

Las Cases

2023

TERROIR

Le Grand Enclos de Las Cases renferme un terroir d'une très grande complexité. Issu majoritairement de graves du Quaternaire sur sous-sol gravo-sableux et gravo-argileux, on rencontre également des argiles plus ou moins profondes et compactes, parfois même affleurantes. La proximité de la Gironde est responsable de cette grande diversité de sols, créée au fil des périodes géologiques par superpositions successives. De plus, le fleuve génère un microclimat bien spécifique qui permet une maturité très précoce des raisins et protège le vignoble du gel. Ce camaïeu de combinaisons géologiques influe sur le développement de la vigne et sur la constitution des raisins. Ce terroir incomparable offre au grand vin sa personnalité unique.



MILLÉSIME 2023

Le millésime 2023 à Saint-Julien a débuté par un débourrement précoce fin mars, suivi d'une croissance rapide de la vigne grâce aux températures élevées de mai et juin. Cela a nécessité une exécution rapide des travaux en vert. L'été, marqué par un temps chaud et des pluies bien réparties, a favorisé une maturation régulière des raisins. Les vendanges de nos Merlots ont commencé sous un beau temps le 9 septembre, suivies de quelques précipitations sans impact sur l'état sanitaire des vignes. La deuxième moitié s'est déroulée de nouveau sous un climat ensoleillé, permettant d'atteindre la parfaite maturité des Cabernets Sauvignons. Ce millésime exigeant a donné naissance à des vins profonds et élégants, à la fois purs et raffinés, dotés d'un excellent potentiel de garde.

INFORMATIONS TECHNIQUES

Assemblage : 86% Cab. Sauvignon, 10% Cab. Franc, 4% Merlot

Date de vendange : Du 9 septembre au 2 octobre 2023

Degré : 13 % - Acidité Totale : 4,13 gH₂SO₄/l



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NOTES DE DÉGUSTATION



97-99/100

ALEXANDRE MA

Château Léoville Las Cases has always been known for projecting a grand and imposing image, like a lion-hearted king who commands respect and admiration. However, in the 2023 vintage, I noticed a different side to this wine – a more approachable and gentle side that anyone can enjoy. This king does not need a hundred-meter-long ceremonial guard to assert his authority but instead stands among the people, basking in their flowers and praises. The aromas and flavors of the 2023 vintage are exceptionally mild. The scents of waxberry, mulberry, and cherry are accompanied by the gentle fragrance of wisteria that leisurely meanders through the glass. This wine has a precise acidity that soothes the soul, and the palate is as exquisite as Suzhou embroidery, which is ice-fresh and smooth. When you think the tasting concludes, a resurgence of graphite powder rises again, heralding a second journey on the finish.

98/100

DECANTER/GEORGINA HINDLE

Bright, gorgeous, expressive aromatics of dark purple and black fruit. A sense of opulence and clear Cabernet effects on the nose. Supple and agile, juicy and succulent, a rich almost thick cherry juiciness, fleshy, ripe and cool. Lovely minty, liquorice and graphite undertone that keep the freshness going to a long finish. It's a bit bolder than I expected for LLC and also a bit bigger for the vintage. A characterful style, certainly not missing any body but retains pure charm – this is out to please, certainly not tough or too serious, this is more easy to approach. Lots of herbal elements, pencil lead, graphite and wet stone with cloves and cinnamon. It's still compact no doubt, but despite the power there's finesse and it ends clean and lifted. Up there with the best of the vintage. With 4% Merlot, it's the lowest percentage ever in the blend – 2022 was 5%. 43hl/ha yield. Harvest September 9 to October 2. 6.6% press. 3.79pH. Ageing 18 months, 50% new.

97-98/100

JAMES SUCKLING

Exceptional quality of cabernet comes through here, with a lot of graphite, lead pencil, crushed stone, walnut and currant fruit. It grows and expands



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on the palate, remaining in focus at the same time. Refined and seamless with beautiful tannins that show power and intensity. It rolls across the palate with verve.

98/100

JANE ANSON

Structured and powerful, this is not as forbidding as En Primeur in many vintages of Las Cases, showing both flesh and florality, but the tannic walls of this great estate remain fully in place, coupled with layers of cassis and bilberry fruits, subtle hints of bitter aniseed, fennel, cola, espresso, squid ink, textured slate tannins. Expect inky depths and unashamed austerity, a wine that will take its time to open, making no excuses for demanding patience. So so good, with a balance and classicism that delivers on the best of the vintage. 80% new oak, 6.6% press wine, 3.79h, harvest September 9 to October 2, 43hl/h yield. First year in the new cellars, with 43.5ha going into the main wine from the historic walled vineyard site.

97/100

JEAN-MARC QUARIN

Couleur noire. Nez intense, fin, pur, fruité et subtil. Plus floral que d'habitude. Fond de réglisse. Touche de goudron. Profond à l'agitation du verre. Ample à l'attaque, juteux en milieu de bouche et complexe dans ses arômes, le vin prend ses aises. Puis il subjugue éclatant de fruits, caressant, en nous offrant une grande finale séveuse et profonde, au grain de tannin fin. Car ici, on peut parler de grain de tannin. Une notion qui est peu répandue dans ce millésime cette année. Notez dans l'assemblage la très forte proportion de cabernet. (96%). Un record.

94-97/100

JEB DUNNUCK

The 2023 Château Leoville Las Cases is another absolute classic 2023 from the Médoc. Pure crème de cassis, leather, graphite, violets, and a Latour-like sense of minerality define the aromatics, and it's incredibly concentrated, has medium to full-bodied richness, a pure, focused, structured mouthfeel, and plenty of both tannins and acidity. While the tannins are incredibly ripe and polished, this beauty is nevertheless one for the cellar and will demand bottle age.

19+/20



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MATTHEW JUKES

This is not only a stunning Las Cases, but it is also likely to be remembered as a genuine classic. There is extraordinary power delivered here with such control and command that it does its best to confound the senses. On the one hand, ordered and disciplined and then, at once, refreshing, and decorous, there is a style of grandeur here that can only be found at this mighty Saint-Julien property. While the delivery of the beautiful fruit flavours is carefully controlled, at times, bordering on balletic, unexpected moments of flamboyance catch one unawares. I find this style of Las Cases riveting, not least because the considerable percentage of Cabernet, relatively low alcohol and crystal-clear acidity ought to signal a wine of uncommon strictness and composure, but there is an enchanting core of pure cassis that grabs the senses and doesn't let go.

97-98/100

RVF

Composé à 96 % de cabernets, ce 2023 est fantastique de définition et de puissance. La matière, tout en muscle, est éclatante, juteuse et les tanins sont parfaitement extraits. Mais c'est une fois encore la finale qui impressionne par son allonge et son éclat.

96-98/100

THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER/JEFF LEVE

Cigar wrapper, creme de cassis, flowers, cherries, mint, and blackberries produce the bouquet. The palate is intense, full-bodied, concentrated, racy, and vibrant. The fruit has lift, length, purity, and a creamy edge to the racy-mouth-feel. The finish lingers, with layers of perfectly, ripe, berries that build, and expand in the mid-palate, through to the juicy, sapid finish. As always, Leoville Las Cases requires bottle aging. But for Las Cases, it is going to be a pleasure to taste relatively early, with just a decade of age. Produced from a blend 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, and 4% Merlot. 13.10% ABV. 3.79 pH. Harvesting took place September 9 - October 2. This is not only the third time in the history of the estate with more Cabernet Franc than Merlot in the blend. It is also the smallest amount of Merlot ever placed into the Grand Vin. It is also interesting to note that LLC was the first major wine to be released in the 2023 campaign, setting the stage for what could take place this year.

93-95/100



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THE WINE DOCTOR/CHRIS KISSACK

This is 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and 4% Merlot, picked at a yield of 43 hl/ha from 43.5 hectares. This is one of the lowest percentages of Merlot in the blend in many years. It includes 6.6% press wine. Aromatically this feels classic for the St Julien appellation and the estate, with an upper layer of sweet blackcurrant, griottes, violets, salted liquorice and gorse flowers. The palate does its best to follow this lead, with a juicy and substantial core of fruit, with ribbons of fine, tightly knit tannins, although the overall style feel integrated, juicy and balanced. It finishes correct, spiced and has a little length, although not too much. This is a delicious Las-Cases which will not challenge the great vintages, but which will still give a huge amount of pleasure given time.

94-97/100

VINOUS/ANTONIO GALLONI

The 2023 Léoville Las Cases is a wine of understatement and class. In so many vintages, Las Cases is quite authoritative, but I find the 2023 rather quiet and unexpressive today. It's a rather intellectual Las Cases, a wine with tremendous potential, but also a wine that is quite reserved at this early stage. Time in the glass brings out hints of blueberry, graphite, spice and mocha. It will be interesting to see where this goes. This is a very austere, classically built Las Cases for readers who can be patient.

95-97/100

VINOUS/NEAL MARTIN

The 2023 Léoville Las-Cases was picked from September 9 to October 2 at 43hl/ha and matured in 80% new oak barrels. This has a very precise bouquet, and, like the Clos du Marquis, it is imbued with an attractive estuarine element' aromatics that transport the imbiber to the banks of the Gironde. The oak is neatly integrated; 80% is much more optimal than 100% would have been. The palate is lightly spiced on the entry, moderately deep and quite lively on the mid-palate. This is a more linear Las-Cases than recent vintages, conveying a sense of "seriousness" toward the almost saturnine finish. Impressive in terms of persistence, this is a worthy follow-up to the magnificent 2022, but it will demand patience.

98-100/100

YVES BECK

Premier Las Cases vinifié dans les nouveaux chais. Ce qui est fantastique,



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réside dans ce premier contact, lorsque j'ai humé le bouquet de las Cases. En une fraction de seconde, je savais où j'étais, même dans un nouveau chais ! Le bouquet annonce de la puissance, de la vigueur, du végétal, du fruit, des feuilles de tabac, de l'eucalyptus, du cassis et bien plus encore ! En bouche le vin surprend par sa diplomatie, par son côté stylé, éduqué' on dirait qu'on lui a fait la leçon et qu'on lui a imposé de devenir civilisé. Il semble acquiescer' néanmoins le naturel revient rapidement ! On retiendra donc qu'il révèle sa puissance avec un peu plus de délicatesse, mais la vigueur et la puissance des tannins recadrent autant le vinificateur que le dégustateur ou le consommateur. Un vin époustouflant de finesse, de profondeur, de défiance. Un Las Cases qui sait créer le lien entre des tannins puissants et un corps peut-être plus élancé qu'à l'accoutumé. Il aurait été inopportun de chercher la puissance à tout prix, alors que le terroir en confère de toute manière. Une grande réussite !

