

# Château Leoville du Marquis de Las Cases 2020

CSPC# 813891

750mlx6

13.68% alc./vol.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Grape Variety</b>  | 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 8% 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: 3.65 g/L    pH: 3.80    IPT: 79  |
| <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>        | After a rainy and mild winter, a wet and warm spring confirmed the general earliness that marked the beginning of 2020. Thereafter, the weather conditions became more favourable to the smooth development of the vine and its fruits, even if we could deplore a lower volume than the previous year. With low rainfall from the second half of August onwards, as well as good temperature variations, the grapes showed ideal aromatic and phenolic ripeness at harvest.<br>The Grand Vin de Léoville Las Cases is already particularly complete, fresh and elegant. With an extraordinary length, it combines tension with the fullness of complex aromas and perfect ripeness.  |
| <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. Totaling over 200 acres, Leoville Las Cases vineyards are comprised of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.5% Merlot, and .5% Cabernet Franc. |
| <b>Harvest</b>        | From 12th to 27th September 2020  |
| <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 Grand Vin is the product of exceptional terroirs from the former Léoville estate. These terroirs are located mainly in the Clos Léoville Las Cases, which you pass as you leave Saint-Julien village for Pauillac. They extend over nearly 60ha producing Cabernet Sauvignons and Cabernet Francs with a complex, polished expression and characteristics which are totally unique to the Grand Vin of Léoville du Marquis de Las Cases and have been widely recognized for years   |
| <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.   |
| <b>Production</b>     | 10,000 cases made.  |
| <b>Cellaring</b>      | Drink 2030-2045   |



**Scores/Awards** **96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023  
**97+ points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023  
**96-98 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021  
**99 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023  
**98 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2023  
**98-99 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021  
**96-98 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021  
**18 points** - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021  
**93 points** - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023  
**96 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021  
**97 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023  
**96-98 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021  
**96 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021  
**97 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023  
**96-98 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021  
**98+ points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023  
**95-98 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021  
**98 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023  
**95-97+ points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021  
**19+ points** - Matthew Jukes - April 2021  
**97 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023  
**98-99 points** - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2021  
**95-97 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021  
**98-99 points** - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021  
**94-96 points** - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021  
**98-100 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2021

**Reviews** *“Sleek and slightly austere in feel, with a cold cast iron note framing a core of tightly compressed cassis, plum and blackberry fruit flavors. Shows subtle flashes of tobacco and smoldering charcoal, as the finish lingers with verve. A stoic red. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Merlot. Best from 2030 through 2045.”*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*“The 2020 Léoville Las Cases is a classic in the making, unwinding in the glass with aromas of cherries, cassis, loamy soil, violets, and dark chocolate framed by a discreet touch of new oak. Full-bodied, broad, and layered, it's rich and concentrated, with a deep core of fruit framed by sweet, powdery tannins and lively acids. Concluding with a long, resonant finish, it's built for the cellar.*

*One of the greatest and most consistent estates of the Médoc, Léoville Las Cases is in terrific form today. The core of the estate is the 50-hectare "Clos," surrounded by walls and bordering the Gironde to the immediate south of its neighbor, Latour. In the vineyards, where Cabernet Sauvignon rules, the team are experimenting with cover crops and biodynamic methods, and in the cellars and chai, winemaking remains very traditional. Readers looking for more insights into Las Cases are directed to my vertical tasting report, published in the August 2022 Week 3 issue of The Wine Advocate.”*

- WK, Wine Advocate

*“The 2020 Léoville Las Cases is a blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 8% Merlot, aging in 80% new French oak barriques, weighing in with an alcohol of 13.68%, a pH of 3.8 and an IPT (tannins index) of 79. The Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested from the 21st to the 27th of September, the Merlot from the 12th to the 15th of September and the Cabernet Franc on the 18th and 19th of September. With an opaque purple-black color, it slowly unfurls to reveal beguiling notes of fresh blackcurrants, Morello cherries, candied violets, and dark chocolate, giving way to an undercurrent of crushed rocks, unsmoked cigars, clove oil and fragrant earth. The medium-bodied palate is a powerhouse of energy, delivering tightly wound red and black fruits, mineral and floral layers, supported by fantastic tension and incredibly ripe, silt-like tannins. The finish has jaw-dropping fragrance and depth.*

*“In six months, from November to June, we got more rain than we do in an average entire year,” Pierre Graffeuille, managing director at Léoville Las Cases told me. In June, it moved to a hot and very dry summer. The vines were not so affected by the drought, depending on the terroir. But terroir was a key element to overcome the drought. Proximity to the river was beneficial—it is always cooler by the river. Also, the percentage of clay in the soil was a key factor. Luckily, we have clay subsoils in the estates. The last key was the age of the vine. At Las Cases, the vines are more than 50 years old. Sand and gravel-based soils were more*

*challenging. The [berries] were very concentrated due to the drought, but they were also very fresh. We harvested early compared to 2018. We started the 10th of September and finished on the 27th of September. Extraction had to be very gentle, because the skins were very thick and there was a lot of tannin. We lowered the amount of pump-overs by 30% compared to 2019. And we maintained cooler fermentation temperatures to avoid to overextraction.”*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“Made from 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, and 8% Merlot, the 2020 Leoville Las Cases is deep garnet-purple in color. After a swirl or two, it erupts from the glass with explosive scents of blackcurrant cordial, stewed blackberries, juicy blackberries, and violets, leading to suggestions of licorice, cinnamon toast, and fertile loam with a touch of truffles. The medium-bodied palate is tightly wound with loads of nuanced black fruit, earthy, and floral layers, supported by very fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and multi-layered.”*

- LPB, Wine Independent

*“A linear and very racy wine with super fine tannins that run the length of the wine. Superb. It’s full-bodied yet really focused and polished with a length and intensity. Lots of currants and graphite. Very classy and fine. The new 1996. Give it six to seven years to come around.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This is incredibly classic in style with so much currant, lead pencil, crushed stone and sweet tobacco. It’s full-bodied with minerally, stoney and powerful tannins. It goes on and on. Real Las Cases here. Solid as a rock. Progresses to violet, graphite, and licorice at the end.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“The wine's richness comes both from the dark tannins and the pure, classic black currant flavors. Acidity, yes, but surrounded by dense fruits and tannins that give the wine considerable structure and the potential to age for many years. An impressive wine.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 8% Merlot. Cask sample. Very deep colour. Dense and reserved with an abundance of dark, ripe fruit. Tannins really very fine, providing length and persistence but no aggression. A measured wine with good concentration and a saline freshness but without the muscle seen some years. More St-Julien than Pauillac this year. (JL) 13.7%. Drink 2030 – 2050.”*

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*“Beautiful fragrance, so floral and open, pink, and purple flowers with red and black fruits. Lively, expressive but rich, heavily scented with hints of milk chocolate. Supple, this has energy from the start, yet there is an immediate density and a savoury edge of black liquorice and aniseed with some fresh mint and a continuing florality. Still a little exuberant, coiled, and pent up, but detailed and nuanced. The fruit purity and precision is excellent, the weight is perfect and this has an undercurrent of soft salinity, a minerality with wet stone nuances. Will take a few years to come around, still with a kick of heat on the finish that suggests it’s a serious wine with more to give. Such a long finish.”*

- GH, Decanter.com

*“A subtle intensity where the power steals up on you through the palate - this is an excellent example of what Las Cases can deliver. Intellectual, concentrated and reined in for the foreseeable future. You get the full array of serious St-Julien character - pencil lead, cigar box, cassis bud, bilberry, earth, and granite-edged tannins, this needs time. Very little press wine was used because this has such a plainly evident natural intensity. Needs time, but knowing how this estate is a slow burner even in generous vintages, you are going to need a lot of patience for this vintage to reach its drinking window. Impressive, not yet showing its heart. May be up scored once in bottle. This is 1% less than 2018 and 0.5% less than in 2019 in terms of alcohol. 3.65pH. A yield of 34hl/ha. Drinking Window 2029 – 2045.”*

- JA, Decanter.com

## Reviews

*“Richly textured from the first moment, pencil lead, cassis, black cherry, cigar box, liquorice, and espresso, just waves of utterly gorgeous flavours. I highly recommend that if you can find a way to taste a young Las Cases, it is worth your time, because the bare bones of what it will become are there and remain visible for a few years before the entire thing clamps shut for a decade or more, prizing open only one chink at a time. There are edges of violet and smoked caramel here, revealing a generous Las Cases compared to many vintages, but it will close down like the rest do, surely as night follows day. 50% new oak. The alcohol level is 1% less than 2018 and 0.5% less than in 2019, 3.65ph, 34hl/ha yield.”*

- JA, janeanson.com

*“Dark garnet in color, the wine pops with aromas of tobacco leaf, cigar box, cedar, herbs, black currants, coffee, and spice. Refined, fresh, polished, and firm, the fruit is vibrant, long, and intense. The tannins are ripe, almost creamy in texture. The finish is long, regal, and compelling, leaving you with a layer of black currants and cassis. Give this at least 12-15 years before popping a cork and enjoy it for the next 3 decades after that. The wine is a blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, 13.68% ABV, 3.80 pH. The harvest took place from September 12 - September 27, making this the earliest vintage since 1989.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2020 Léoville–Las Cases was picked September 12–29 and matured in 80% new oak with 13.68° alcohol. The Cabernet Sauvignon is in the driving seat on the nose, offering almost saturnine black fruit, pencil shavings and cedar, perhaps one of the most Pauillac-like bouquets that I have noticed on this wine out of barrel, which is no surprise considering its vines adjoin that appellation. The palate is medium-bodied, strict and linear at first, that Pauillac tincture the continuing theme thanks to conspicuous graphite/pencil lead notes interwoven into the black fruit. There is plenty of freshness here and impressive weight, yet no sense of heaviness toward the finish. Drink 2030-2070.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2020 Léoville Las Cases has developed into a powerhouse. Then again, that is Las Cases. En primeur, I thought the 2020 was a bit shy, but its true personality has to emerge. Blackberry jam, gravel, spice, menthol, licorice, espresso, and plum all saturate the palate. Vivid and explosive, the 2020 is dizzyingly rich, with plenty of Las Cases tannins that will require patience. I am not sure when the 2020 will be ready to drink, but it won't be anytime soon. Las Cases is one of the wines of the vintage in 2020, that much is pretty clear. Best after 2032. Rating: 98+.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2020 Léoville Las Cases comes across as a super-classic Saint-Julien that combines mid-weight structure of previous decades, with the greater textural finesse that has become the norm here in recent years. A shy introvert, the 2020 Las Cases won't impress with size or brawn as is often the case, but with a total sense of finesse. Readers with classically leaning palates will flip out over the 2020. I can't wait to watch it evolve, hopefully for many decades to come. It is certainly one of the standouts of the year at this point.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“Another 2020 that's going to demand patience, the 2020 Chateau Leoville Las Cases is a Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated blend that includes 11% Cabernet Franc and 8% Merlot that was raised in 80% new French oak. It's a regal, medium to full-bodied, concentrated, flawlessly balanced 2020 with a pure core of cassis and darker currant fruits, a layered, seamless mouthfeel that carries substantial tannins, perfectly integrated oak, and subtle floral, mineral, and leafy herb nuances. Playing in the concentrated yet focused and structured style of the vintage, it's going to need a decade to hit the early phases of its prime drinking window and will have 50-75 years of longevity. Best After 2035.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The 2020 Léoville Las-Cases, matured in 80% new oak and bottled in July, has retained that alluring Pauillac-like bouquet with disarming purity and intensity. There is a little more blue fruit joining the chorus line compared to its showing in barrel. Wonderful delineation. The palate is beautifully balanced with pliant, fine-boned tannins that frame the silky-smooth black fruit. Strawberry, cassis, and spicy notes percolate through with aeration and flourish on the finish. This fulfills all its potential from barrel - a quite stunning Saint-Julien and a great Las-Cases.”*

- NM, Vinous

**Reviews** *“Hitting 13.68% in alcohol with a Ph of 3.8 and an IPT of 79, it shows the dense, concentrated, focused style of the vintage and it's going to be one of the longer-lived wines of the vintage. Deep purple-hued, with an incredible sense of minerality in its blackcurrant and black cherry fruits, it's full-bodied, has a rich, layered mid-palate, lots of tannins, and a great finish. It's a beautiful wine and holds onto the more inward, concentrated style of the vintage while still showing serious depth of fruit. It's going to take a decade (or more) of bottle age to get anywhere close to the early stages of maturity but will keep for 30-40 years. 95-97+.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Noble and refined, intellectually stimulating and respectfully reserved, this is a Las Cases with mesmerising deportment and it delivers its message with complete confidence. In 2020, this powerful lion has taken a few steps away from the muscular stance for which it is famous and so the perfume and palate are incredibly composed. There are plenty of gorgeous red fruit highlights among the 92% Cabernet notes and as Franc overtakes Merlot in the blend this appears to heighten the high notes and floral details in the aromatics while preserving amazing freshness on the finish. Direct, super-long, precision-cut and incredibly refined, Las Cases has captured the energy of the vintage and arranged it with the skill of expert marquetry on the palate. There are few wines as beautiful or as detailed as this one in 2020.”*  
- Matthew Jukes

*“For such a youthful wine a clear fragrance of cassis, wild blueberry, sour cherry, also clear floral tones. In the mouth immediately salty, in addition densely subdued with fleshy-grainy tannins, a velvety texture, firm acidity, but a surprising suppleness given the phenolic power, ripe juicy fruit and savoury-spicy Cabernet notes show on the finish.”*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“(81% CS, 11% CF, 8% M; 13.7% ABV; 80% new)  
Dense to smell, clearly gravelly, freshly black-fruit ripe; fairly full, but in no way heavy, fairly concentrated, but not strongly so, with a fresh defining acidity and a very fine-grained tannin, a lovely dense “midweight” impression, not a particularly “big” wine (not 1986, not 2010), just a beautiful, complete balance; moderately deep, freshly sweet, long across the palate, graceful, refined, complex, aromatic, satisfying, and with great length to finish. Gorgeous wine. Everything there at a slightly lower dynamic. Superb. And likely accessible relatively early for Las Cases, so fine are the tannins. 2030–50+.”*  
- MS, The World of Fine Wine

---