

Le Petit Lion

du Marquis de Las Cases

2016

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 2016

The year 2016 started off with the water tables full, thanks to the heavy rainfall from January to March. Three difficult months for the vineyard workers but which saved the day for this vintage! The mild temperatures in March ensured an early budburst but the colder, rainy mornings in April slowed down the growth cycle. From mid-June to mid-October, rainfall was well below the seasonal average. During the first two weeks of August, the colour change was short and even on each of the properties. The grapes developed in radiant, dry weather conditions. Light showers appeared in mid-September to re-boost the ripening process on the terroirs offering less water retention, thus perfecting the maturation of the tannins. The absolutely perfect weather conditions during harvest time allowed us to pick grapes boasting remarkable quality. Le millésime 2016 démarre avec des réserves hydriques largement reconstituées grâce à d'importantes précipitations de janvier à mars. Des températures douces en mars assurent un débourrement précoce de la vigne alors qu'avril est ponctué de matinées froides et pluvieuses donnant lieu à une pousse végétative ralentie. De mi-juin à mi-octobre, les pluviométries sont bien en dessous des normales saisonnières. Durant la première quinzaine d'août, la véraison est rapide et



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homogène sur les trois propriétés. Quelques pluies éparses mi-septembre surviennent, permettant de débloquer les terroirs les plus filtrants. Les parfaites conditions climatiques durant les vendanges nous permettent de récolter des raisins d'une qualité remarquable.

INFORMATIONS TECHNIQUES

Assemblage : Cabernet Sauvignon 54% Merlot 38% Cabernet Franc 8%

Date de vendange : Du 30 Septembre au 19 Octobre 2016

Degré: 13,40%vol. - Acidité Totale: 3,90 - PH 3,69 - IPT 79



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NOTES DE DÉGUSTATION



96/100

JAMES SUCKLING

Makes a classic impression from the outset with ripe but contained, red and dark-berry aromas, framed in cedar, blackcurrants and violets. The palate has exceptional depth and very focused, pristine red-plum and cherry flavors hold long and seamless into the finish. A vibrant young wine. Younger Cabernet (54 per cent) meets old Merlot (38 per cent) and Cabernet Franc (eight per cent) in this blend. Second wine of Leoville Las Cases. Try from 2023. (February 2019)

93/100

FALSTAFF / PETER MOSER

Dunkles Rubingranat, violette Reflexe, dezente Randaufhellung, kandierte Orangenzensten, zart tabakig unterlegte Nuancen von Brombeeren und schwarzen Kirschen, zart nach Lakritze. Saftig, elegant, frisch strukturiert, reife Kirsche, salziger Touch, ausgewogen, wirkt zugänglich und bereits antrinkbar, frische zitronige Aspekte im Nachhall. (March 2019)

90/100

WINE SPECTATOR / JAMES MOLESWORTH

Solid, with dark plum and anise notes at the core, laced with mouthwatering briar and apple wood accents. Shows a textbook AOC profile, but not superdense, so drink as soon as this settles in while you wait for the big boys. Best from 2021 through 2030. 5,833 cases made. (March 2019)

16,5/20

GAULT & MILLAU / YOHAN CASTAING

Graphite, épices, nez profond et complexe. Bouche linéaire et fraîche, très grande précision et subtilité à tous les étages. Fraîcheur de bouche dans le juteux. Un peu austère mais le temps fera son affaire admirablement. Superbe. (Mars 2019)

94/100

JEB DUNNUCK



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The second wine of Léoville Las Cases, the 2016 Le Petit Lion du Marquis de Las Cases includes more old vine Merlot (...). It's a "Wow" of a second wine and has a big nose of crème de cassis, black cherries, forest floor, and tobacco, with some almost Pauillac-like lead pencil and minerality. Full-bodied, with bright acidity and remarkable purity as well as ripe tannins, it's a 30-year wine. How's that for a second wine? (February 2019)

92/100

THE WINE DOCTOR / CHRIS KISSACK

The second wine is a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, and the élevage was in 30% new oak for 15 months. This cuvée has come on so much since the very first vintages, which were a little on the light side. This has good dark colour in the glass, and the nose is all dark fruit skins, black cherry and blackcurrant. The palate follows this rather confident lead with a burst of damson, blackcurrant and creamed-plum fruit, dusted with the scents of peony and rose, and wrapped up in a ribbon of vanilla oak. There is good grip here, a subtle seam of ripe, tightly knit tannins, with nuances of charcoal, toast and grilled pips complete the picture. Overall this is a real charmer, but the flourish of tannins in the finish suggest that this will go for a few years in the cellar. Good job. (January 2019)

92/100

VINOUS / ANTONIO GALLONI

The 2016 Le Petit Lion is a very pretty wine, but it is also going to need a few years to come into its own, as the tannins are quite firm post-bottling. There is good energy to the red cherry fruit, spice and chalky notes, but, at the same time, Le Petit Lion is a rare second wine that is going to need a few years to come into its own. Tasted two times. (January 2019)

90/100

VINOUS / NEAL MARTIN

The 2016 Le Petit Lion comes from the young vines in Léoville Las-Cases. It has great clarity on a nose of bright black fruit infused with pencil shavings; I appreciate the focus here. The palate is medium-bodied with supple, slightly candied red fruit laced with Chinese five-spice and sandalwood, gently fanning out toward a focused finish with ample grip. Very fine. (January 2019)



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92/100

WINE ADVOCATE / LISA PERROTTI BROWN

Deep garnet-purple colored, it leaps from the glass with notions of warm blackcurrants, blackberry pie, redcurrant jelly and tilled soil with touches of hoisin, Sichuan pepper, unsmoked cigars, red roses and smoked meats. Medium to full-bodied, the palate explodes with vibrant red and black fruit preserves, with a wonderfully fine-grained frame and very long, lifted finish. (November 2018)

92+/100

THE WINE CHRONICLES / PANOS KAKAVIATOS

Special mention indeed for the Petit Lion, the veritable second LLC made from "younger" vines between 20-25 years old. You get a similar profile here to the grand vin, rather sumptuous and juicy: it is really delicious! Smooth and robust, with an almost roasted aspect. (...) (November 2018)

93/100

DECANTER / JANE ANSON

From 'young' vines within the Clos of Léoville, although they can go up to 20 or even 25 years. This is tight yet elegant, with notes of pencil-lead and slate giving a real sense of minerality and lift. It's not luscious yet, as this is still young and austere, but it has incredible poise and grip. In the glass the sweetness of the fruit comes through after a minute or so. You're going to want a bottle or two of this in your cellar. (October 2018)

17/20

JEAN-MARC QUARIN

Le meilleur jamais fait. Couleur noire, intense et belle. Nez fruité, frais et mûr. Ample à l'attaque, puissant et gras au développement, profond, avec beaucoup de densité et d'éclat, le vin s'achève long et superbe. Il s'agit des jeunes vignes des plus grands terroirs de Léoville Las Cases. (...) (Avril 2017)

91-93/100

WINE ENTHUSIAST / ROGER VOSS

Rich and packed with ripe tannins, this is definitely structured. At the same time, the fruit is so enticing. The combination makes for a wine that will be fruity, delicious and very drinkable.



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17/20

WEINWISSER

93/100

TIM ATKIN

93/100

JEANNIE CHO LEE

A dense, huge wine with enormous power and density - the tannins are concentrated, plush and generous with densely packed dark berry fruit. First vintage was 2007. 54% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot - the idea is to combine old Merlot with young Cabernet fruit. A wine to wait for at least 10 years before approaching.

91/100

YVES BECK

Rouge grenat soutenu aux reflets violets. Le nez du Petit Lion souligne son appartenant à la Famille de Las Cases. Il est subtil, frais et fruité au travers de notes de mûres et de cassis. La mise en bouche est rafraîchissante et crémeuse. Au palais, l'équilibre est le maître-mot ! Le vin est doté de tannins soyeux et puissants tandis que l'intensité aromatique se révèle en crescendo. La trame du Cabernet Sauvignon est remarquable est marque l'ensemble du palais. Un vin qui affiche les ambitions de son grand frère et qui est parfaitement réussi. Je l'avais noté 88-90 en primeurs; aujourd'hui je m'aperçois que mon approche était un peu trop sévère.

16,5/20

JANCIS ROBINSON

Very dark crimson. Sweet and fresh at the same time. Sinewy and round. Lip smacking. Just a little green note on the end. Real lift to this and not quite mouth-filling - just a little austere hole on the end but pretty good!

92/100

JACQUES PERRIN / VINIFERA



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95-96/100

BETTANE & DESSEAUME / MICHEL BETTANE

Une merveille de vin de jeunes vignes ayant sans doute bénéficié des presses du grand vin, grand arôme de havane, race remarquable de terroir, souple mais vraiment plein, difficile de l'oublier!



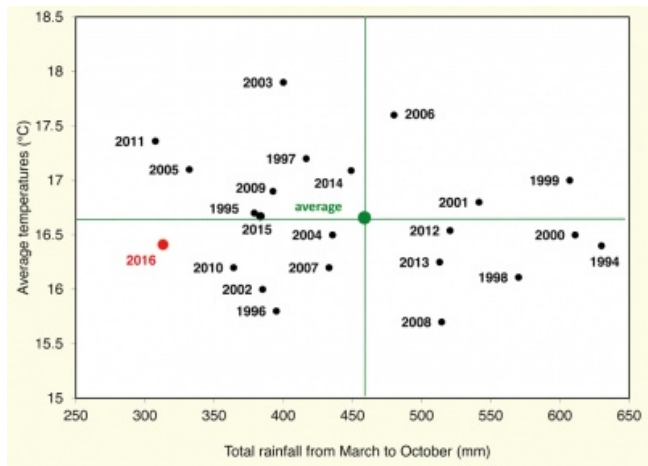
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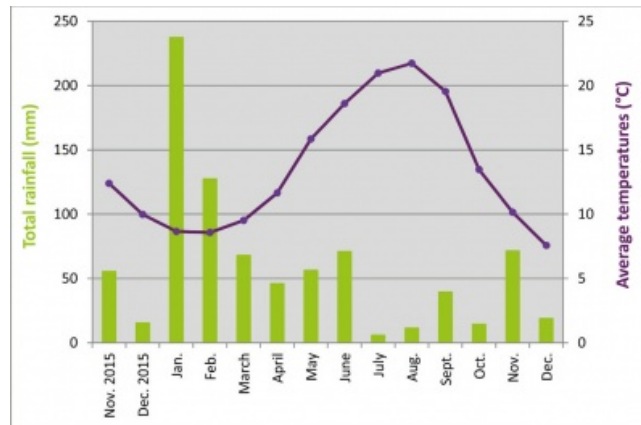
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Comparatif des températures et précipitations sur la période végétative : du 1er mars au 31 octobre



Pluviométrie et températures en 2016



Stades phénologiques



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