffee, herb, olive-scented nose, good body and spice, and sweet fruit flavors. It needs to be drunk up. The light-bodied, loosely knit 1983 Cabernet Franc exhibited plenty of spicy, cedary fruit, and an attractive suppleness. This youthful and vibrant wine requires drinking. The low acid, cedary, fat Cabernet Sauvignon was close to full maturity, with excellent richness and intensity, and a supple, soft finish. The disappointing Petit Verdot revealed a damp, earthy, fecal-like aroma, high acid and tannin, and a hollow, tough finish. The fully mature 1983 Leoville-Las Cases possessed a deep ruby color with no signs of lightening. An open-knit, smoky, cassis, and cedary-scented nose was followed by a supple, rich, medium to full-bodied wine with excellent definition, outstanding ripeness and concentration, and a spicy, soft, velvety-textured finish. Drink this wine over the next 12-15+ years."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"One of the top wines of the vintage, as well as one of the youngest tasting 1983s, this wine continues to display a healthy deep ruby/purple color, and an intense bouquet of lead pencil, blackcurrants, and spicy oak. Medium to full-bodied, with a well-delineated, beautifully elegant yet rich, authoritative taste, this classic Las Cases appears to be 2-5 years away from full maturity. It should keep for 20 more years. An immensely impressive 1983! Last tasted, 6/93."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at the Las-Cases off-line at The Square. Many years have passed since I last tasted the '83 Las-Cases. It is reticent at first, like an old tongue-tied friend entering the room, then it blossoms with aeration offering scents of leather, chestnut, brambly black fruit and freshly rolled tobacco. The palate is medium-bodied with melted red-berry fruits, firm tannins and superb balance. Hints of bell pepper and sandalwood furnish the long, harmonious finish. This is a wonderful wine for the vintage that is drinking perfectly now."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"First tasted in July 1999 where it was smooth and velvety, gaining weight all the time in the glass. Tasted again in December 2003. Deep brick colour. Again, the nose is quite muted: morello cherry, cedar with lots of cigar-box and a touch of iodine. The palate is harmonious, well-integrated with smooth tannins. Fine acidity with a charming, slightly coarse texture. A beautiful 1983 although it faded in the glass. Not far below the Leoville Las-Cases 1982!"*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"The 1983 Ch. Léoville-Las Cases is fully mature, displaying ruby colour with some amber hues at the edge, a coffee, tobacco, olive-scented nose, and dried black fruit flavours. An immensely impressive 1983 that has lasted and developed gracefully."*  
- JB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

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