

# Château Leoville Poyferré 2011

CSPC# 742661

750mlx12

13.7% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**Website**  
**General Info**

58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot  
St. Julien

<http://www.leoville-poyferre.fr/english/news.html>

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**

Winter 2010-2011: This year again, winter was dry, one of the driest in the decade. The winter chill was indeed present from December to February... for the benefit of our ecosystem.

Spring 2010-2011: The sharp rise in temperature in March resulted in an early budding of the vines at the beginning of April. Then, Bordeaux enjoyed a quite exceptional spring from April to June, with a severe drought and historically high temperatures. We thus experienced 40 days with maximum temperatures exceeding 25°C and a heat wave (with temperatures of 37 to 39°C i.e. +/- 100°F) on the 26th and 27th of June.

At first, the spring conditions

- promoted a precocious growth cycle (budding, flowering, fruit setting)
- limited the vegetative expression of the vines in favour of the fruits.

In summer, however, we returned to more traditional Atlantic conditions with a few wet and cool days between the 14th July and the 15th August. Ultimately, rains, throughout, the cycle remained within the seasonal average for Bordeaux.

An important fact: if, at the outset of summer, the vegetal cycle was three weeks ahead in comparison with 2010, the mediocre weather conditions at midsummer slowed down the process and erased much of the precocity acquired in the spring. This extension of the cycle was an undeniable qualitative element.

**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**  
**Vinification/**  
**Maturation**

19th September and 1st October

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** Just call them butter, 'cause they're on a roll! This is the third vintage in a row that Poyferré made one of the best wines of the vintage. This wine is gorgeous, with black cherry, cola and mashed sour blackberries. Layered, with nice length and good fruit. Shows some tannins.

**Cellaring** Drink 2013-2043  
**Scores/Awards**

**92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014

**91-94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

**94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014

**91-94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

**92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012

**90 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2014

**91-92 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2012

**94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2014

**93-95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012

**90-93 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012

**16 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012

**17.5 points** - Decanter.com - April 2012

**94 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012

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

**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 16, 2014

**91-93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 13, 2012

**92-94+ points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012

**93 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)

**90-93 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012

**16.5+ points** - Farr Vintner - April 2012

**18 points** - John Berry, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2012

**86 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012

**91 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - May 10, 2012 (score only)

**17.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

**92 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)

**17.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)

**17 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

*"Shows a warm charcoal note from the start, backed by melted fig, crushed blackberry and steeped black currant fruit. A strong graphite edge pins down the finish. Dark in profile, but defined and well-suited to mid-term cellaring. A very solid effort. Best from 2016 through 2026."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"A very ripe, fleshy, gutsy style, with mouth filling tar, espresso, braised fig and dark plum notes still waiting to meld fully. The broad, muscular finish has a nice briary edge. Impressive. Score range: 91-94"*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"This property, which has been on a qualitative tear over the last generation, has produced one of the most successful wines of 2011. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the rest Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, it is broad, rich, medium to full-bodied and dense. It boasts an inky/purple color as well as lots of concentration, silky tannins, and a bigger, richer mouthfeel than any of its St.-Julien peers. The result is one of the stars of the vintage."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Another super effort from this estate, Leoville Poyferre's 2011 possesses an opaque purple color in addition to a ripe, fragrant nose of black currant fruit, cedar, white chocolate and a touch of oak. Rich, layered and medium to full-bodied with unmistakable elegance and purity, vibrant acids and a fresh, lively personality, it will need 3-4 years of cellaring and should keep for two decades."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*"The Chateau Leoville Poyferre is a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot and 6% Cabernet Franc picked between 19th September and 1st October, sorted by optical machine. Astonishingly, it has a higher IPT than in 2010 at 94 compared to 82 last year. It has an attractive bouquet with fine delineation and freshness, fine tension and poise with exuberant blackberry and wild strawberry fruit infused with cedar and crushed stone. The palate is medium bodied with tensile tannins, a sharp thread of citric acidity and very good weight. It lacks a little harmony towards the finish that shows a little hardness, but I think this will soften to turn out to be one of the finest Saint Julien wines in a difficult vintage. Tasted April 2012."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"A silky, fruity wine with blueberry and dark chocolate. Mineral, too. Full body and chewy, with polished tannins. Pretty. Excellent second wine from Leoville Poyferre. Better in 2017."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This shows a currant and berries with dark chocolate character. Full and chewy with a bright acidity. Structured too. A little austere. Wait and see. Only about 40% of the normal production "*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is a really fruity wine that's opulent and gorgeously rich. There is a pepper edge, touches of new wood and a firm, dark core. Acidity and concentration are already integrated. Drink from 2018"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"93-95. Barrel sample. Ripe, fruity and powerful, this wine has intense Cabernet black-currant flavors, with plenty of richness and concentration. It shows the acidity and the bright fruit of the year."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Opaque, very deep purple-ruby. Deep, brooding nose hints at blackcurrant, graphite and cedar. Dense, rich and suave, with captivating sweetness to the flavors of blackcurrant, mint and flint. The finish is pure, creamy and long, with smooth spicy tannins I love this wine's pure black fruit nose, and its harmonious acidity really extends and lifts its flavors. This chateau has been on a roll of late."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Very dark purple. Scented but not intensely so. Very juicy with the tannins and acidity sublimated but awfully worked. Not quite natural somehow. And a bit of alcohol at the end."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"The 2011 Chateau Leoville Poyferre displays well-extracted blackcurrant Cabernet fruit, very good ripeness and good tannins, an impression of power with elegance to come later."*

- Decanter.com

*"Like this enormously, really good whooshing tannins, lovely freshness, tons of character, a real joy, with loads of potential. Such good weight of fruit, and clever use of oak. Yummy."*

- JA, The New Bordeaux

*"Deeply coloured and ambitiously oaked, this is a wine that needs time to integrate in barrel. At the moment, the oak flavours and tannins hold the upper hand, but beneath the staves there are appealing flavours of green malt, mint and tea leaf. I just hope that that the oak won't dry the fruit out over time. 8+ years."*

- TA, timatkin.com

*"Leoville Poyferre is on fire. Producing a wine this good in 2011 is really saying something. The complex nose of truffle, smoke, black cherry and earth lets you know the wine is good. If that did not seal the deal, the fresh, sweet, soft fruits and peppery finish is going to do the trick. This is a very good wine which will only get better with 3-5 years of bottle age."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

## Reviews

*“The Grand Vin represents 55% of the harvest. With good color, the wine opens with coffee, earth, black raspberry and cassis. Medium-bodied, tannic, bright and fresh, there is a brawny personality in the crisp boysenberry, cassis and tannic finish. 2011 Leoville Poyferre will not be fun to drink young. It will require a lot of time before it softens and comes around. 91-93 Pts “*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*“Deep and saturated look; lots of fruit and density on the nose as well as resin and ink; lots of fruit evident on the palate – bags of ripe blackcurrant fruit which is oak influenced but much more impressive richness here than in Leoville Barton. Tannins rounder and overall harmonious wine. Chewy tannins but lots of fruit here and good length. Heads and shoulders the best wine of St Julien on the day. Drink 2018-2030 92+ UGC Oct ’13 [Earlier note] Deep saturated look; very fine and pure on the nose; cassis; nice Cabernet; later opened up with a little more perfume; real focus here; lots of precision on the palate too; cassis again and real purity; density and purity; feels quite long haul potentially, certainly a little reticent over recent vintages. Good length. 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot 6% Cabernet Franc 13.7% alc 93-95 [Tasted 2/4/12 at the Chateau] Deep and saturated; very tight to the rim; creamy, polished and sophisticated nose; some lift from the oak; tight and precise; vein of fruit with real concentration; palate very loaded and precise; some density and dryness here but plenty of fruit to back it up. Little dry [drier than sample at chateau] on the finish but grip and chew suggest the fruit will cover the tannin and oak. Nice chew. 92-94+ [tasted twice at UGC 3/4/12 and 5/4/12] Apr ’12 UGC primeur tasting”*

*- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com*

*“Another estate which, without shouting it from the rooftops, has been quietly elevating itself to the very highest echelons of the Bordeaux hierarchy. The bouquet is one of the most opulent we experienced this year, laced with ripe black fruits. The palate is amazingly harmonious, with gorgeous integration between oak and fruit, and the purity and precision are awesome. Beautifully balanced, this is one of my stars of the vintage, as it has been for the past 2 years.”*

*- JB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants*

*“EN PRIMEUR - Deep garnet-red. Generous nose of ripe fruit and plum. Powerful, warm attack with aromas of cooked fruits that contrasts with a slightly lean, more linear mid-palate.”*

*- en.gilbertgaillard.com*

*“The fruit is exuberant on the nose, but the palate is dull with a block of tannins masking the flavours at this moment. This wine leans toward over-extraction and hence some of the nuances and subtle elements of its flavours are lost. Dry tannic finish. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young.”*

*- JCL, asianpalate.com*

*“Like its neighbour Léoville Barton, Poyferré is always very good value for money when first offered en primeur (compared with Las Cases anyway!). The consistently high quality and modest price mean that Poyferre is always a wine to consider purchasing en primeur as mature vintages tend to be much more expensive. Consultant oenologue Michel Rolland produces wines with a smoother, more fleshy character than the seriously structured wines of its neighbours. The result is a delicious St Julien that can usually charm early in its life and can stand the test of time. Made from a lower percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon than most Saint Juliens, this is 58% Cabernet Sauvignon with the rest Merlot and a dash of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, aged in 75% new oak. A dark, impressively black, colour. Lovely spice on the nose and plump for the vintage. A very well-rounded, smooth palate. This is a wine with rare opulence for the vintage. Impeccably balanced with some spicy oak and ripe tannins complimenting the smooth fruit. A 2011 that will give pleasure.”*

*- Farr Vintners*

*“The nose is rich deep black fruited profound. It feels fresher on the start of the palate with hints of red fruits that lighten and bring out a touch of spice. The back palate is sweet fruited well supported by the tannic structure.”*

*- Derek Smedley MW*

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