

Las Cases

2020

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 2020

Après un hiver pluvieux et doux, un printemps humide et chaud confirma la précocité générale qui marqua ce début d'année 2020. Par la suite, la météorologie devint plus propice à un développement sans heurts de la vigne et de ses fruits, même si nous pouvions déplorer un volume moins important que l'année précédente. Avec de faibles précipitations dès la deuxième moitié du mois d'Août, ainsi que de bonnes amplitudes thermiques, les raisins présentaient à leur récolte des maturités aromatiques et phénoliques idéales. Le Grand Vin de Léoville Las Cases est d'ores et déjà particulièrement complet, frais et élégant. D'une longueur extraordinaire, il marie la tension à la plénitude d'arômes complexes aux maturités parfaites.

INFORMATIONS TECHNIQUES

Assemblage : 81% Cabernet Sauvignon 11% Cabernet Franc 8% Merlot

Date de vendange : Du 12 au 27 septembre 2020

Degré : 13,68% - Acidité Totale : 3,65 gH₂SO₄/l - pH : 3,80 - IPT : 79



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NOTES DE DÉGUSTATION



REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE / OLIVIER POELS

98-100/100

Une essence de Grand Vin, brillant et racé. Tendu, modéré en alcool (13,6°), juteux et moelleux, il impose une finale d'une fraîcheur incroyable et s'étire de longues secondes. Une déflagration de fruits en milieu de bouche puis de la menthe et du poivre blanc pour clore le bal des saveurs. (Avril 2021)

ANTHOCYANES / YOHAN CASTAING

98-100/100

Cassis, mure, un peu fermé mais tellement complexe. Bouquet à la fois pur et frais malgré un côté un peu terrien. Pureté de fruits incroyable. Toucher de bouche plein, ferme sans être dur, sur des rails pour une allonge superbe. Des tanins d'une très grande précision, cristallins et précis, comme des lasers. Superbe fraîcheur. Un Las Cases qui fera date tant sa construction sur l'allonge et la salinité lui apporteront un potentiel de garde exceptionnel. La définition de ce cru ne cesse d'augmenter au fil des ans pour atteindre, dans ces derniers millésimes, un niveau exceptionnel. Une bouteille que tout amateur se doit de posséder. (Avril 2021)

B WINE ART / CHRISTER BYKLUM

98-100/100

Ruby. Cassis, anise, spices, blueberries, deep, layered and intense nose. Floral, violets notes. Fresh acidity, ripe tannins, dark fruits, spices, liquorice, intense and deep, layered, velvety texture yet it has grip and structure behind it, such width and energy to it, stunning length. (...). (May 2021)

JAMES SUCKLING

98-99/100

This is incredibly classic in style with so much currant, lead pencil, crushed stone and sweet tobacco. It's full-bodied with minerally, stoney and powerful tannins. It goes on and on. Real Las Cases here. Solid as a rock. Progresses to violet, graphite and licorice at the end. (May 2021)

BECKUSTATOR / YVES BECK



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98-99/100

Que de complexité et de grandeur dans ce bouquet. Il me semble très classique, très Las Cases et affiche une énergie communicative, invitant. Notes fruitées et florales. Nuances de bois de réglisse, de cerises et de framboises combinées à de la fraîcheur variétale à laquelle viennent s'ajouter des nuances de graphites et de cèdre. En bouche le vin est dense, compact et subtil. Ses tannins se révèlent d'abord discrètement pour ensuite afficher leur puissance en crescendo en atteignant leur amplitude en finale. Ils confèrent de l'ampleur, de la grandeur et sont en phase avec le côté aiguisé de la structure acide. Un vin qui se révèle avec puissance mais avec une superbe notion de force tranquille. Un très Grand Vin. 2028-2060. (Avril 2021)

WEINWISSER / TJARK WITZGALL

19,5+/20

(...). Tiefes Purpur mit opaker Mitte und zartem lila Rand. Sehr dicht verwobenes Bouquet mit edler Cassiswürze, Bleistiftmine und dunklem Graphit. Im zweiten Ansatz verführerisches Veilchenparfüm, Lakritze und Malabarpfeffer. Am konzentrierten Gaumen mit seidiger Textur, herrlicher Extraktfülle, dabei saftig und anregend, engmaschiges Tanningerüst, der Modellathlet mit der DNA von Las Cases. Schnell im katapultartigen Finale mit viel Rasse und Kraft nach vorne, Wildkirsche und seidige Tannine, "This is Las Cases". Man sagt mir, der Wein erinnere an den 2000er und sei die Identität des Terroirs. (May 2021)

MATTHEW JUKES

19+/20

Noble and refined, intellectually stimulating and respectfully reserved, this is a Las Cases with mesmerising deportment and it delivers its message with complete confidence. In 2020, this powerful lion has taken a few steps away from the muscular stance for which it is famous and so the perfume and palate are incredibly composed. There are plenty of gorgeous red fruit highlights among the 92% Cabernet notes and as Franc overtakes Merlot in the blend this appears to heighten the high notes and floral details in the aromatics while preserving amazing freshness on the finish. Direct, super-long, precision-cut and incredibly refined, Las Cases has captured the energy of the vintage and arranged it with the skill of expert marquetry on the palate. There are few wines as beautiful or as detailed as this one in 2020. (May 2021)



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TERRE DE VINS / MATHIEU DOUMENGE

98-99/100

Coup de coeur de la rédaction. Un oeil sur la puissance de Pauillac mais toujours solidement planté dans l'élégant classicisme de Saint-Julien, Léoville Las Cases impose une nouvelle fois, sans fanfare, son style haute-couture. Le dessin du vin est superbe, élancé, profond et ciselé. La matière, centrée et racée, explose en corolle de fruits juteux, sertie de tanins pixélisés, articulée autour d'une superbe tension. Derrière son apparente austérité, c'est un grand vin de lieu et de précision, méditatif et identitaire, signé par une texture hors norme dans la qualité de sa définition. Promis à une longue garde. (Avril 2021)

ALEXANDRE MA

98-99/100

The nose is mature and stable, manifesting graceful violet, succulent waxberry, and light anise fragrance. All of the aromas are humble and precise, building a multi-layered structure in the glass. The palate is pretty gentle, adorned with silky tannins and hints of sweetness from head to toe. Thanks to clay and gravel subsoil, I can feel an invisible structure emerges from a creamy mouthfeel. If I said the vintage of 2019 was France's crown with lots of rare jewels, these gems shine out more brilliancy in the vintage of 2020. (April 2021)

MARKUS DEL MONEGO (MW)

98/100

Dark purple colour with violet hue and black core. An almost intellectual wine with initially closed character. Slowly opening up releasing an aroma reminiscent of blackcurrants, elderberries, mulberries and hints of sloe. Fine toasting aroma, dark chocolate, hints of vanilla and oriental spices. On the palate well structured with excellent depth, length and freshness, fine, savoury character with elegant minerality, expressive fruit and lingering floral hints in the aftertaste. An iron fist in a glove of silk. (May 2021)

WINE ADVOCATE / LISA PERROTTI-BROWN

96-98/100

(...). With an opaque purple-black color, it slowly unfurls to reveal beguiling notes of fresh blackcurrants, Morello cherries, candied violets and dark chocolate, giving way to an undercurrent of crushed rocks, unsmoked



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cigars, clove oil and fragrant earth. The medium-bodied palate is a powerhouse of energy, delivering tightly wound red and black fruits, mineral and floral layers, supported by fantastic tension and incredibly ripe, silk-like tannins. The finish has jaw-dropping fragrance and depth. (May 2021)

WINE ENTHUSIAST / ROGER VOSS

96-98/100

The wine's richness comes both from the dark tannins and the pure, classic black currant flavors. Acidity, yes, but surrounded by dense fruits and tannins that give the wine considerable structure and the potential to age for many years. An impressive wine. (May 2021)

VINOUS / NEAL MARTIN

96-98/100

(...). The Cabernet Sauvignon is in the driving seat on the nose, offering almost saturnine black fruit, pencil shavings and cedar, perhaps one of the most Pauillac-like bouquets that I have noticed on this wine out of barrel, which is no surprise considering its vines adjoin that appellation. The palate is medium-bodied, strict and linear at first, that Pauillac tincture the continuing theme thanks to conspicuous graphite/pencil lead notes interwoven into the black fruit. There is plenty of freshness here and impressive weight, yet no sense of heaviness toward the finish. (May 2021)

THE DRINKS BUSINESS / COLIN HAY

96-98/100

(...). A truly excellent Las Cases that seems to have more similarities with Latour (next door) than ever. On the nose this is quite marked by the Cabernet Franc - blueberries, cherries, mulberries, a lovely graphite minerality and just a hint of sous bois. The attack is cool and silky, turning limpid, lithe and sinuous and the wine seems to relax and stretch itself out along its spine. There's a great and very natural sense of harmony and freshness here and those gorgeously fine-grained and intensely structuring tannins bring great pixilated detail to the mid palate. At this stage (...) one feels that the pixilation is in black and white and the colours are still to come with bottle age - one senses the structure and the potential but can only begin to anticipate the evolution. The shimmering finish lasts for minutes and minutes. (June 2021)



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THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER / JEFF LEVE

96-98/100

Dark garnet in color, the wine pops with aromas of tobacco leaf, cigar box, cedar, herbs, black currants, coffee and spice. Refined, fresh, polished and firm, the fruit is vibrant, long and intense. The tannins are ripe almost creamy in texture. The finish is long, regal and compelling, leaving you with layer, of black currants and cassis. Give this at least 12-15 years before popping a cork and enjoy it for the next 3 decades after that. (...). The harvest took place from September 12 - September 27, making this the earliest vintage since 1989. (May 2021)

VINOUS / ANTONIO GALLONI

95-98/100

The 2020 Léoville Las Cases comes across as a super-classic Saint-Julien that combines mid-weight structure of previous decades, with the greater textural finesse that has become the norm here in recent years. A shy introvert, the 2020 Las Cases won't impress with size or brawn as is often the case, but with a total sense of finesse. Readers with classically leaning palates will flip out over the 2020. I can't wait to watch it evolve, hopefully for many decades to come. It is certainly one of the standouts of the year at this point. (May 2021)

JANCISROBINSON.COM / JAMES LAWTHOR (MW)

18/20

Very deep colour. Dense and reserved with an abundance of dark, ripe fruit. Tannins really very fine, providing length and persistence but no aggression. A measured wine with good concentration and a saline freshness but without the muscle seen some years. More St-Julien than Pauillac this year. (April 2021)

JEB DUNNUCK

95-97+/100

The flagship 2020 Château Léoville Las Cases (...) shows the dense, concentrated, focused style of the vintage and it's going to be one of the longer-lived wines of the vintage. Deep purple-hued, with an incredible sense of minerality in its blackcurrant and black cherry fruits, it's full-bodied, has a rich, layered mid-palate, lots of tannins, and a great finish. It's a beautiful wine and holds onto the more inward, concentrated style of the



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vintage while still showing serious depth of fruit. It's going to take a decade (or more) of bottle age to get anywhere close to the early stages of maturity but will keep for 30-40 years. (May 2021)

THE WINE DOCTOR / CHRIS KISSACK

95-97/100

(...). An opaque black tulip in the glass, with a dense black tulip rim. Beautiful Cabernet character on the nose, dark and shimmering with blackcurrant, currant, crushed damson and dark chocolate, but there is also a perfumed lift, of peppered violets. It feels beautifully harmonious, and this is exactly how the palate presents itself, with an elegant medium-bodied presence, filled out with a lithe and sinewy substance, dense but compact, and underpinned by a ripe seam of tannins. The extraction here has clearly been sensitively tackled, because even at the end the structure remains comfortably wrapped up in the fruit. The finish provides a flourish of perfumed oak, but a gentle fade of dark fruit and grip. A very elegantly polished style this year, with very fine potential. (...). (May 2021)

WEINVERSTAND / ULRICH SAUTTER

95-97/100

Haben weniger Presswein verwendet als sonst. Cassis, Waldheidelbeere, Sauerkirsche. Sehr floral. Im Mund unmittelbar salzig, dicht mit fleischig-körnigem Tannin besetzt, etwas »süßer« in der Stoffigkeit, als man das früher kannte. Festes Säuregerüst, aber eben auch mit einer gewissen Milde, die unter der stoffigen Kraft liegt. Sehr salzig im Mund. Im Nachhall reifer Cabernet Franc. (December 2021)

LIN LIU (MW)

95-96/100

Fresh and ripe fruits with big structure. Plentiful of fruit concentration, amazing tension driven by its vibrant acidity. On the palate seeing the waves of freshness and minerality released from the fruit core, finishing with salinity and adequate "gras (oiliness)", making it a wine of harmony and complexity. Ageing potential: 2045+. (April 2021)

DECANTER / JANE ANSON

96/100

Top Scoring. A subtle intensity where the power steals up on you through the palate - this is an excellent example of what Las Cases can deliver.



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Intellectual, concentrated and reined in for the foreseeable future. You get the full array of serious St-Julien character - pencil lead, cigar box, cassis bud, bilberry, earth and granite-edged tannins, this needs time. Very little press wine was used because this has such a plainly evident natural intensity. Needs time, but knowing how this estate is a slow burner even in generous vintages, you are going to need a lot of patience for this vintage to reach its drinking window. Impressive, not yet showing its heart. May be upscored once in bottle. (...). (April 2021)



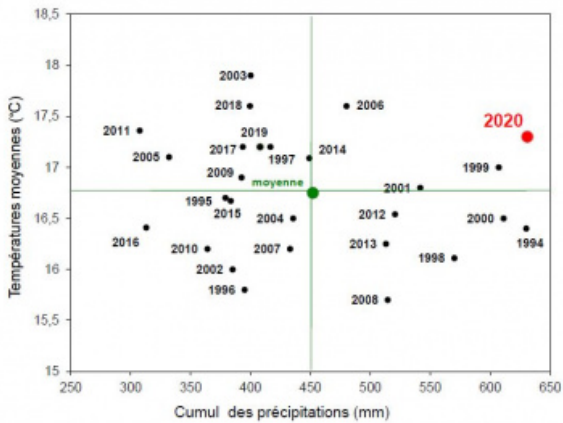
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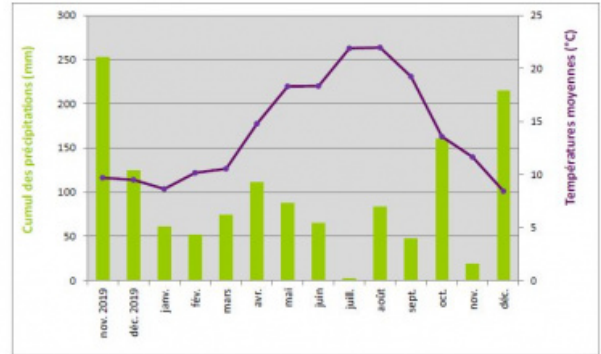
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Comparatif des températures et précipitations sur la période végétative : du 1er mars au 31 octobre

Pluviométrie et températures en 2020



Températures et Précipitations



Stades phénologiques

