

Las Cases

1996

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 1996

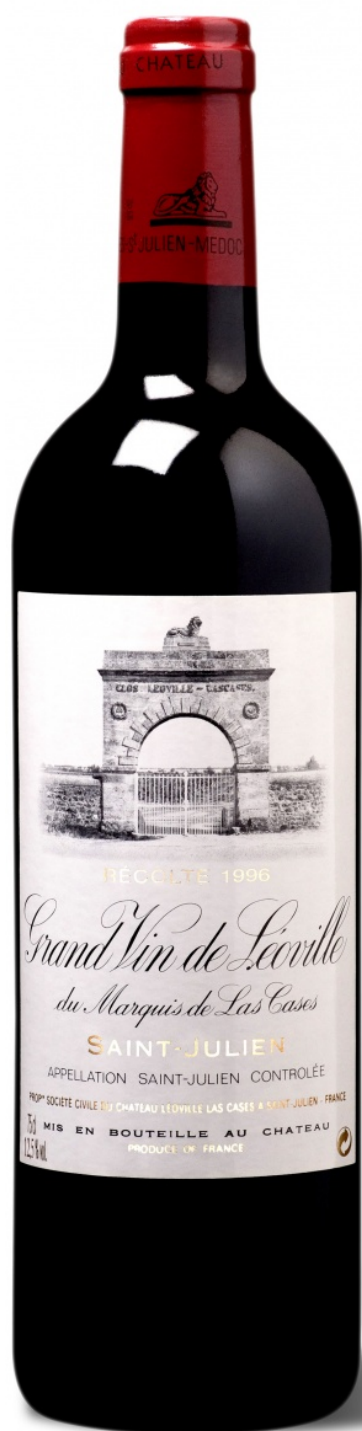
Suite à une floraison rapide et homogène, 1996 connut un été sans excès de chaleur ni de sécheresse. Les conditions anticycloniques de septembre permirent ensuite l'obtention de raisins, et notamment de Cabernet Sauvignon, d'une extraordinaire concentration, parfaitement équilibrés et très aromatiques.

INFORMATIONS TECHNIQUES

Assemblage : Cabernet Sauvignon 70% Merlot 14% Cabernet Franc 16%

Date de vendange : Du 25 septembre au 10 octobre 1996

Degré : 12,65 %vol. / Acidité Totale : 3,39 gH₂SO₄/l



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NOTES DE DÉGUSTATION

100/100

JANEANSON.COM

I think we can officially declare 25 years as being the sweet spot for Léoville Las Cases - at least in slow-ageing vintages such as 1996, which is so perfectly suited to Cabernet Sauvignon. Still full-bodied and concentrated even now, but generous also, with cassis, tobacco and cigarbox smoke softening the edges of flint-chiselled tannic frame. (...) Las Cases can be almost Burgundian-like in how elusive it is (in this case because of how stubborn and tannic it can prove), but when you get the one bottle that sings, it's all worth it. This more than proves the point. (...). (November 2021)

98/100

THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER / JEFF LEVE

If you are seeking a vintage of Léoville Las Cases for current consumption, look no further. Full-bodied, concentrated, long, deep, and intense, the tannins are firm but soft, the fruit is perfectly ripe, and close to seamless finish must last at least 50 seconds or more. An hour in the decanter, or perhaps up to 2 hours kicks this stunner into high gear. (November 2021)

98/100

WINE ADVOCATE / NEAL MARTIN

(...) Now at 20 years, it has evolved into an absolutely stunning Saint Julien, clearly one of the best wines from the estate this decade. The bouquet is beautifully defined with intense black cherries, cedar, mint and a touch of oyster shell that seems to gain intensity in the glass. The palate is seamless from start to finish, extraordinarily pure, the 70% new oak totally assimilated of course, impressive weight and power allied with genuine finesse and tension towards the silky smooth finish. It stands as one of the best wines of the vintage without one iota of doubt and it will last 30-40 years without problem. You might call it "proper Claret." You might call it "delicious." (October 2016)

17,5/20

JEAN-MARC QUARIN

(...) Couleur sombre, intense et légèrement évoluée. Nez très aromatique, fin, fruité, pur, mûr et subtil. Moelleux à l'attaque, minutieux dans sa texture,



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fondant en milieu de bouche, avec de l'énergie, le vin s'étire en finale, complet, long, un tantinet austère, mais très savoureux. (Octobre 2019)

18/20

JANCIS ROBINSON / JULIA HARDING

(...). A good Cabernet year, very ripe. Gorgeously intense dark fruit on the nose. Spicy and pure and dark fruited. Paper-fine tannins, great finesse and tenderness. Well defined. Dry and cleansing on the finish. Super-fine. (October 2016)

95/100

FALSTAFF / PETER MOSER

Kräftiges Rubingranat, violette Reflexe, dezente Randaufhellung. Im Bukett etwas verhalten, tabakig, dunkelbeerige Nuancen, zart nach Cassis und Lakritze, aber auch blättrige Würze. Stoffig, reife Zwetschgenfrucht, dezente Fruchtsüße, ausgewogen, bleibt gut haften, wirkt im Moment etwas zurückgezogen, sollte man etwas Zeit geben, hat sehr gutes weiteres Potenzial. (March 2015)

19/20

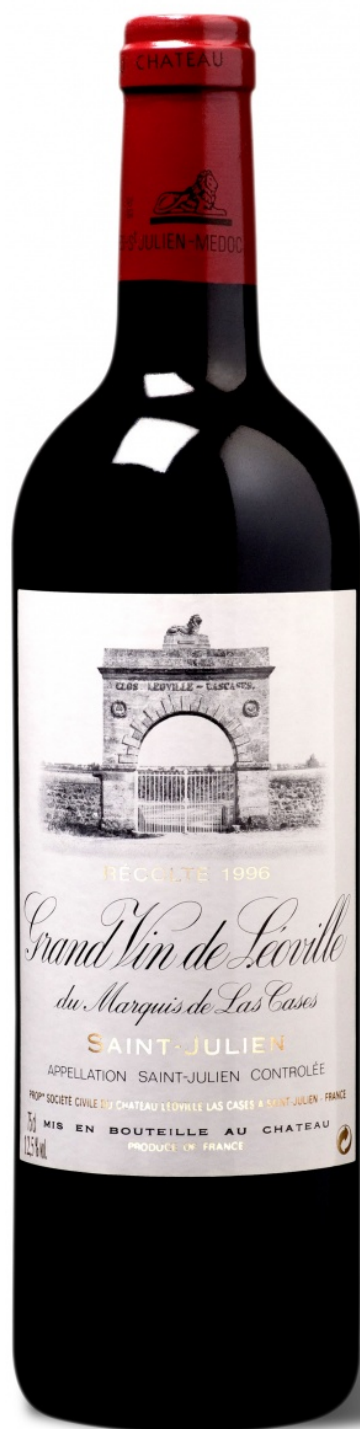
BETTANE & DESSEAUVE

Un des plus grands Léoville de l'histoire, majestueux dans sa forme et son bouquet, rigoureux dans son tannin, avec une distinction qui le rapproche de Lafite.

98/100

WINE ADVOCATE / ROBERT PARKER

Having previously rated it nearly perfect, I was apprehensive of a letdown about tasting the 1996 Léoville Las Cases once it had been bottled, but that concern was quickly dismissed once I put my nose in the glass. A profound Léoville Las Cases, it is one of the great modern day wines of Bordeaux. This wine's hallmark remains a sur-maturite (over-ripeness) of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape. Yet the wine has retained its intrinsic classicism, symmetry, and profound potential for complexity and elegance. The black/purple color is followed by a spectacular nose of cassis, cherry liqueur, pain grille, and minerals. It is powerful and rich on the attack, with beautifully integrated tannin, massive concentration, yet no hint of heaviness or disjointedness. As this wine sits in the glass it grows in stature and richness. It is a remarkable, seamless, palate-staining, and



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extraordinarily elegant wine - the quintessential St.-Julien. Despite the sweetness of the tannin, I would recommend cellaring this wine for 7-8 years. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2035. (April 1999)

19/20

REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE

Un de mes Las Cases favoris. Il combine densité, puissance et raffinement absolu. L'équilibre est souverain, entre une matière généreuse et une tension minérale parfaitement fondue. Ses notes de mine de crayon, de cèdre évoquent les grands millésimes de Château Lafite. Le grand classicisme bordelais déjà très séduisant et raffiné. (2007)

94/100

JEANNIE CHO LEE

18/20

VINUM

19/20

WEIN GABRIEL / RENE GABRIEL

92/100

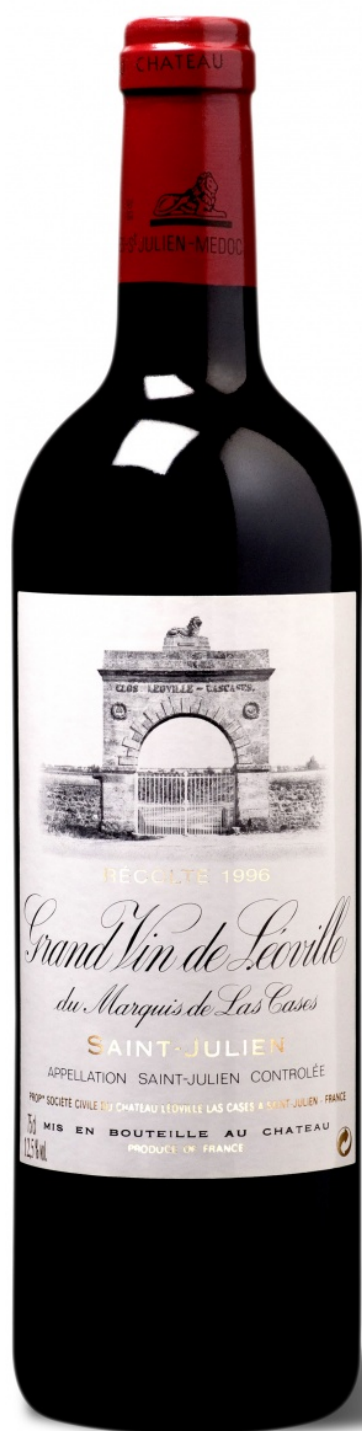
WINE SPECTATOR / JAMES SUCKLING

Incredible nose of blackberry, mineral, cedar and currant. Full-bodied, with silky and refined tannins and a medium caressing finish. It's a beautiful wine that begs to be drunk now but will age and improve for a long time. (2007)

96+/100

VINOUS / STEPHEN TANZER

Saturated bright, dark ruby. Perfumed, vibrant, very youthful aromas of cassis, violet and bitter chocolate. Dense and powerful, with great clarity of flavor thanks to a terrific spine of acidity. Almost painfully structured wine but not at all hard. Finishes very long and gripping, with a note of bitter chocolate. Drink 2012 through 2040. (July 2002)

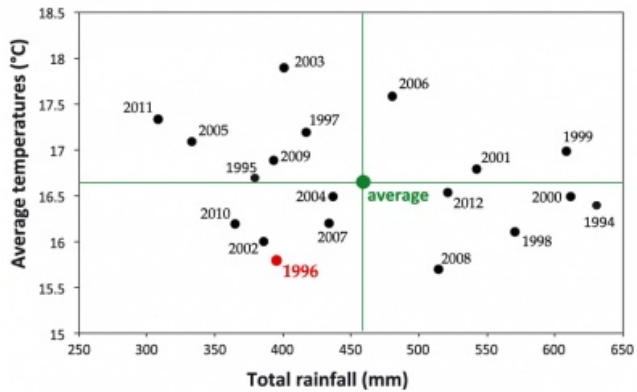


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Comparatif des températures et précipitations sur la période végétative : du 1er mars au 31 octobre



Pluviométrie et températures en 1996

