

Document Citation

Title	The leopard
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Source	<i>San Francisco International Film Festival</i>
Date	1995 Apr 22
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	56
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Il gattopardo (The leopard), Visconti, Luchino, 1963

S.F.I.F.F., 1995, p. 56



4/22
12:00 CAS 4221

The Leopard

Il Gattopardo

ITALY 1963, U.S. restored version 185 min.
(original version 205 min.)

DIR Luchino Visconti

PROD Goffredo Lombardo SCR Suso Cecchi d'Amico,
Pasquale Festa Campanile, Enrico Medioli,
Massimo Franciosa, Visconti CAM Giuseppe Rotunno
ED Mario Serandrei CAST Burt Lancaster, Alain Delon,
Claudia Cardinale, Paulo Stoppa

SUSO CECCHI D'AMICO TRIBUTE

See article on page 27.

The Leopard is the only film I can think of that's about the aristocracy from the inside. Visconti, the Marxist count, is both pitiless and loving. His view from the inside is not very different from that of Max Ophuls in *The Earrings of Madame de . . .*, which was made from the outside (though it was based on the short novel by the aristocratic Louise de Vil-morin). Ophuls' imagination took him where Visconti's lineage (and imagination) had brought him, and he gave us a portrait of a French aristocrat by Charles Boyer which had similarities to Lancaster's performance. But we weren't taken inside that French aristocrat's value system with anything like the robust fullness of our involvement with Lancaster's Leopard. If it weren't for the Prince's wiry, strong dark-red hair and his magisterial physique—his vigor—I doubt if we'd feel the same melancholy at the death of his class. The film makes us feel that his grace is part of his position. We're brought to respect values that are almost totally foreign to our society. That's not a small thing for a movie to accomplish.

Pauline Kael, The New Yorker