

# Las Cases

2023

## TERROIR

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Le Grand Enclos de Las Cases renferme un terroir d'une très grande complexité. Issu majoritairement de graves du Quaternaire sur sous-sol gravelo-sableux et gravelo-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

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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

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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

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99/100

**JAMES SUCKLING**

So subtle and complex, with aromas of violets, lavender, dark roses and fresh currants. Very open. A wonderful hint of herbs. Full-bodied with ultra-fine tannins that give a multilayered texture to his and a savory, succulent finish that emphasizes brightness and length. Tangy and vivid at the end. Primary and pure. 86% cabernet sauvignon, 10% cabernet franc and 4% merlot. Best after 2028, but exciting to taste now.

97/100

**JEAN-MARC QUARIN**

Couleur noire. Nez intense, fin, fruité, pur, frais. Touche de réglisse zan et de vanille à l'agitation du verre. Charnu en entrée de bouche, minutieux au toucher, avec un déroulé velouté et lent, le vin fond sur le palais, subtil et noble dans sa structure et ses arômes. Impossible à cracher.

98/100

**JEB DUNNUCK**

Crème de cassis, graphite, freshly sharpened pencils, and crushed stone all emerge from the 2023 Château Léoville Las Cases, a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, and 4% Merlot that was aged 18 months in 80% new French oak. This serious 2023 brings a beautifully rich, dense, layered style that's very much Las Cases, yet also shows the more rounded, supple profile of the vintage. It's concentrated and rich on the palate, with medium to full-bodied power, terrific mid-palate depth, ripe, solid tannins, and a great finish. It will be a more accessible Las Cases, but I don't think that's going to hurt its ageability. Give bottles 4-5 years and enjoy over the following 30-40 years. Drink 2030-2065. (April 2026)

97/100

**THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER/JEFF LEVE**

It takes just a bit of effort to explore the perfume, before revealing its essence of ripe blackberries, cigar wrapper, cassis, flowers, espresso, and a variety of spices. Clearly traditional in style, but not harsh, green, or dry. Instead, the wine is restrained, elegant, and regal, with layers of ripe, dark fruits, minerality, cherries, and dried herbs. One of the longest-lived wines



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of the vintage, but for Leoville Las Cases, it will drink well before or around 10 years of age. It can also evolve for 30 years or more. Made from a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, and 4% Merlot. This marks only the third time in the estate's history that the blend contains more Cabernet Franc than Merlot. It is also the smallest amount of Merlot ever placed into the Grand Vin. Drink from 2030-2065. (April 2026)

94/100

THE WINE DOCTOR/CHRIS KISSACK

The first vintage to be produced in the estate's new technical facility, which offers a much greater number of smaller vats. The picking is now into crates rather than hods, and the fruit comes into a cold room after selection. The vinification is completed using solely gravity, and they use Air Pulse (an increasingly popular technique in the region) to move the cap around. The blend is 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and 4% Merlot. The aromatics are elegant and pure, with notes of subtle cassis, currant, road tar and smoke, with a floral edge. The style on the palate is focused and certain, with a finely poised backbone of svelte tannins, which carry the elegant and floral fruit through to a svelte and peppery finish. This is a more composed but also more delicate and charming expression of the Léoville terroir than I was expecting, with a rather low-key, silky texture draped over the structure. Charming. The alcohol is reported to be 13.1%. 94/100 (December 2025)

99/100

THE WINE PALATE/LISA PERROTTI-BROWN

The 2023 Léoville Las Cases is deep garnet-purple in color. It strides confidently out of the glass with pure, intense notes of cassis, black raspberries, and wild blueberries, followed by hints of Indian spices, fragrant soil, and lavender oil, with a touch of baker's chocolate. The medium-bodied palate is super-intense, with taut, tight-knit black fruit, floral, and savory layers supported by firm, fine-grained tannins and fantastic tension, finishing very long and perfumed. Absolutely magnificent. The blend is 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, and 4% Merlot, with a pH of 3.79, alcohol of 13.1%, and TPI 72. It was aged for around 18 months in French oak barriques, 80% new.

98/100

VINOUS/ANTONIO GALLONI



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The 2023 Léoville Las Cases is a total stunner. Dark, layered and seamless, it explodes from the glass with dark red/purplish fruit, spice and new leather. The 2023 boasts all of the power and explosive energy that this site is known for, but with more refined tannins than in the past. Brisk saline notes punctuate the driving, virile finish. Las Cases is, without question, one of the wines of the vintage. (March 2026)

100/100

VINUM/ADRIAN VAN VELSEN

Das ist eine dieser Wein-Nasen, die man am liebsten zu einem Parfüm verarbeiten würde; viel Floralität, Brombeere und schwarze Johannisbeeren, kalter Kamin, frische Minze, Orangen, Zartbitterschokolade, eine riesiger Blumenstrauß von Aromen; am Gaumen von grossartiger Dichte und gleichzeitig einer Leichtigkeit, die ihn schon jetzt zugänglich macht; feinste Tannine, perfekt dosierte Säure, sensationelle Frucht, grossartige Länge. Ein kleines Las-Cases Monument, das ich En Primeur trotz hoher Bewertung unterschätzt habe. Wird in jeder Phase seines Lebens 100% Genuss bieten.

96/100

WINE SPECTATOR / JAMES MOLESWORTH

Stolid at first, this is inky, dark and tightly wound, but violet and iris notes steadily emerge as a core of cold cassis, plum paste and blackberry puree slowly awakens. The finish is dusted with cold charcoal, and a rigid cast iron spine brings a regal austerity into play, yet there's enough fruit to burn as this waits for its structural side to loosen. A serious wine. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Best from 2030 through 2050. (March 2026)

100/100

YVES BECK

Le roi Cabernet tient le bouquet de Las Cases bien en main ! Il le signale sans détour, dès les premiers effluves avec cette magnifique aptitude à bonifier des nuances végétales mûres, des notes de menthe poivrée entourée par du chocolat noir, une sorte d'After-Eight à l'état liquide, avec en surplus d'invitantes notes de cassis, de mûres puis de poivre et de cannelle. En bouche, le vin impressionne par sa force tranquille, par cette sérénité, par une puissance ascendante, subtile, annonciatrice de réjouissance et de pérennité ! Tout est d'une extraordinaire cohérence



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parfaitement rythmée, avec des tannins encadrés et une acidité autant structurante que rafraîchissante. Persistant et invitant, ce Las Cases 2023 a le grand mérite d'ouvrir des fenêtres où l'on peut entrevoir une possibilité de le boire jeune, mais il projette surtout un extraordinaire potentiel de garde pour tous ceux qui sauront attendre. Il suffira de savourer le Petit Lion entretemps.

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.



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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.

19+/20

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.

95-97/100

VINOUS/NEAL MARTIN

The 2023 Léoville Las-Cases was picked from September 9 to October 2 at



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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.



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