

# Château Leoville Poyferré 2012

CSPC# 742661

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot

## Appellation

St. Julien

## Classification

Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

## Website

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

## General Info

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 2012 vintage was characterised by a slow, late growth cycle due to a very cool and wet spring. The budburst was spread out over time and created a variation in the stages of development that was to be partially evened out by the dry, sunny period that began in mid-July. The colour change and ripening occurred in ideal weather conditions that continued through to harvest-time. The grapes remained perfectly healthy despite rainy spells during picking.

## 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

) It was picked between 8th October and 19th October

## 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

The Cuvelier family's flagship estate has been on fine form in recent years. Their style is sumptuous, velvety, quite modern St Julien, but with the underlying structure to age for many many years. There is a beautiful bouquet of decadent dark berries, gravelly minerality, humidior, cedar and flowers. It is quite heady and perfumed with a lovely seductive core of opulent fruit and large scale tannic structure.

## Production

15,405 cases made

## Cellaring

Drink 2020-2045

## Scores/Awards

**91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015

**90-93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013

**92+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015

**89-91 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013

**91-93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013

**92 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015

**92-93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013



**Scores/Awards**

- 93-95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 11, 2013  
**87-89 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2013  
**17.5 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013  
**17.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013  
**90 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013  
**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015  
**91-93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 23, 2013  
**91-92+ points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013  
**93 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**17 points** - Farr Vintner - March 2013  
**90-93 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013  
**89 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013  
**90-92 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 24, 2013  
**17.5 points** - John Berry, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2013  
**17 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**17 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**17 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)  
**87-89 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)

*"A solid, muscular version, with a slightly chewy feel along the edges, while the core of steeped plum, anise and blackberry paste waits in reserve. Reveals ample graphite details on the finish, with a warm fruitcake note chiming in. Just needs some cellaring to lose the burly edge. Best from 2017 through 2024. 15,405 cases made"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Solid, with good flesh around the core of plum and blackberry fruit. Shows ample dark toast and ganache notes, displaying chewy yet integrated grip. Score range: 90-93"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Owned by the Cuvelier family since 1920, this property over the last 20 years has made some great wines in the Médoc. The 2012, a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc, is opaque purple, thick-looking, and from bottle much more impressive than it was from barrel. This very extracted, rich, full-bodied, masculine Léoville Poyferré needs a good 5-8 years of bottle age and should evolve well for at least 20-25 years. Loads of blackberry and cassis, crushed rock and graphite notes are present in this medium to full-bodied, impressively concentrated and pure wine. Forget it for a while, as this is one of the bigger, richer Médoc's."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"This wine seemed primary and not totally filled out or complete. No doubt it will put on some weight given the significant Merlot content in the final blend. There is a certain firmness, stiffness and lack of intensity on the mid-palate, and some tannins kick in in the finish. Nevertheless, there is more to this wine than first meets the palate. It is medium to full-bodied with an opaque color, good ripeness and some attractive weight, but is closed and hard. It needs time to pull itself together, and it should turn out to be an excellent, possibly outstanding effort."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted twice with consistent notes, the Grand Vin is a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot (there is no Cabernet Franc unlike in 2011.) It was picked between 8th October and 19th October at 36hl/ha, when there was a torrential downpour and two plots were spoiled. The grapes were sorted on an Italian optical sorting machine. There is certainly impressive purity and intensity on the nose with ripe blackberry dark plum and touches of vanilla, a little more exotic than the 2011 this time last year. The palate is medium bodied with ripe sweet tannins. It is typically relatively modern in style, quite opulent for a 2012 with a rounded, velvety finish with plush new oak (85%). Very fine. Tasted April 2013."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"On the nose and palate this red suggests red and black plums with cedar notes and hints of cloves. Full body, firm tannins, fresh acidity and an intense finish. Minerally, too. Polished tannins. Drink in 2020."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

**Reviews** *"This is chewy with a balanced and polished tannin structure. Full body, with very good depth. Long finish. It keeps going on and on. Very well done. Better than 2011. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, and 6% Petit Verdot. Merlot made it happen here."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"94–96. Barrel sample. This very ripe, full-bodied wine is powered by sweet blackberries and solid tannins. It is a full, concentrated and complex wine that has a great future."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Deep ruby. Subdued aromas of smoky blackberry and violet, along with a slightly raw herbal/peppery component. Then supple and round in the mouth, but with a diffuse quality to the dark berry and chocolate flavors. A wine of modest complexity, finishing with only average length and with slightly bitter tannins."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Dark purple. Some real energy hidden in this, not desperately expressive wine. Voluptuous on the palate. Gosh what a lot of effort has gone into this. Full marks for effort...Lots of lusciousness and then it's drawn to a dry close like someone tightening a purse string. Though I'd guess not too much purse-string tightening while making this...Appealing freshness."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Dense purple-red, well-concentrated ripeness, with 2012 greenness to be absorbed as it ages, good wine, good future."*

- SS, Decanter.com

*"Very much more open on the nose, bright cheerful violet purple on the rim, some glass-staining anthocyanins. Quite a sweet, soft nose, some pretty fruit extraction. This is a big wine, but they have sweet edges to the experience. Good astringency, not bitter, perhaps a touch new oak lipstick, but this is good. 93 / 18. Highly recommended. Drink 2021-2035."*

JA, The New Bordeaux

*"Sweet, soft, polished, ripe berries, gentle tannins and a long, graceful, smoky, fruit filled finish, with enough freshness and fruit to allow the wine to leave an impression. This is a very nice wine, and it's quite an accomplishment for the vintage."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"From an assemblage of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.4% alcohol. The pH is 3.8. The wine will be aged in 85% new French for 20 months. Licorice, black cherry, coffee bean and stone notes make up the aromatics. On the palate, the wine is soft, round, medium bodied, and fresh, showing signs of oak in the finish. 91-93 Pts"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Deep and tight to the rim; saturated colour; healthy purple at rim; lots of blackcurrant cassis; layered and mannered; precise; blackcurrant notes, some smoke and meat; tight palate, lots of fruit evident; minerals; good focus again; lots of fruit here but very focused. Didier Cuvelier thought it closed on the day. Very expressive nose. Looks very good indeed, should blossom further. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot 13.4% alc, IPT 82, pH 3.8. Tasted Monday April 8, 2013 at the Chateau. 92-93+ [Additional notes from UGC] Deep and saturated look; ripe; lots of fruit on the nose; thicker and layered; nice palate with good depth and density. Tannic grippy finish but need a bit of time. UGC Thursday, April 11, 2013. 91-92+ [Additional note] Deep and saturated look; ripe and deep on the nose; smoky notes, blackcurrants; lots of finesse; palate has a lot of material; nicely composed; layers of fruit if firm tannins at the back. Chewy finish but very good material. UGC Tuesday April 9, 2013. 91-92+"*

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

**Reviews**

*"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. The blend here this year is 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot. Dark colour with sweet black fruit on the nose. Multi-layered on the palate with black cherry ripeness, warmth, good density and a polished sheen. A very good Leoville Poyferre that reminds us of the great 2001."*

- Farr Vintners

*"There is a lot happening on the nose the richness of cassis underpinned by fresh bilberry. The fruit on the mid palate is ripe enriching with rounded tannins helping the fleshiness. The back palate has depth of fruit brooding black fruits and liquorice layers of flavour. 2020-30"*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"Good concentration in this difficult vintage. Flavours range from plums to blackberries and the palate is quite densely packed with flavours. The tannins are supple and round with good finish. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (06-Apr-2013)"*

- JCL, asianpalate.com

*"Spices and morello cherry on the nose which displays a measure of heat. Refined tannins framed by roundness yet somewhat limited freshness"*

- en.gilbertgaillard.com

*"The harvest was so late in 2012 that, apart from 2008, you have to search through the record books by more than 30 years to find a comparable vintage. Despite these challenging conditions, the wine, which is dominated by 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, is brimming with layer upon layer of enticing blackberry fruit, a tasty minerality and fine-grained tannins. 32% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot complete the blend and help to create a wine which continues the recent successes of this highly thought of property"*

- JB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

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