

Château Potensac 2011

CSPC# 763553

750mlx12

13.51% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

52% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Medoc

Website

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

2011 is the second hottest vintage of the decade after 2003! It will be remembered for the exceptionally hot and dry spring that meant a very early flowering. In mid-July the colour change got off to a slow start and then accelerated after some rain showers. The regular summer rain counterbalanced the real lack of water observed at the beginning of the season. The final maturity levels were very good, particularly for the phenological potential in the Cabernet Francs.

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

Hand harvested From 14th to 29th September 2011

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

Rather a reserved character on the nose, not extremely open or expressive, with a similarly soft character on the palate akin to that presented by the second wine just tasted. It feels diffuse, with a simple fruit character, with decent if rather firm tannins behind it all. A touch foursquare. And a soft, chewy finish.

Cellaring

Drink 2014-2019

Scores/Awards

86-89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

85 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014

87-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

87-89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012

87-88 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2012

91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2014

87-89 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012

17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012

16.5 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012

87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

89+ points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012

86 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 21, 2014

87-89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 8, 2012

88-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012



Scores/Awards **13 points** - Farr Vintner - March 2012
92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012
91 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
87-89 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

Reviews *"Lively, tangy style, with currant and pomegranate notes and nice floral lift on the finish. A touch crisp but should soften enough with the élevage. Score range: 86-89"*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Displaying attractive berry fruit, damp earth and spice notes along with a touch of herbaceousness, this medium-bodied, cleanly made, bistro-styled red can be consumed over the next 4-5 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A sleeper of the vintage, this blend of 52% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Cabernet Franc exhibits outstanding ripeness (13.5% alcohol) as well as a deep ruby/purple color and excellent notes of crushed rocks, red and black currants, licorice and earth. Supple-textured, medium-bodied and nicely concentrated, it should provide pleasure over the next 7-10 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The Potensac is a blend of 52% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Cabernet Franc cropped at 48hl/ha. It has a light cedar-driven bouquet where despite the predominance of Merlot, the Cabernet is the defining feature with attractive tertiary/sous-bois scents. The palate is medium bodied with a stony entry, quite terse and linear, perhaps strict with no frills. Crisp blackberry and briary towards the finish with a sense of clinical abruptness. Tasted April 2012."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A wine with currants and flowers with lots of bright acidity. Lemony. Medium to full body, with fine tannins and a fresh finish."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"90-92. Barrel sample. Firm tannins, a wine with a solid structure, the weight packed tightly into its firm structure. Concentrated tannins are very present while still fruity."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"(51% merlot, 34% cabernet sauvignon and 15% cabernet franc): Deep purple. Cherry, mocha, licorice and a whiff of meat on the nose. Pliant and sweet in the mouth, with good herbal lift to the raspberry, red plum and sweet spice flavors. Ripe tannins spread out to dust the entire mouth. A potentially very good Potensac. "
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"34% Cabernet Sauvignon, 52% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc. 30% new oak. Deep cherry crimson. Lifted red cherry fruit, aromatic and bright. Finest of tannins, lively and fresh and with an excellent balance of dry tannin and fresh fruit. Real purity of fruit. Then the fine tension of the tannins. Precision helped by accurate sorting (optical sorting machine). "
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Good cassis fruit, structure and depth, lots of class and good future. Drink 2015-2024"
- SS, Decanter.com

"34% cab sauv, 52% merlot, 14% cab franc, lovely fresh purple rim, really rather attractive colour, some grip on the palate, and good acidity. Lacks persistency, but a good choice for early drinking."
- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Lean, with a bright, crisp, cassis and fresh, black raspberry, masculine leaning personality."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"From a blend of 52% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Cabernet Franc, the wine will be aged in 30% new oak. Reaching 13.5% alcohol, this brawny, powerful wine is packed with cassis. Structured and built to age, it will need time. 87-89 Pts*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The comparative bargain in Jean-Hubert Delon's portfolio, this Médoc blend consistently outperforms its appellation. It's Merlot-dominated on the nose and palate, with juicy, lightly peppery aromas and supple fruit framed by serious, but not over-extracted tannins. Long and satisfying. 6+ years."
- TA, timatkin.com

"Well structured, "Englishman's claret". Classic balance and structure from this Northern Medoc property owned by Leoville Las Cases. A little fade at the rim, this is slightly too lean, dry and muscular with not enough flesh to cover the bones. Firm tannins make this quite an austere young wine."
- Farr Vintners

"Bramble and cassis feel sweet giving richness on the nose and a nice weight of fruit on the palate. Behind the black fruit there is some strawberry still quite sweet and as the tannins are rounded the fruit sweetness shows at the back."
- Derek Smedley MW

"A full-bodied red with a large proportion of Merlot 52% in here giving it softness and plush, round mouthfeel. The flavours are plummy with good texture and depth. Will age well."
- JCL, asianpalate.com
