

# Las Cases

2018

## 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 2018

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Sur les terroirs de Saint-Julien, le débourrement commença lentement. S'en suivit une pousse végétative rapide, grâce à des conditions humides et chaudes. Après un été chaud et sec, les vendanges purent être étalées sur trois semaines, sans inquiétude ni précipitation, pour une maturité parfaite. Les vins du millésime 2018 sont dotés d'une maturité très aboutie et promettent un potentiel de très grande garde. Ils sont puissants, exceptionnellement structurés et charnus, complexes et opulents mais parfaitement équilibrés, avec une belle fraîcheur et une finesse déjà bien perceptible.

## INFORMATIONS TECHNIQUES

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Assemblage : Cabernet Sauvignon 80 % Merlot 11 % Cabernet Franc 9 %

Date de vendange : Du 18 septembre au 10 octobre 2018

Degré : 14,49%vol. - Acidité Totale : 3,54 gH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>/l - PH : 3,65 - IPT : 80



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## NOTES DE DÉGUSTATION

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**99/100**

**ALEXANDRE MA**

(...). The nose is a bit discreet at first, but I can still feel every precise detail. After swirling the glass, it seems someone drops down a basket of dried flowers, and my entire body is bathed under the floral rainfall. 90% of new oak and nicely mature grapes create cashmere carpet-like tannins and tiramisu-like texture. Scents of Chinese medicine's freshness toward the finish offer a graceful elegance in the hot vintage of 2018. Heavenly masterpiece is the most appropriate expression for Léoville Las Cases 2018. Please keep it for your next generation. (July 2021)

**99/100**

**JAMES SUCKLING**

An elegant, complex nose of blackberries, blueberries and herbal and spice notes with dark-chocolate and earthy undertones. Violets, flowers and graphite, too. It's full-bodied with firm, layered tannins and a crushed-stone undertone throughout the fresh, velvety and layered palate. Very complex, muscular and formed. The finish is endless. Lowest percentage of press wine ever in this. So deep. Try after 2027. (November 2021)

**99/100**

**JANEANSON.COM**

Of all the properties in Bordeaux that can benefit from a year where alcohols and ripe fruit combine to give a touch of gloss and richness through the mid-palate, the monumental Léoville Las Cases must be it. Nothing is taken away from the stately, concentrated and powerful character of the tannins, but it has a dense, velvety texture alongside cassis, bilberry, black chocolate and liquorice root, poised but hinting of generosity to come. One of my wines of the vintage, and impossible not to include in this list of top 50 to lay down. (September 2021)

**100/100**

**JEB DUNNUCK**

Pure magic and one of the finest expressions of this estate I could imagine, as well as a perfect wine (...). Its dense purple color is followed by a profound wine loaded with notions of crème de cassis, lead pencil shavings,



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melon, crushed stone, tobacco, and violets. Full-bodied, concentrated, and massive on the palate, yet also incredibly well delineated and precise, it has a wonderful mix of seemingly ripe, sunny fruit from a warm year yet the minerality, purity, and precision of a cooler year. This wine is going to be just about immortal; however, do your best to hide bottles for a solid 10-15 years. (March 2021)

19,5/20

REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE / OLIVIER POELS

Très solidement constitué, avec un fruit dense, noir et épicé, voici un vin prêt à traverser le temps. Il offre une très belle qualité de tanins et une faculté incroyable de les digérer. Superbe finale interminable. (Guide Vert 2022)

99/100

THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER / JEFF LEVE

Stylistically different, but not far off from the level of quality found in the perfect 2016, this is a future legendary vintage of Leoville Las Cases. As you begin to nose the wine you find a boatload of crème de cassis, Cuban cigars, smoke, forest leaf, tobacco, blackberry, coffee bean, flowers and earthy aromas. Full-bodied, rich and dense, the wine meshes power with soft, supple, round, rich layers of fruit that feel just great as they coat your palate. Long and intense, comparing this with the 2016 and 2019 over the decades is going to be a lot of fun. (...). (March 2021)

98/100

THE WINE DOCTOR / CHRIS KISSACK

(...). The striking feature of this wine at the primeurs was a nose of rose petals, followed by perfumed gravel, and only after that did the fruit appear. Now it has been bottled it shows the same self-confident display, with floral notes of peony and rose, laying atop scents of black plum, cherry and black olive. On the palate I find a masterclass in restraint, the structure of the wine evidently considerable, albeit with the same polished elegance I saw at the primeurs, yet alongside the dark fruits and thread of acid it feels poised and balanced. A very impressive structure here, carrying the power of the vintage and also the classicism of the domaine and appellation. A St Julien exemplar. Magnificent. (...). (March 2021)

100/100



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## ANTHOCYANES / YOHAN CASTAING

Le bouquet de Léoville Las Cases est tout simplement d'une très grande classe avec des notes de fruits frais, de cassis, de myrtille, de fleurs sauvages et de lilas. Réglisse et graphite à l'aération. Bouche élégante, sapide, très grande classe avec de la puissance, du mouvement et des tanins racés. Allie l'élégance, la finesse et la puissance nécessaire pour le laisser vieillir un minimum de 10 ans et jusqu'à 50 ans. Un Las Cases d'anthologie qui fera date. (Novembre 2020)

99/100

## BECKUSTATOR / YVES BECK

(...) Rouge grenat profond aux reflets pourpres. Que de densité dans ce bouquet où je relève des marqueurs classiques tels que le cassis ainsi que des notes de mûres suivies de nuances de graphite. Beaucoup de fraîcheur, également en attaque. Las Cases se révèle avec charme et puissance et est étonnamment accessible, ce qui différencie clairement ce millésime par rapport à ce que l'on connaît de la propriété. Il y a tout pour plaire dans ce vin (mais ça on a également l'habitude) ; il est convaincant, séduisant et voué à passer quelques décennies en cave' tout en étant accessible dans sa jeunesse ; chacun y trouvera son compte. Un Las Cases charmant, puissant, précis et persistant. 2024-2055. (Décembre 2020)

99/100

## DECANTER / JANE ANSON

This has such a textured, ripe, plump and poised black fruit character that is clear from the aromatics alone. Mouthfilling with huge texture and density, full of licorice root, black chocolate shavings and cocoa pod with crème de cassis edging. This is delicious and has chewy tannins that you can pick up with a shovel. One of the 'wines of the vintage'. Only 2% of press wine (unusually low, as it can go up to 15% in some years). It grips on tight to the finish - extremely impressive. (...). (November 2020)

99/100

## THE WINE CHRONICLES / PANOS KAKAVIATOS

Think of Cohiba Esplendido ' or another top cigar ' and here it is, on the nose. The wine takes the best characteristics of 2018 ' veritably opulent and dense ' but includes much impressive finesse and elegance and delectable sap. Sure, full body, but never too much, ending with pristine, precise and persistent length. In short, a Top Ten bottle of 2018, with (stiff) competition



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from the First Growths (all re-tasted except for Latour). Yet more proof that Las Cases qualifies for First Growth status. 2018 easily rivals the superb 2016. While tasting from barrel last year, director Pierre Graffeuille mused that the concentration was such ' typically the estate uses about 10% press wine, but only 2.3% was used to make the 2019 ' that he considered aging the wine in oak longer than usual, up to 20 months. But fears of too much oak tannin extraction from rather high alcohol wine, clocking in at just under 14.5%, led them to stick with 18 months aging. Indeed, remarkable freshness, too, for this vintage. (November 2020)

**97-99/100**

**B WINE ART / CHRISTER BYKLUM**

Ruby. Anise, spices, blueberries, detailed, cassis, layered, minerals beneath, yet tight and firm at this stage. Fresh acidity, ripe tannins, blueberries, anise, spices, layered, nuanced, dark fruits, vanilla, spices, juicy, firm, incredible density yet playfulness, long indeed. (April 2019)

**100/100**

**FALSTAFF / PETER MOSER**

Tiefdunkles Rubingranat, opaker Kern, violette Reflexe, zarte Randaufhellung. Zarte Edelholzwürze, feines schwarzes Waldbeerkonfit, ein Hauch von Lakritze und Brombeeren, facettenreiches Bukett. Kraftvoll, extraktsüße, reife Supertannine, mineralisch und sehr lange anhaftend, tolle Frische, reife schwarze Kirschen, wird längere Zeit auf der Flasche brauchen, Riesenpotenzial, ein Wein de Garde. (May 2019)

**19,5-20/20**

**BETTANE & DESSEAUVE**

"CHAMPIONS LEAGUE" : 1st wine named Deux échantillons dégustés à deux moments et dans deux lieux différents, deux certitudes : le vin est un sommet absolu à Bordeaux par son incroyable harmonie, diversité aromatique, dégradé tannique, toucher de bouche. Du moins à notre goût qui sera largement partagé. Mais pourvu que les bouchons ne trahissent pas...(Avril 2019)

**18,5/20**

**JANCIS ROBINSON / JULIA HARDING**

Black core with narrow purple rim. A moment of hush needed here. So dark and so intense but also with incredible beauty in its restraint. Silky even with



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so many layers of tannin. pH 3.65 - quite a miracle in 2018. So dry but so not drying. The freshness from both the pH and the tannins. So fine, it just slides across the palate even if the tannin level is high. A wine of great power and restraint, and tannic finesse. Opens to a tiny note of wild herbs even though it is perfectly ripe, more aromatic as it opens. Drink 2030-2050. (April 2019)

19,5+/20

VVWINE.CH / ADRIAN VAN VELSEN

Leuchtendes Rubin. Sehr tiefe Nase, konzentriert, schwarze Kirsche, Johannisbeere, Brombeere, Rauch, darüber florale Noten, getrocknete Rosen. Der Gaumen ist straff, sehr gradlinig, konzentriert, strukturdominiert, viel Gerbstoff, markante Säure, die Frucht ist pur, rein, sehr saftig, das ist wie Beeren zerknacken auf der Zunge. Der Abgang ist vielleicht das Spektakulärste an diesem Wein, er hallt sicherlich 2-3 Minuten nach. Ein grossartiger Las Cases der unbedingt reifen muss. 2030-2050+. (April 2019)

98-100/100

WINE ADVOCATE / LISA PERROTI BROWN

"We produced great Cabernet Franc this year" Directeur Général Pierre Graffeuille told me during my visit to Léoville Las Cases. Even though only 3% of the press wine was added back, he was also absolutely glowing about the quality of this too. And he should be the finished blend for the 2018 Léoville Las Cases is yet another triumph for this great estate. Composed of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 9% Merlot, harvested September 15 to October 4 with yields of 35.5 hectoliters per hectare, it has 14.49% alcohol and will be aged in barriques, 90% new. Very deep purple-black in color, it is a little closed to begin, slowly emerging from the glass to reveal subtle woodsmoke, violets, tilled soil and underbrush scents over a core of warm cassis, wild blueberries and redcurrant jelly plus hints of rare beef and iron ore. Full-bodied, rich, super concentrated and bursting with latent energy, this is an atomic bomb waiting to go off in your mouth. It has a rock-solid foundation of firm, very ripe, very finely grained tannins and bold freshness supporting the muscular fruit through the epically long, amazingly nuanced finish. Simply breathtaking. (April 2019)

96-98/100

WINE ENTHUSIAST / ROGER VOSS

It is the tannins that mark out this powerful wine, presenting a fine



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balancing act between a firm structure and rich dark fruit flavors. It is the epitome of elegant Saint-Julien, with a welcome mix of weight and freshness. (April 2019)

97/100

WINE SPECTATOR / JAMES MOLESWORTH

Reserved, even reticent, at first, but like a cold fireplace brought back to life it slowly reveals beautifully handcrafted notes of cassis, plum reduction and blackberry puree along with hints of charcoal, warm cast iron and sweet bay leaf. A violet note chimes on the seriously long finish, adding a tantalizing treble note. A precise, regal, terroir-driven wine. (...). Best from 2028 through 2042. (February 2021)

98-100/100

JACQUES PERRIN

18/20

LE POINT / JACQUES DUPONT

19,5+/20

MATTHEW JUKES

19/20

WEIN GABRIEL / RENE GABRIEL

20/20

WEINWISSER



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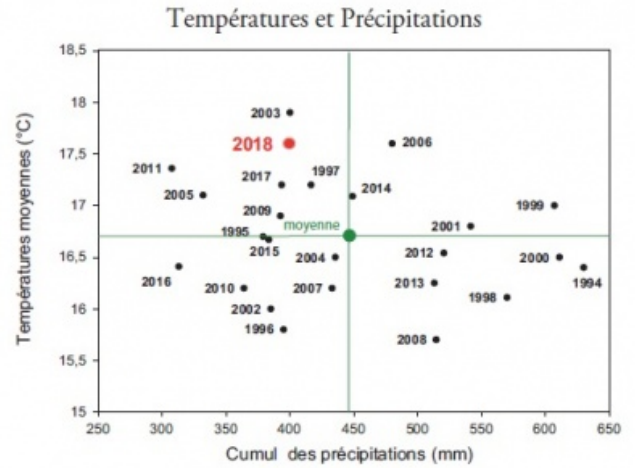
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## Pluviométrie et températures en 2018



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



## Stades phénologiques

