

Château Potensac 2016

CSPC# 763553

750mlx12

14.14% alc./vol.

CSPC# 103484

750mlx6

14.14% alc./vol.

Part of a Vertical Mixed Pack

Grape Variety	44% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Médoc
Classification	Cru Bourgeois
Website	http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html
Analysis	Total Acidity: 3.39 g/l pH: 3.49 ITP: 75
Sustainability	Sustainable agriculture is an essential point of the work of the vine.
General Info	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Winemakers	Pierre Rolland – cellar master
Vintage	<p>The year 2016 started off with the water tables full, thanks to the heavy rainfall from January to March. Three difficult months for the vineyard workers but which saved the day for this vintage! The mild temperatures in March ensured an early budburst but the colder, rainy mornings in April slowed down the growth cycle. From mid-June to mid-October, rainfall was well below the seasonal average. During the first two weeks of August, the colour change was short and even on each of the properties. The grapes developed in radiant, dry weather conditions. Light showers appeared in mid-September to re-boost the ripening process on the terroirs offering less water retention, thus perfecting the maturation of the tannins. The absolutely perfect weather conditions during harvest time allowed us to pick grapes boasting remarkable quality.</p>
Vineyards	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Harvest	Harvested between 5th to 19th October 2016
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	It presents wonderfully lifted and charming scents of red cherry skins on the nose, with little touches of crushed red plum and vanilla. A very classic style, with a lightly juicy medium-bodied presence on the palate underpinned by traditionally firm tannins. There is fine savoury fruit substance here, and great energy too. A real charmer, with a long and energetic finish, but it will please Médoc classicists too
Serve with	Chateau Potensac is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. The wine of Chateau Potensac is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	23,333 cases made.



**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2020-2035

- 89 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2019
- 88-91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 2017
- 94-97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2016
- 90 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - November 2018
- 90-92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017
- 94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019
- 93-94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017
- 90 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019
- 90-92 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017
- 16 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2020
- 17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017
- 90 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018
- 90 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017
- 91 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019
- 91 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017
- 90 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - January 2016
- 91 points** - Farr Vintner - April 2017
- 88-90 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017
- 92 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - August 2020
- 91 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019
- 92 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019
- 89-92 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017
- 91 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019
- 89 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019
- 88 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - April 2017
- 93 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2017
- 16 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2020
- 16.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2017

Reviews

"Open-knit, with a mix of bramble, sweet tobacco, and steeped red and black currant fruit flavors. A lightly roasted apple wood note and a flash of iron check in on the finish, adding spine. Drink now through 2029. 23,333 cases made."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Lovely cherry paste and cassis flavors are fresh and open, backed by light plum pit and chalk notes that impart focus on the finish. Nicely done. Score Range: 88-91."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Blended of 44% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, the medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2016 Potensac features chocolate box and Sichuan pepper scents with a core of cassis, warm blackberries, kirsch, and menthol. Medium to full-bodied, it has a great core of expressive black fruits, grainy tannins, and lovely freshness, finishing with a red fruit lift. Drink 2020-2035."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 Potensac is a blend of 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, cropped at 55 hectoliters per hectare between 5 and 19 October (11 days of picking), then matured in 30% new oak. Jean-Hubert Delon told me that his team was selective in the winery and so the Grand Vin only comprises 55% of the total production. It actually shares the potent marine/estuarine influence of the Chapelle de Potensac, plenty of black fruit here, maybe a little rustic but with plenty of character. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, quite linear at first, opening nicely in the mouth to reveal a spicy and lively middle and finish. This has a little more panache than the 2015 Potensac, more detail towards the finish, and it should give plenty of drinking pleasure over the next decade or more. Drink 2020 - 2035."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"Suave aromas of cedar and fresh red flowers with a thread of ripe red berries and blackcurrants, mulberries, coal smoke and cool stones. The palate delivers a wealth of rich red-fruit flavors, framed in sleek tannins that build with precision and length. A class act! One of the best from here in the modern era. Try from 2023."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *“What a racy and focused Potensac with wonderful density and finesse as well as a firm and polished tannins that hold the whole thing together. A beautiful, reasoned young red. One of best Potensac’s in a long time.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “This ripe wine offers structure from the Cabernet in the blend but also rich berry fruits with just a hint of chocolate. Its density and acidity give a smooth as well as juicy aftertaste. Roger Voss”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “With its fine tannins and ripe fruit aromas and flavors, this wine brings out all the elements of the vintage: great structure and great fruit. It's not a powerful wine but is stylish and likely to be ready to drink within 10 years. “*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Tasted blind. Rich nose, mineral texture. Very cool-tasting. Drink 2024 - 2028.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Bright crimson. Racy and very rich and polished. Lovely tannins. Very juicy. Some tannin and potential underneath. Firm structure but no austerity. GV? Drink 2024-2033.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “This is such classic Médoc - the freshness is clear, perfectly underpinning the crunchy red and black berry fruits. It's super-seductive and easy to drink despite being closed right now, as you would expect at this stage, but the weight of tannins suggests that it will open back up fairly swiftly, and a second bottle I tasted was even more juicy. 2% Petit Verdot completes the blend.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Potensac benefits from its location close to St-Estèphe in this vintage, and the tannins are absolutely beautiful, far more bouncy and fresh than in some vintages. Deep, rich blueberry and raspberry fruits are framed by the same floral prettiness as the second wine. What an excellent vintage for Potensac, owned by the Delon Group. A definite buy this year, give it maybe five years then crack right into it. 56% grand vin, 34% to Chapelle de Potensac and 10% sent to bulk. A blend of 44% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, aged in 30% new oak. 3.49pH. Drinking Window 2022 – 2038.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “With a classic combination of cigar box, forest floor and cassis, the wine is full-bodied, tannic, firm and fresh, structured to age, give it at least a decade for the wine to soften, developing complexities and softness.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Dense, powerful, round, and classic, this wine is ripe with character, weight, tannin and the structure to age. Best vintage of Potensac I've ever tasted.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Produced by the Léoville Las Cases team in the Northern Médoc near to Sociando Mallet, above St Estèphe with maturation in 33% new oak. A second wine - La Chapelle de Potensac - is also made here. 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, with 30% new oak in 2016. Spicy with plum and cherry fruits and a touch of blackcurrant. Crunchy, sandy tannins provide fresh and classic structure. A nice toasty finish supports rather than dominates the fruit, bringing complexity and retaining balance.”*
- Farr Vintners
- “The nose has fragrance spring violets the start of the palate is light and bright, but it fills out in the middle with sweet ripe black fruits. The tannins are fine and integrated with the richness balanced by freshness the finish has good depth and sweetness. 2024-34”*
- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews *“The 2016 Potensac has a ripe, pure-fruit-driven bouquet of black cherries and bilberry fruit, developing lovely floral aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fleshy ripe black fruit and fine mineralité. There is a subtle marine influence at play toward the finish, and a dash of white pepper on the aftertaste. Enjoyable. Tasted blind at the Southwold tasting. 2020 – 2036.”*

- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Potensac contains earlier-picked Merlot and later-picked Cabernet, according to the estate. It offers blackberry, sous-bois and crushed stone on the nose, the new oak (one-third) finely integrated and focused. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin and a fine bead of acidity, delivering a mixture of red and black fruit and a lightly spiced, almost gentle finish of satisfying length. I appreciate the nonchalant, easygoing nature of this Potensac, which should give immense pleasure over the next 15 to 20 years. Drink 2020-2036.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Potensac is a huge overachiever. Succulent black cherry, plum, spice, leather, licorice, and lavender flesh out in this striking, deeply flavored Médoc. Inky, racy, and super-expressive, the 2016 is a wine of pure and total seduction. Jean-Hubert Delon's entire portfolio is impressive in 2016, but the wines from Potensac are especially of note. Tasted two times. Drink 2021-2036.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 Potensac bristles with energy. Bright aromatics, mouthwatering acidity and finely sculpted fruit elevate the 2016 to a lofty position among the best wines in its class. Graphite, crushed rocks, lavender, blue/purplish fruit, and exotic flowers abound in this tasty, midweight Médoc from Jean-Hubert Delon.”

- AG, Vinous

“Another sleeper is the 2016 Château de Potensac, which is 44% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, all aged 14 months in 30% new French oak. This beauty is upfront and ready to go, with a dark, rich bouquet of currants, unsmoked tobacco, graphite, and earth. With beautiful concentration and a layered, elegant texture, it's one of those wines that has ample upfront appeal yet will keep for 15+ years. Drink 2019-2034.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, subtle lighting of the edges, black berry fruit underlaid with fine tobacco nuances, a hint of cassis, tangerine zest underlaid. Full-bodied, round, and elegant, pleasant extract sweetness, integrated, supporting tannins, spicy, delicate nougat in the aftertaste, has potential for development.”

- Falstaff Magazine
