

# Château Potensac 2008

CSPC# 763553

750mlx12

13.31% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

42% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

Medoc

**Classification**

Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel

**Website**

[http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau\\_potensac\\_vins.html](http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html)

**General Info**

Potensac is owned by the same people as Leoville Las Cases, run by Jean-Hubert Delon. The estate is situated in the north of the Medoc, between the villages of Blaignan and Ordonnac.

Quality at Potensac has been on an upward curve ever since Michel Delon (of Léoville-Las-Cases) fame took over the running of the property in the 1970s. He sadly passed away in 2000 and Potensac is now run by his dynamic son Jean-Hubert, with the assistance of maître de chai Pierre Rolland, brother of guru oenologist Michel Rolland.

**Vintage**

The spring of 2008 was cold (especially April), causing a late start for the growth cycle. The weather conditions in late July and early August allowed a quick and even colour change. The ripening stage then began in a generally cool and wet atmosphere, with rain until the beginning of September. The extremely dry weather through the rest of September meant it was possible to wait for the optimum ripeness of this late vintage.

**Vineyards**

The estate's Grand Vin's vineyards are located west of Ordonnac village. Its rows of vines grow on a double thalweg of gravelly clay. They produce a very fine wine with tight texture, great richness and wonderful freshness. On the palate, the wine is pure and powerful, the tannins dense and spicy, and the finish of great depth with glorious aromas. Because of these qualities, Château Potensac is often considered to represent the "pure Medoc style". It should be noted that Potensac was the only "Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel" of its appellation.

The vineyards cover 50 hectares, planted on rich alluvial gravel and red clay soils, with 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc vines. These vines have an average age of 35 years.

**Harvest**

From 4th to 16th October 2008

**Vinification/**

**Maturation**

The grapes at Potensac are hand-harvested and then vinified in a combination of temperature-controlled, concrete and stainless-steel tanks. The wine is matured in small oak barrels (20% new) for 14-16 months.

**Tasting Notes**

Deep ruby, medium rim; the 2008 Potensac looks robust in the decanter with no sign of ageing. The first nose was of ripe, fresh blackcurrants, with other mixed, red fruits (from the 40% Cabernet Sauvignon mostly). Not plummy at all despite its 42% Merlot content, Chateau Potensac 2008 gives aromas of flowers, tea leaves and cool mint (from the Cab Franc of 18%). On the palate, it is lightish, with fresh cassis and cherry secondary to chewy tannins and minerality as we taste along. The tannins are fairly smooth by now. Licorice, finishes with a hint of spice and dark chocolate of over 10 second fruit length. Structured, with classic Bordeaux wine tastes.

**Serve with**

A medium-rare sirloin on a hot grill would be the ideal combination.

**Cellaring**

Drink 2012-2025

**Scores/Awards**

**87 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2011

**88-91 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2009

**87 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011

**90-92 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #182 - April 2009

**Review Only** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2012

**89 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2011

**86-88 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2009

**91 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2011

**90-92 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 31, 2009

**87-89 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2009



**Scores/Awards** **16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2009 (score only)

**91 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2009

**89 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 26, 2017

**89-92 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2009

**86 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2009

**15.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

**16 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)

**16 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**17 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)

**1 star** - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2012

**Reviews** *"Fresh and pure, with a friendly beam of raspberry and black cherry fruit, pushed gently by mineral and tobacco hints on the open-knit finish. Drink now. 19,165 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Offers currant and blackberry. Very aromatic. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and bright acidity. Very fresh. The best Potensac in years. Score range: 88-9"*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Sweet plum, deep cherry and currant notes as well as underbrush and earthiness are all present in this elegant, mid-weight wine, which has good freshness, decent acidity, and ripe tannin. It should drink nicely for up to 7-8 years."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Perhaps the finest Potensac made since the 1982, the 2008 is undoubtedly a sleeper of the vintage. Harvested between October 4-16, this blend of 42% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 18% Cabernet Franc was fashioned from modest yields of 44 hectoliters per hectare. While lacking the prestige of a grand cru classe, it offers an amazing display of sweet black cherry and cassis fruit intermixed with notions of earth and spice. Good purity, a medium to full-bodied mouthfeel, a seamless balance, ripe tannins, and fresh acids result in an amazing wine that should sell for a song. It should evolve for a decade or more."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted ex-chateau and single blind in Southwold. Another perplexing performance from Potensac 2008. It is simple on the nose with straightforward dark berried fruit but lacking some personality. The palate has a chewy entry, but it lacks real backbone and the finish drifts away. I am pretty sure there are better bottles than this. Tasted January 2012."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at Chateau Leoville Las-Cases. This has improved from its barrel showing, the nose is very Pauillac in style with touches of tobacco, mint and blackcurrant. Good lift and focus, expanding nicely in the glass. The palate has a ripe, supple entry, those tannin lay in the background at first, but make their presence felt towards the finish. The oak is a little disjointed at the moment, but there is fine definition and good persistency. I would afford this Potensac 3-4 years to coalesce because I think it could be a dark horse. Drink 2012-2025. Tasted October 2010."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"En primeur barrel sample. A blend of 42% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Cabernet Franc with 8.7% of pressed wine, this has blackcurrant wine gums on the nose with just a touch of chalk dust. Nice definition but rather foursquare. The palate has a tannic entry, quite foursquare with cedar-infused black fruits with just a touch of cassis and blueberry. Moderate length. Lacks a little excitement for this taster. Very "correct". Tasted March 2009."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Structured, direct, not heavy, the fruit very forward, powered by red berries. The wine has an attractive open character, rich and fresh at the same time."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

**Reviews** *“90-92 Barrel sample. With the team of Léoville Las-Cases in charge, this is always one of the high performing Médoc properties. It is tight, dark, taking a while to open. The blackberry flavors are almost stalky, but they are softened by smoky wood.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Good purity and intensity of ripe black fruit, balsamic and chocolate. Lovely elegance and mouthfeel with good freshness and lift, with youthful, fine tannins. Vibrant and very promising.”*  
- SS, Decanter.com

*“Firm, solid, stern and with a sense of austerity, this is a good example of old school classic claret. The wine has concentration, and a liberal dose of cedar, tobacco, earth and cassis, which is still backed up with its tannic structure.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The nose has the influence of ripe black fruit cassis battling with plum for dominance. Bilberry emerges and its freshness combined with the tannins gives structure and brightness towards the back. The ripeness of the fruit shows on the finish, lots of lush plum.”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*“With green pepper and obvious Cabernet Sauvignon characters, this is a stalky and firm wine made in a big, massive style with lots of phenolic/tannin extract, but without finesse. Modest finish. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Drink.”*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com

---