

Château Leoville Poyferré 2014

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| CSPC# 790276 | 750mlx12 | 14.0% alc./vol. |
| CSPC# 814275 | 750mlx6 | 14.0% alc./vol. |
| CSPC# 890695 | 750mlx12 | 14.0% alc./vol. |

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| Grape Variety | 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot |
| Appellation | St. Julien |
| Classification | Second Growth. Grand Cru Classe in 1855. |
| Website | http://www.leoville-poyferre.fr/english/news.html |
| General Info | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| Winemaker | Michel Rolland consults |
| Vintage | <p>A prodigious succession of mild weather, humidity, heat and sunshine characterizes the 2014 vintage. The Indian summer helped promote perfect ripeness of the grapes. The winter was exceptionally mild and characterized by high humidity (only 7 days of frost). The beginning of spring was sunnier than usual. Temperatures went up slowly and bud break was early. The vines grew steadily thanks to regular temperatures and rainfall. Flowering was also early, occurring over a period of temperature fluctuations and light rain. June finally experienced a real warming (with peaks above 30°C from the first two days of summer) and even beat the records for temperature and sunshine since 1920! With constant heat, July was significantly warmer than June, and recorded only 51mm of rain throughout the month. August was a little cooler, the first half marked by light, regular rainfall. The incredible sunshine in September totaling 265 hours, +31% compared to the average of the last 30 years, gave the vintage all its qualitative potential.</p> <p>The magnificent late season associated with constant care and attention in the vineyard gave birth to this successful vintage. Its quality is the reward for energy invested, and approaches that of great classic vintages.</p> |
| 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 | 1st to 14th October |
| Vinification/ Maturation | Léoville Poyferré traditionally produced the softest and most supple wine of the 3 Léoville'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 <i>grand vin</i> 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 | Deep, bright colour. The nose is subtle and complex. It reveals notes of red fruit, spices, and liquorice upon swirling. The palate is fresh and intense. It is fruity and fleshy on the palate. The finish is supported by fine, racy tannins that are long and integrated, and beautiful volume in the mouth. 2014, a harmonious vintage. |



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| Serve with | Leoville Poyferré is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Leoville Poyferré is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted braised and grilled dishes. |
| Production | 15,000 cases made |
| Cellaring | Drink 2021-2045 |
| Scores/Awards | <p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015</p> <p>93+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015</p> <p>94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015</p> <p>16.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015</p> <p>92 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - June 2015</p> <p>94 points - Stephen Brook, Decanter.com - October 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017</p> <p>93-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015</p> <p>17.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2015</p> <p>91-94 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015</p> <p>95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017</p> <p>92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>18.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p> <p>17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p> |
| Reviews | <p><i>“Very pure, with a beautiful beam of violet and plum sauce carried by a chiseled graphite spine. Gorgeous anise and roasted apple wood notes are inlaid seamlessly on the finish. Shows ample grip and drive. Rock-solid. Best from 2020 through 2030. 15,000 cases made.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Very stylish, with blackberry, black cherry and black currant fruit already melded together with subtle charcoal and ganache notes. Offers a velvety feel but isn't shy on grip or depth. This is sneakily long. A lovely showing. Score range: 92-95.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“The 2014 Leoville-Poyferré was surprisingly backward and tight on the nose (usually it is the most expressive and generous Léoville in its youth). The precision and focus are intact, but it is broody and sultry at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with firm structure, which suggests that it has turned volte face since its opulent showing in barrel. Overall, this comes across as perhaps a slightly more austere and masculine wine from Didier Cuvelier, though that is not a criticism, just an observation. I would like to see a little more persistence on the finish, but the tidings bode well for this mercurial and fascinating Léoville-Poyferré. I can see it improving with bottle age, hence the plus sign against my score.”</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“The Château Léoville-Poyferré 2014 is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot picked between 1 and 14 October, a little later than some of its Saint Julien neighbors. It has one of the most opulent set of aromatics of the appellation, with crème de cassis, boysenberry jam and macerated small dark cherries - an extravagant bouquet in the context of the growing season. The palate is full-bodied with great density and power. There is a lot of weight in this Saint Julien, spicy in the mouth with a healthy pinch of white pepper towards the finish that feels long in the mouth, although I would like to see more finesse coming through by the time of bottling. As usual, this is one of the most decadent Saint Julien wines, but one that is well-crafted by Didier Cuvelier. Give this several years in bottle.”</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> |

- Reviews** *"A ripe, generous and substantial wine for this appellation with some real concentration, a solid core of ripe tannins and enough acidity to carry the long, savory finish. Needs four to five years to show its true potential. A beauty. Try in 2022."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Very fine and pretty with blueberry, mineral and hazelnut character. Full body, succulent fruits, and tannins, as well as a long finish. Savory. Very polished as always."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "The wine is concentrated with tannins that come from both the firm fruit and the wood aging. It is packed with blackberry flavors that come through the structure strongly. The velvet texture (that is just a hint at the moment) is going to bring out the richness of this wine produced with consultation from Michel Rolland. Drink from 2024."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "93–95. Barrel Sample. While the wine does have an austere side, with dark tannins and intensely fresh acidity, it also has plenty of ripe fruit notes. It has just a hint of extraction at the end that needs to soften out."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Dark crimson. Meaty with a note of treacle on the nose. Simpler than some. Relatively round and approachable but with lovely balance. The fruit almost hides the tannins - which are certainly there. Just a little spindly on the end. But very appetising. Rather glorious really. Drink 2024-2038 16.5++."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Richly extracted aroma and palate "quite a broad style as is usual for Poyferré, and a very good future ahead. Always the richest of the three Léoville's."*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "Very deep red. Bold, ripe and fleshy blackcurrant nose steeped in new oak, without being too overbearing. Rich, dense, and flamboyant, very concentrated, and intense. Fleshy and forthright, it has a long finish that's spicy and complex."*
- SB, Decanter.com
- "A very good rather than a great Léoville-Poyferré perhaps, but this is still a pretty smart Saint Julien from Didier Cuvelier and his team. Cakey and sweet with serious, age worthy tannins, this needs time to digest its oak, but should develop into a typically impressive red."*
- TA, timatkin.com
- "There is an elegance to this wine that meshes perfectly with layers of ripe, silky fruit, refined tannins, complex aromatics and a long, fruit filled, concentrated, long finish."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Intense in hue with silky, bright tannins, this wine offers the palate an assortment of plump, ripe, dark-red skinned fruit and a long, lingering finish with distinctive depth, structure, balance, and brightness in the end notes. Blending 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.25% alcohol."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Deep and saturated look; lots of fruit and matter on the nose; spices; fruitcake notes; focused and precision; crushed rocks and the lift from the new oak; lots of matter on the palate; spices; menthol notes; blackcurrants; olives; concentrated and formidable. Great length and extract but tannins ripe. Lots of depth and matter here. Drink 2025-2035. Tasted UGC 31 March 2015. 93-95 [Earlier note]

Deep and saturated look; earthy purple meniscus; legs; opaque at centre; substantial; little brooding at first; seam of blackcurrants and cassis on aeration with minerality; formidable; opens up on the aromas; quite fat fruit beneath; fine palate; bold fruit but nicely precise; structured and taut at present; early start but has concentration and length. Excellent length in fact. Usual story of precise fruit and polished tannins. This will fill out. Feels akin to 2005. [60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, 13.25% alc, IPT 86, TA 3.45, pH 3.71]. Drink 2025-2035. Tasted at Léoville Poyferré 30 March 2015. 93-95.”
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Like its neighbour Léoville Barton, Poyferré is always good value for money when first offered en primeur. 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. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, picked 1st-14th October at 36hl/ha. Deep purple colour. Big, intense, and juicy nose packed with black cherry, plum, blueberry and blackcurrant with an overlay of creamy vanilla and sweet spice from new French oak. The palate is concentrated, stylish, and opulent in real Léoville Poyferré style. Thick textured with plenty of glycerol and generosity from the ripe black fruit core. Slick, modern, plush, and rich with a refreshing lift from acidity. Excellent balance in a hedonistic style, this is a delicious, standout wine in 2014.”
- Farr Vintners

“The nose has a smoky charm fragrant with woodland violets and the palate starts fresh light with bilberry and bramble. Concentrated and rich in the middle with depth of flavour the tannins support but feel ripe. Sweet fruit fills out the back palate and the finish has depth of flavour. 2028-45.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“Dark berries and spices are attractive on the nose followed by wonderful weight and intensity on the palate. Supple and velvety with gorgeous tannins that caress. This wine will age beautifully over the next decade.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2014 Léoville Poyferré is gorgeous. Dark, sumptuous, and ample on the palate, it possesses remarkable depth. Dark cherry, plum, smoke, scorched earth, licorice, and menthol all flesh out as this radiant, deeply expressive wine shows off its considerable pedigree. The 2014 is going to need time to fully come together, but it is super-impressive. Tasted two times.”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2014 Léoville Poyferré is impressive. A big, broad-shouldered St. Julien, the 2014 blossoms in the glass with superb depth and richness. Dark red cherry, plum, spice, menthol, crushed flowers, herbs, and leather are some of the notes that burst onto the palate in an energetic, tightly wound Poyferré. The 2014 finishes with notable depth and huge, explosive intensity, all of which suggest it will require considerable cellaring. This is without question one of the stars of the vintage.”
- AG, Vinous
