

Le Petit Lion

du Marquis de 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 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.

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 (épamprage, effeuillage, relevage). 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 : 61% Cab. Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 8% Cab. Franc

Date de vendange : Du 6 au 25 septembre 2023

Degré : 13,50 % - Acidité totale 3,92 gH₂SO₄/l



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NOTES DE DÉGUSTATION



94/100

JAMES SUCKLING

Aromas of tea leaves, fresh herbs, currants, strawberries and touches of minerals and ashtray. Well structured, with finely etched tannins on the palate. Firm yet precise, with a medium body and an elegant, nuanced finish. 61% cabernet sauvignon, 31% merlot and 8% cabernet franc. Drink or hold.

94/100

JEAN-MARC QUARIN

Beau rouge sombre, aux reflets pourpres. Nez intense, au fruité mûr, subtil et noble. A l'agitation la mûre et la fraîcheur se mêlent à merveille. Charnu à l'attaque, raffiné au toucher, très savoureux en milieu de bouche, le vin fond en finale, long et franchement délicieux. Ces jeunes vignes sur le grand terroir de Las Cases font merveille. Une note qui égale maintenant le niveau qualitatif du millésime 2022.

93/100

JEB DUNNUCK

Deep purple-hued, the 2023 Le Petit Lion is a gorgeous second wine offering cassis and darker currant fruits intermixed with graphite, flowers, and spicy wood. Based on 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, and 8% Cabernet Franc and aged 14 months in 30% new French oak, it's medium to full-bodied, with a pure, layered, seamless mouthfeel, ripe and incredibly polished tannins, and outstanding length. It has some early accessibility, yet this will have two decades or more of longevity as well. This is the first vintage produced in the new cellar. Drink 2028-2048. (April 2026)

91/100

THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER/JEFF LEVE

Blackberries, flowers, and a hint of tobacco open the nose. Medium-bodied, forward, and already inviting, the fruits show off their spicy, chalky, salty, minty edges with ease. This is a perfect introduction to Leoville Las Cases. The wine blends 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, and 8% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2027-2038. (April 2026)



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89/100

THE WINE DOCTOR/CHRIS KISSACK

The second wine of Las Cases, this is a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest mostly Merlot, but with 8% Cabernet Franc. I like the perfumed character on the nose, with red peony, a little sugar-dusted strawberry, and a little touch of red plum emerging. The palate has impact but a linear structure, with a fine-boned frame of light tannins, powdered and delicately gripping, with a rather juicy core of strawberry, red pepper and currant. It has a firm sense of harmony which pushes through to the finish, which is delicately sappy. Quite charming, but the structure says this needs to be left alone for four or five years before broaching. The alcohol is reported to be 13.5%. 89/100 (December 2025)

94/100

THE WINE PALATE/LISA PERROTTI-BROWN

The 2023 Le Petit Lion du Marquis de Las Cases bursts with bold notes of juicy raspberries and blackcurrants, giving way to hints of violets, anise, and crushed rocks. The medium-bodied palate is tightly coiled, with energetic red and black fruit layers supported by fine-grained tannins and great tension, finishing long and minerally. The blend is 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 8% Cabernet Franc. The alcohol is 13.5%.

93/100

VINOUS / ANTONIO GALLONI

The 2023 Le Petit Lion is a classy, polished St. Julien. Sweet, perfumed aromatics, vibrant red/purplish fruit, mocha, new leather and blood orange soar from the glass. A wine of sensual beauty and pure charm, the Merlot-based Petit Lion is all charm. The purity of the fruit here is striking. (March 2026)

94/100

VINUM/ADRIAN VAN VELSEN

Wenn man nicht wüsste, dass man Zweitwein im Glas hat, könnte man diesen Wein für einen Grand Vin halten; Minze, Cassis und feine Zedernholznoten in der Nase; am Gaumen klar definiert, frisch und saftig, perfekt reife Frucht, gut strukturiert und von einer beeindruckenden Eleganz. Wie schon En Primeur notiert: Ein grosser kleiner Löwe!



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91/100

WINE SPECTATOR / JAMES MOLESWORTH

Juicy energy pushes along a mix of black currant and black cherry fruit, with singed apple wood and ink notes forming the backdrop. A tug of iron at the end adds a mouthwatering hint. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2037. (March 2026)

96/100

YVES BECK

L'éclat du bouquet est bien axé sur la fraîcheur avec des notes de menthe poivrée et une touche de cassis rejointes par des effluves d'eucalyptus et de tabac blond. Juteux en attaque, le vin commence par adopter un profil élancé. Il se déroule tranquillement et gagne en puissance le long de son parcours pour finalement révéler des tanins superbement enrobés, révélant une puissance maîtrisée et porteuse. Un vin brillant, un ouvrier de piste digne de mettre le grand vin sous pression !

92-93/100

ALEXANDRE MA

Le Petit Lion is a delightful wine with a gentle, silky entrance and restrained finish. On the mid-palate, you can also feel the crisp berries and hints of violet that enhance the entire mouth. The 2023 vintage features a neo-classical Bordeaux style, where the tannins may seem light, but they expand deep within the palate, spreading a rich graphite powder essence. This wine is the second label that should not be missed.

93/100

DECANTER/GEORGINA HINDLE

So fragrant with lovely hints of sweet red fruit on the nose. Gorgeous florally and sense of expressiveness. Smooth and supple, a little tight and compact but there is flesh here and a sense of density to the ripe blackcurrant and black cherry fruit. But it's also so clean and pure, lovely finesse, power surges underneath the fruit and the acidity. Chiselled and well made, a little lean still, a bit straight towards the finish, but there's a lot to like here and this feels really serious in its own right. I actually love the strawberry and cherry juiciness, that sweetness from the nose coming back and mingling with the acidity.



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93/100

JANE ANSON

Displays the tannic grip and heft that you hope to get in the 2nd wine of Léoville Las Cases, opening with a great dollop of spice, cocoa bean, espresso, black chocolate, black tea, and bright cassis fruit - will need a few years after bottling to fully open up. Harvest September 9 to October 2, 30% new oak for ageing. Includes the vines for both La Petite Marquise and Le Petit Lion since the 2021 vintage.

18+/20

MATTHEW JUKES

While the new winery has yet to be fully opened to visitors, the nuts and bolts of vinification were up and running in time for the 2023 vintage. They managed to increase the number of vats from 39 to 72, which has led to much more precision when picking and fermenting smaller plots of vines. The results are the thrilling 2023 vintage wines. I wonder if this wine needs a name change because there is nothing 'little' about its flavour. With an incredibly luxurious nose and pinpoint balance throughout the experience, there is no doubt that this is the finest Le Petit Lion to date. In fact, it surpasses many Left Bank Grands Vins with its finesse and poise. So often, second wines fall flat in superb vintages because there is the temptation to cram all the great fruit into the main act. Not so here. While Las Cases is a stunner, Le Petit Lion is a fabulous creation, and it will drink well from eight years, singing the siren song of this noble estate, and if that doesn't turn heads, then nothing will.



DOMAINES DELON