

Château Leoville Poyferre 2009

CSPC# 749579

750mlx12

13.95% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
General Info

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc
St. Julien

With origins dating back to 1638, Léoville was the largest vineyard in the Médoc region at the time of the French Revolution. Léoville Poyferré springs from various divisions and successions in 1840. Its outstanding quality wines gained early recognition when it was ranked 2nd Growth in the 1855 classification. Château Léoville Poyferré was acquired in 1920 by the Cuvelier family. Château Léoville Poyferré was the Léoville that got left in the starting blocks in terms of reputation and in the quality of its wines.

Léoville Poyferré has been owned by the Cuvelier family (who also own Château Le Crock) since 1921, yet it was not until the 1970s, when Didier Cuvelier took control at the château, that quality began to improve. In the last 20 years, Didier, with the assistance of Michel Rolland since 1995, has turned Léoville-Poyferré into one of St-Julien's finest estates. Now up with the best of the St-Julien's but still selling at non-scary prices. Léoville Poyferré is classified as a 2ème Cru Classé.

Vintage

The 2009 vintage did not start out under the most favourable auspices. The soil had received plenty of rainfall (488 mm from November to March), so there was little risk that the vines would suffer from drought. There was regular precipitation during the following months, which maintained strong atmospheric humidity. However, the temperatures were higher than average. Bud break was later than usual but, as we will see, the vines went on to make up for this delay. Flowering and véraison (colour change) took place 7 days earlier than in 2008. The thermometer went up to 31.4°C in the month of May and even reached 38.8°C on the 30th of June. There was frequent precipitation thereafter, but temperatures remained high. A maximum of 40.6°C was attained on the 1st of July. The warm, hot weather continued throughout August and September. Light showers from the 15th to the 18th of September were very welcome. These brought the weather conditions in 2009 to a perfect end and explain the vintage's outstanding character.

Vineyards

The various divisions throughout the history of the estate have split the vineyard of Léoville Poyferré into five large areas. They include all the main types of gravelly soil present in Saint Julien. This diversity contributes to the amplitude and complexity of the Léoville Poyferré wines. Léoville Poyferré has 80 hectares of vineyards planted with Cabernet Sauvignon (65%), Merlot (25%), Petit Verdot (8%) Cabernet Franc (2%).

Harvest

September 29th – October 12th, 2009

**Vinification/
Maturation**

Léoville Poyferré traditionally produced the softest and most supple wine of the 3 Leoville's, yet in the last decade the wines have definitely put on weight and body. This is largely due to the grapes being harvested riper and later and because of the increased exposure to new oak in the maturation process. The wines are fermented in the 35 temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats of varying sizes, then macerated for three to four weeks, before selection is made. The *grand vin* is Château Léoville-Poyferré (20000 cases per annum), which goes into barrel where malolactic fermentation occurs. Typically, the oak is now 75% new each year.

Tasting Notes

Colour: Intense, dark robe. Nose: complex and elegant. Empyreumatic with black fruit and spicy notes. Palate: Great amplitude in the mouth. Ripe, silky, elegant tannins on the finish. Smooth and opulent. Pleasantly lingering aromatic finish. 2009, a vintage full of sunshine.

Production

17,665 cases made (750mlx12)

Cellaring

Drink 2016-2040



Scores/Awards **93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012
93-96 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
100 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012
90-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010
97-99 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine In Asia -July 2010
93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012
92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010
96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - Web Only 2012
96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010
95 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July 2012
92-95 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010
17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010
19 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2011
17.5-18.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010
18.5 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010
95 points/17.75-18 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010
97 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010
94-96 points - Alan Duran, Periodic Review - March 2010

Reviews *"Solid notes of steeped black currant, ganache-coated fig and plum eau de vie pump along in this very dark red, but with well-integrated structure. Long and winey through the finish, with the grip extending everything nicely. Best from 2016 through 2026. 17,665 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Wonderful aromas of currant and blackberry, with black olives. Full-bodied, with a mouth-coating palate of super soft tannins that go on and on. Solid and polished. Score range: 93-96"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"One of the more flamboyant and sumptuous wines of the vintage, this inky/purple-colored St.-Julien reveals thrilling levels of opulence, richness and aromatic pleasures. A soaring bouquet of creme de cassis, charcoal, graphite and spring flowers is followed by a super-concentrated wine with silky tannins, stunning amounts of glycerin, a voluptuous, multilayered mouthfeel and nearly 14% natural alcohol. Displaying fabulous definition for such a big, plump, massive, concentrated effort, I suspect the tannin levels are high even though they are largely concealed by lavish amounts of fruit, glycerin and extract. Anticipated maturity: 2018-2040."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"One of the stars of the vintage, it will be interesting to see if Poyferre ultimately eclipses Las Cases as the finest of the three Leoville's. The 2009 is even better than the 2000, 2003, and 2005. Its inky/purple color precedes a wine filled with extraordinary opulence, voluptuous texture, and sweet tannin. It offers both intellectual and hedonistic pleasure with layer upon layer of ripe fruit. Yields were 43 hectoliters per hectare, the blend is more than two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot, and the natural alcohol is the highest ever measured at this estate, 13.95%. The high alcohol is not the least bit noticeable because of the extraordinary concentration and freshness possessed by most 2009s - a vintage characteristic that will serve these wines for decades to come. This is a wine to purchase by the caseload. It should drink well for 30-45 years. (Tasted three times.)"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The nose reveals a wonderful intensity of blackberries, prunes, forest floor and smoked meat aromas. The full-bodied palate has an incredible structure of crisp acid and very firm fine tannins that is amply fleshed by rich, opulent fruit. Very long finish."

-LPB, Wine Advocate in Asia

"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London. Didier Cuvelier's 2009 has a rich, chocolate and mocha-tinged bouquet that just soars from the glass. There is a good deal of extraction here, perhaps denuding a little precision. The palate is full-bodied with grippy tannins, leaning on that acidity to maintain balance, but great focus and decadence towards the spice-tinged finish that cuts away just a little quickly. Tasted October 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

- Reviews** *“A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc, this has a beautifully defined bouquet, adeptly containing the 13.9% alcohol. The Cabernets were picked between 2nd and the 12th October, dense black fruits, touches of date and fresh fig, certainly more exotic than the Leoville Barton tasted just before. With aeration, there is a hint of Japanese nori. The palate is rounded and voluptuous, very well balanced with smooth, sensuous tannins, the acidity less marked than Barton, caressing towards the lush, but delineated finish. A powerful, quite sexy Poyferre by Didier Cuvelier. Tasted March 2010.”*
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Gorgeous aromas of blueberries and blackberries, with flowers and minerals. Full body, with silky tannins and a bright acidity on the finish. Tangy and chewy. Muscular. Try in 2018.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “An immensely structured wine packed with dark tannins promising aging potential. It is complex, powerful, layered with new wood and concentration, finishing with dark plum fruits and acidity.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “93-95 Barrel sample. Firm, but solid, densely packed with tannins, new wood and a fine concentrated texture. It is big, but balanced, the only default being a high toast element.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “(a blend of 62.5% cabernet sauvignon, 29% merlot, 6% petit verdot and 2.5% cabernet franc): Bright medium ruby. Classic Saint-Julien aromas of cassis, licorice, tar, minerals and dark chocolate. Lush, sweet and powerful, with a superb glycerol texture to the dark berry and dark chocolate flavors. Huge wine but not at all heavy. The extremely long, echoing finish features utterly noble tannins that saturate the front teeth. Offers a show-stopping combination of sweetness and structure. Built for three decades of life in bottle.”*
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- “(a blend of 60% cabernet sauvignon, 29% merlot, 6% petit verdot and 5% cabernet franc; 13.95% alcohol; pH 3.76; 88 IPT) Inky purple. Brooding, masculine nose offers black plum, chocolate liqueur, orange peel and espresso. Soft and supple on entry, then a bit youthfully aggressive in the middle, but with a distinctly chewy texture supporting the ultraripe black plum and chocolate flavors. Finishes with building, slightly dry tannins and hints of Oriental plum liqueur and peppery soy sauce. Always a sexy wine, this Leoville Poyferre has excellent balance and is more discreet than some other vintages of the last 20 years. It may still be a little short on finesse, but it's hard to argue with its almost decadent, voluptuous appeal. Very well done, and likely to be one of the Chateau's most successful wines ever.”*
- ID, International Wine Cellar
- “Very dark crimson. Very grown – up and intense. Luscious fruit and top quality savoury oak. Very sweet start really quite unusually sweet for a St-Julien. Very complete, lip-smacking and satisfying. Glamorous, polished. Long. Quite complex.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “A touch darker than the Léoville-Barton in the glass, this has the greater accessibility sometimes seen in Léoville-Poyferré at this stage, with a more seductive and nutty edge from the oak, and the fruit showing a more fleshy, sexy forest fruit and bramble character. It certainly has immediate appeal. The palate is very primary and everything is there in certain measure, with polished forest fruits accompanied by a building wall of tannin which comes through to express itself fully on the midpalate, a rare finding in this vintage where flesh and sweet substance generally rule at this stage it seems. But there is fruit there, and the tannins are ripe, meaty, almost chocolatey, and they do not seem out of kilter with the rest of the wine. In fact, it tasted more how I would expect Bordeaux to taste at this age.... but with knobs on. Very impressive, clearly a wine set for decades in the cellar, and the end result may well be stunning. From a tasting of 2009 Bordeaux at two years of age. 19/20 (October 2011)”*
- CK, The Wine Doctor

Reviews *“An intensely black hue at the core here, with a vibrant blue-crimson rim. The nose has some very rich and meaty fruit, with a great smoky depth. Creamed fruit character, dense but evocative. The palate is rather cool and detached on entry, with a supple layer of fruit. Underneath, a bold, spicy layer of acidity. The tannins are ripe and well managed, coating the mouth, taking the wine forward into a crisply defined and spicy finish. Very long too. Delicious and very well-made wine; I prefer its Barton contemporary, but maybe that's just me. So many prefer Poyferré these days. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 17.5-18.5+/20 (March 2010)”*
- CK, The Wine Doctor

“Impressive concentration of Cabernet, vigorous and robust, seductively succulent with superb natural tannin. Very exciting.”
- SS, Decanter.com

“Black color, nose is intense, delicate, very fruity, ripe. Subtle notes of raspberry liqueur. It is pure and very distinguished. Very nice entry into the mouth, the wine develops fat and especially aromatic with energy, taste, a very lovely feel and a superb mid-mouth. Slow, flavorful tannic development. The wine finishes strong and long on tannins that are both creamy and radiant with fruit. It's very, very good. This exceeds the 2003 vintage and is in competition with the 2005, to which I attributed the same mark as a primeur wine. I tasted it three times with the same level of rating, a very rare occurrence this year. Blend 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc. Alcohol 13.95, pH 3.76; Total Acidity 3.40 - IPT 88 94 – 95”
- J-MQ

“Often considered the least impressive of the three Léoville properties, this has outshone its neighbours in 2009, just as it did in 2005. Tightly wound, gutsy wines with dense tannins and a touch of meaty reduction. The fruit underneath is polished and sweet, with lovely balance and perfume. If it develops in the bottle as well as the 2005 has, this is a wine to buy. 15+years.”
- TA, timatkin.com

“This offering from Poyferré is even better than the amazing 2008! It's a superb, full-bodied, full-throttled, intense wine! While still incredibly young, it boasts a densely saturated ruby/purple hue followed by complex perfumes of wet-stones, crème de cassis, blueberry liqueur, damp flowers, and graphite dust. There is a big presence on the palate along with an intricate structure, an astonishing expanse, broad-shouldered richness, and beautiful nuances. This is meant for the next four decades considering its potent fruit and big tannin. In 2009 its structure is of first-growth quality. Past vintages, such as the 2005, 2003, and 2000 prove what huge promise this estate offers each year. Maturity period 2018-2045+.”
- AD, Periodic Review
