

Château Potensac 2019

CSPC# 866179

750mlx12

14.05% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 47% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Appellation Médoc
Classification Cru Bourgeois
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.

Winemakers Pierre Rolland – cellar master

Vintage After a wet winter, spring was cool and increasingly dry, followed by a hot summer punctuated by showers as we got closer to the harvest period. A complicated vintage in short, where the attention had to be permanent in order to harvest splendid Merlot and Cabernets of great nobility. The wine of Château Potensac presents a classic blend and remains dense and refined. without ever losing the magnificent mineral tension.

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 21st September to 9th October 2019

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 Potensac 2019 is an elegant Médoc wine with incredible clarity. The body is slender; the aromas are fragrant. Behind the crisp cranberries and red plums, this wine reveals a sense of tea stalk-like freshness and streaming acidity; I think the clay and limestone sub-soils play an essential role in this hot and dry vintage. The silky tannins and salty mineral notes spread on the palate with an endless finish.

Serve with 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 15,000 cases made.

Cellaring Drink 2022-2030

Scores/Awards **88 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022
90 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022
90-92+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020
17 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020
94 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022
92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020
92 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022



Scores/Awards **90-92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020

91 points - Neal Martin, *Vinous* - February 2022

90-92 points - Neal Martin, *Vinous* - June 2020

92 points - Antonio Galloni, *Vinous* - February 2022

90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, *Vinous* - June 2020

92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022

91-93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020

89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020

92 points - Thomas Parker MW - March 2022

93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021

Reviews *"Fresh and pure, with cassis and cherry puree notes streaming through, carried by light iron and floral accents through the unadorned finish. Drink now through 2030."*
- JM, *Wine Spectator*

"Always a dependable bottling, the 2019 Potensac opens in the glass with aromas of dark berries, cherries, and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy, and nicely concentrated, with lively acids and powdery tannins, the vintage has made for an unusually polished Potensac that will offer a broad drinking window. Drink 2025-2045."

- WK, *Wine Advocate*

"The 2019 Potensac was harvested from the 21st of September to the 9th of October. The alcohol came in at 14.05% with a pH of 3.54 and an IPT of 74. It is aging in French oak barriques, 34% new. With a deep purple-black color, the nose hits the ground running with lively scents of black raspberries, warm cassis, and redcurrant jelly plus suggestions of garrigue, tilled soil, unsmoked cigars, and pencil shavings. The medium to full-bodied palate is positively invigorating, offering bags of crunchy black and red berry flavors and a racy line of freshness, framed by approachable, grainy tannins, and finishing with a skip in its step. In a word: FUN!"

- LPB, *Wine Advocate*

"Bright, with crushed-stone and floral character on the nose. Medium body with a firm core, expanding through the palate. Vivid and bright. Lots of good energy. Crushed-stone and lightly chalky character at the end. Needs two or three years to come around."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Excellent Potensac with a creamy and tight tannin structure. Blueberries and blackberries with some salt and minerals at the end. Classic structure. One of the best ever."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Less exuberant and more classic than the 2018. Vibrant and fresh with an energetic feel. Nose bright and lifted. Good depth of ripe fruit. Firmly structured, the tannins grainy but honed. Persistent."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Purity, precision, and energy here, fresh, and juicy and full of life on the palate with creamy-edged ripe, red fruits. Lovely power, with a clear Pauillac-like tannic structure but mouthfeel that is silky and smooth. A fresh mineral finish leaves the palate nicely cooled. A top buy. Drinking Window 2024 - 2040."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Elegance and classicism, really feel that you are in good hands in a great claret property. The fruit is ripe and yet fresh, there are quite a lot of tannins that come in on the finish, along with an earthy unfussiness. This is enjoyable, it's closed and should remain so for the next three to four years. The 2018 will give more immediate pleasure, but this will amply reward just a little more patience."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Here the raspberry and redcurrant fruits that were present in La Chapelle have filled out and deepened, with a luscious richness through the mid palate. There are still plenty of Médoc tannins showing tension and layering, and you need to give it time to open in the glass. A little tense and nervy right now but good quality - benefitting from an uprooting of 20ha of the less impressive parts of the vineyard to focus on the highest quality sectors. Harvest September 21 to October 9. 3.54ph."

- JA, *Inside Bordeaux*

- Reviews** *“Medium-bodied, fresh, lively, fresh, and vibrant, the wine is almost ready to go with its blast of tobacco leaf, currants, spice, and touch of mint leaf on the nose and palate. Drink from 2024-2038.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Mint, cedar, leaf, and herbal aromatics combine to produce a structured, firm, crisp bite of cassis, blackberry and stone on the nose and palate, creates a wine with freshness, fruit, with a true Médocain character. 14.05% alcohol.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “The 2019 Potensac has a very similar nose to the sample that was dispatched to my home last year, but it is more backward by comparison, taking time to unfurl in the glass. The palate is well balanced, with sappy red fruit and a slight chalkiness toward the finish. Classic Haut-Médoc in style. Drink 2024 – 2044.”*
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2019 Potensac was harvested from 21 September to 9 October, raised in 34% new oak. Wild strawberry and raspberry preserve aromas make an impact on the nose that storms from the glass, a touch of pencil box in the background. The palate is well balanced with fine grain tannins, plenty of sappy red fruit that segues into darker fruit towards the strict finish. This is a "correct" Potensac, very linear in style with pleasing length.”*
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2019 Potensac is fabulous. Bright and focused, the 2019 impresses with its energy, balance, and total class. Crushed flowers, mint, cinnamon, crushed rocks, and blood orange all open in the glass. The 2019 is class personified I love the purity here. The 2019 is a standout, and should be a terrific value, too.”*
- AG, Vinous
- “The 2019 Potensac is a very elegant, refined wine. Medium in body yet wonderfully persistent, the 2019 is showing beautifully today. A backbone of tannin gives Potensac a feeling of energy that is quite appealing. Hints of lavender, dried flowers, spice, and leather add layers of aromatic intrigue.”*
- AG, Vinous
- “Lots of black cherries, currants, ripe tobacco, and cedar notes emerge from the 2019 Château Potensac, a medium-bodied, concentrated, beautifully pure, elegant Médoc that's well worth seeking out. It's going to continue to drink nicely for 10-15 years. Best After 2022.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck
- “The 2019 Château Potensac showed beautifully, and this will be a wine to buy in multiples or a case. Deep purple-colored with beautiful currant and black cherry fruit, it's medium-bodied, has a plush, sexy texture, sweet tannins, and lots of classic cedar and tobacco notes. It's going to drink well for 15 years or so.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck
- “Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges. Attractive black berry fruit, a hint of heart cherries, tobacco, nuances of precious wood. Medium-bodied, touch of red berries, fresh and lively, ripe tannins, mineral, and very persistent, easy-drinking style with a long finish.”*
- Falstaff Magazine
- “Deep ruby colour. Cool and refined on the nose, with fresh blackcurrant, dark cherry, and subtle, savoury spice from wood. The palate follows in this vein, straight and savoury with a chalky line of tannins providing the structure. This has the classic bones of Medocain Cabernet, but it pairs this with the charm and exuberance of 2019 fruit. Waves of plums and cherries continue to build and are layered by a light smokiness. These work together in harmony to a compact and precise, but long finish. This is a claret for the purists.”*
- Tom Parker MW
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