

Las Cases

1986

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. Ce terroir incomparable offre au grand vin sa personnalité unique.

MILLÉSIME 1986

Suite à un hiver froid et humide, le débourrement débuta avec un léger retard qui fut cependant rattrapé au moment de la véraison. Le beau temps perdura ensuite jusqu'aux vendanges avec seulement quelques pluies fin septembre. Les Cabernets Sauvignons furent d'une maturité et d'une concentration exceptionnelles.

INFORMATIONS TECHNIQUES

Assemblage : Cabernet Sauvignon 66% Merlot 19% Cabernet Franc 11% Petit Verdot 4%

Date de vendange : Du 1er au 17 octobre 1986

Degré : 13,30 %vol. / Acidité Totale : 3,92 gH₂SO₄/l



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NOTES DE DÉGUSTATION

96/100

THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER / JEFF LEVE

Full-bodied, structured, burly, yet refined, there is good intensity and weight, along with an ever-present tannic spine that defines the character of the wine. This is quite classic in style. It is also as I mentioned still tannic, so either wait a decade, or allow it 2-3 hours of decanting. (December 2021)

20/20

WEIN GABRIEL / RENE GABRIEL

Den 1986 Château Léoville Las-Cases sollte man mindestens drei Stunden dekantieren. Denn 'er ist wie viele Crus vom Médoc vom Jahrgang 1986 «etwas reduktiv». Das ist schon fast schöneredet. «bockig» wäre hier wohl treffender. Aber es lohnt sich! Die Farbe ist immer noch extrem jung und geht dramatisch ins Schwarze. Die Nase zeigt unglaublich viele Latour-Affinitäten; Teer, Trüffel, dunkle Edelhölzer, Rauch, nochmals Trüffel. Was schier unwahrscheinlich ist, dass man auch noch Primäraromen findet, dies in Form von Cassis und Brombeeren. Das Nasenbild geht derartig in die Tiefe, dass man ihn als «halboffen» bezeichnen muss. Normalerweise sind die grossen Las Cases Charmeurs ohne Ende. Dieser hier zeigt Ecken und Kanten und mutiert zu einer brachialen Weinpersönlichkeit und erinnert an gigantische Jahrgänge wie 1928 und 1961. Auf dem Peak ist er noch lange nicht und ich attestiere ihm ein Leben für weitere 50 Jahre. Vielleicht mag man kritisieren, dass ich es wagte, ihn mit deinem Latour zu vergleichen. Sorry. Dieser 1986er Las Cases ist aber noch besser als der 1986er Latour! (2020)

100/100

DECANTER / JANE ANSON

Michel Delon, then owner, believed this to be the greatest wine he ever made. It's not often the case that wines with this much expectation riding on them live up to the hype, but this one did. A stunning wine that, at 33 years old, still feels fresh, concentrated and with a long way left to go. The tannins have the characteristic Las Cases weight and definition to them, giving form and shape to the sweet berry fruit, but the overall impression is of welcoming, juicy pleasure. Harvested from 1 to 17 October. 4% Petit Verdot completes the blend. Drinking Window 2019 - 2035. (May 2019)



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100/100

FALSTAFF / PETER MOSER

Dark carmine garnet, delicate ochre rim. Attractive on the nose, sweet dark berry fruit, a hint of cedar wood and tobacco, nuances of blackberries, ripe plums, delicate spice notes, dark minerality with some graphite. Very elegant and balanced, quite powerful, with a pleasant extract sweetness, perfectly integrated tannins, fine chocolate echo, fresh, finesse-rich body, enormous length, mineral touches (...). (February 2019)

98/100

WINE ADVOCATE / NEAL MARTIN

The 1986 Léoville-Las Cases is still so youthful in appearance after 30 years, with only a thin bricking on the rim giving away its age. The bouquet is magnificent: extraordinarily pure and delineated, bewitching black fruit laced with cedar and graphite, the latter lending an almost Pauillac-like personality. The palate is exactly as I have found the previous dozen or so bottles I have tasted: structured, delineated, intense, aristocratic and imperious. It is less formidable than say, ten years ago, so it has probably just stepped onto its drinking plateau. The acidity is perfectly judged lending freshness and tension, crucial to counterbalance those layers of spicy black fruit that fans out with cedar and graphite (again) towards the finish. You come away with the feeling of having consumed a wine with immense energy, yet with so much more to give over the next three decades, and knowing this property, perhaps even the three decades after that! I would agree with the late Michel Delon: the 1986 Léoville Las-Cases is the summit of the 1980s. (December 2016)

17,5/20

JANCIS ROBINSON

Bright ruby. Iodine nose. A real density. This is, unusually, a 1986 that still has some developing to do. (August 2016)

DENIS HERVIER

Essence de grand cabernet, c'est strict, droit, tendu et d'une profondeur exceptionnelle, sans une once de dureté, avec des accents de menthe, de cassis, de cigare et de poivre de Sichuan. Très grande jeunesse.

100/100



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WINE ADVOCATE / ROBERT PARKER

The late Michel Delon always thought that this was the greatest vintage he had produced. We often tasted it side by side with the 1982, because I always preferred the latter vintage. Of course, the two vintages are quite different in style, with the 1986 a monument to classicism, with great tannin, extraordinary delineation, and a huge, full-bodied nose of sweet, ripe cassis fruit intermixed with vanilla, melon, fruitcake, and a multitude of spices. The wine has always been phenomenally concentrated, yet wonderfully fresh and vigorous. The wine still seems young, yet it is hard to believe it is not close to full maturity. It is a great example of Leoville Las Cases, and another compelling reason to take a serious look at the top Cabernet Sauvignon-based Medocs of 1986. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2035. (January 2003)

95/100

WINE SPECTATOR / HARVEY STEIMAN

Firm and focused, with beautifully articulated currant, raspberry and nutmeg aromas and flavors; very supple for such a lean-textured Bordeaux (...). (February 1992)

95/100

JEANNIE CHO LEE

19/20

REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE

Guide Vert 2001



DOMAINES DELON