

# Château Potensac 2006

CSPC# 103484

750mlx6

13.17% alc./vol.

Part of a Vertical Mixed Pack

<b>Grape Variety</b>	46% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	Médoc
<b>Classification</b>	Cru Bourgeois
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html">http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html</a>
<b>Analysis</b>	Total Acidity: 3.40 gH <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> /l      pH: 3.65      ITP: 74
<b>Sustainability</b>	Sustainable agriculture is an essential point of the work of the vine.
<b>General Info</b>	<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>
<b>Winemakers</b>	Pierre Rolland – cellar master
<b>Vintage</b>	The spring of 2006 was very cool, but the nice weather in May gave an even blossoming. July was marked by ten very hot days whereas August was rather cool and dry. The first ten days of September were also dry and hot and then there was a rainy period before picking. When it came to harvest-time the dry weather had however returned and allowed the crop to be picked in good conditions
<b>Vineyards</b>	The vineyard of Château Potensac extends mainly over limestone subsoil covered with clay-gravel hillocks with a high proportion of gravel. These limestones are very similar to those found in the Saint-Estèphe appellation. This singular terroir has plots of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc planted over 80 years ago, producing perfectly ripe and healthy grapes. The first edition of Féret already mentioned the hamlet of Potensac for the typicity and longevity of its wines.
<b>Harvest</b>	Harvested between 20th September to 2nd October
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The Potensac vineyards have similar soils to St Estèphe, and this really comes through in this elegant, earthy wine. Made from 46% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Cabernet Franc it has a restrained, precise nose of red and black fruit, followed by attractive, pure plum and raspberry flavours with cedar and mineral hints and a good tannic structure. This well-balanced Médoc with oodles of class is a great buy for anyone who appreciates classic Claret at a reasonable price.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2016-2025
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>86 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 2009</p> <p><b>85-88 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - April 2007</p> <p><b>87 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - May 2016</p> <p><b>85 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - July 2010</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #181 - February 2009</p> <p><b>85-87 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - April 2007</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2009</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2007</p> <p><b>87 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2009</p> <p><b>86-88 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2008</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2016</p>



- Scores/Awards** **85-88 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2007  
**88 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2009  
**89 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2007  
**15 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2010  
**15.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - March 2009  
**15 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - June 2009
- Reviews** *"Firm and silky, with berry, currant, and cherry character. Medium-bodied, with a clean finish. Best after 2010."*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator
- "Very attractive mineral, berry and violet character that follows through to a medium- to full-bodied palate, with firm tannins and a medium finish. A little hollow on the midpalate, but very pleasing."*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator
- "Tasted at Bordeaux Index's annual 10-Year On tasting in London. The 2006 Château Potensac has a conservative bouquet, yet one that is nicely detailed with cedar-infused red berry fruit that has a pleasing brightness. The palate is medium-bodied with quite firm tannin, well-judged acidity and yet it would have benefit from more flesh towards the finish, which tapers in slightly. Tasted January 2016."*  
 - NM, Wine Advocate
- "Tasted blind at Southwold -06 Bordeaux tasting. The Potensac -06 has a ripe, but rather forced bouquet with notes of blackberry, fresh date, and almost honey-like aromas (gone is that salty tang.) The palate has a ripe entry with -furry- tannins, rigid and linear, hints of white pepper on the finish where the acidity is a little raw and domineering. Perhaps this will improve with further ageing? Tasted January 2010."*  
 - NM, Wine Advocate
- "One of the most consistently impressive estates in the northern Medoc, Potensac's 2006 (made by the same winemaking team that produces the great Leoville Las Cases) reveals a deep ruby hue, notes of sweet cherries, roasted herbs, licorice, and gamy meat, and good fruit, structure, purity, and freshness. It can be drunk now as well as over the next 7-10 years. Good value."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate
- "A rather muted, pinched nose with faint blackberry and a touch of sea-salt. The palate displays good definition, but it seems rather subdued compared to previous vintages. Well-integrated new oak, so signs of any rot with note of ripe blackberry, Morello, and a touch of white pepper. Restrained finish that lacks some depth and persistency. Good but not great, which Potensac can be. Tasted April 2007."*  
 - NM, Wine Advocate
- "This is an impressively complete wine, the fruit right in context with the dark, dry tannins. All the elements are in place, from the initial juicy fruit to the soft, fresh close. This is an impressively complete wine, the fruit right in context with the dark, dry tannins. All the elements are in place, from the initial juicy fruit to the soft, fresh close."*  
 - RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Pale ruby. Light, quite interesting mineral notes on the nose. Hint of gym shoe, but all well balanced already. It's not going to go anywhere, but there's nothing out of place for now. Drink now."*  
 - JA, Decanter.com
- "Pretty dark crimson. Dense, woodsmoke nose then very sweet fruit hits the palate - pretty impressive in the context of other AC Médoc's. Slightly supple with reasonable, if slightly inky, fruit intensity. Very competent though not thrilling and not really a vintage you have to have of Potensac."*  
 - JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Medium red-ruby. Currant, mocha, tobacco, cedar, menthol, and a whiff of smoky game on the expressive nose. Supple and broad, combining good volume for the vintage with rather cool flavors of black cherry, menthol and roasted herbs. This spreads out nicely on the back end, with the substantial but ripe tannins dusting the incisors."*  
 - ST, International Wine Cellar

**Reviews** *“Medium red. Currant, tobacco and a rocky minerality on the nose. Supple on entry, then tight in the middle, with modest sweetness but a savory character and good vinosity. Finishes with a firm tannic spine. Cellarmaster Bruno Rolland compared this young wine to the 1998.”*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

*“Classic in style, tannic in manner and with a core of dark, red, and black fruits, cedar and tobacco, the wine is four-square with its firm, tannic, hard profile. Still quite tannic, you are going to need to lay this down several more years before consumption.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Ripe and easy, the nose has a fleshy mix of bramble and raspberry. Although not that complex it will, with a little time, make an enjoyable mouthful of supple fruit.”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*“Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections. On the nose there is fine plum fruit, some cherries, fine wood spice, still restrained. Juicy red berry fruit on the palate, firm tannins, underlined with delicate strawberry fruit, good harmony, has aging potential.”*  
- Falstaff Magazine

---

# Château Potensac 2009

CSPC# 103484

750mlx6

14.35% alc./vol.

Part of a Vertical Mixed Pack

## Grape Variety

48% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Cabernet Franc

## Appellation

Médoc

## Classification

Cru Bourgeois

## Website

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

## Analysis

Total Acidity: 3.33 gH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>/l      pH: 3.59      ITP: 78

## Sustainability

Sustainable agriculture is an essential point of the work of the vine.

## 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

The flowering and berry set both occurred in the best possible conditions thanks to the very fine weather. There was no excessive heat and the colour change was very quick and even thanks to a lovely sunny period in late July and early August. There was very little rain during the ripening process with a very dry yet not over hot month of August. The result was a quite early and remarkably even crop.

## Vineyards

The vineyard of Château Potensac extends mainly over limestone subsoil covered with clay-gravel hillocks with a high proportion of gravel. These limestones are very similar to those found in the Saint-Estèphe appellation. This singular terroir has plots of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc planted over 80 years ago, producing perfectly ripe and healthy grapes. The first edition of Féret already mentioned the hamlet of Potensac for the typicity and longevity of its wines.

## Harvest

Harvested between 24th September to 9th October

## 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

A vibrant color. Attractive fruit on the nose, showing a lively well-defined, if rather sooty character. Rather soft and straightforward in the beginning, with a little brighter fruit in the midpalate. Quite soft and juicy.

## 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

16,665 cases made.

## Cellaring

Drink 2012-2025

## Scores/Awards

**87 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2012

**87-90 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 2010

**89 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2019

**90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - July 2013

**90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - January 2012

**89 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - December 2011

**89-91 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188 - April 2010

**90-92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #188 - April 2010

**92 points** - Stuart Pigott, JamesSuckling.com - March 2019

**92 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2012

**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2010

**16+ points** - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010

**90 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - February 2019

**90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019

**91 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2012

**90 points** - Farr Vintners - April 2010

**89-92 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2010



**Scores/Awards** **92 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2019  
**89-91 points** - Ian d'Agata, Vinous - May 2020  
**91 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2020  
**87 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2012  
**92 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - April 2010  
**16 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - March 2010  
**15.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - March 2012  
**16.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - March 2010

*"Plump, tender texture carries lively fruit flavors of wild cherry, strawberry and cassis in this lively red. Notes of fresh herb and licorice add interest. Modestly structured, with fresh acidity and just enough tannins for grip. Drink now through 2019. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 16,665 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Intense aromas of currant and blackberry, with hints of licorice, follow through to a full body, with a balance of tannins and a spearmint and mineral aftertaste."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Medium to deep garnet colored, the 2009 Potensac features warm redcurrants, black raspberries, dusty earth and dried Mediterranean herbs scents with a touch of cedar chest. Medium to full-bodied, juicy, and plush with nice freshness, it is sitting in a drinking window sweet-spot right now. 2019 – 2025."*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Served blind at the Southwold 2009 tasting. The Potensac '09 is one of my favourite wines from Jean-Hubert Delon in recent years. It has a generous, floral bouquet with black cherries, boysenberry and dried violets that is well-defined and Margaux-like in style. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins. Good weight and density here. Solid, fine structure, good breeding - this is an excellent wine. Tasted January 2013."*

- NM, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at Chateau Leoville Las-Cases. The Potensac 2009 has good fruit intensity on the nose with blueberry, blackberry, dried orange peel and a touch of sous-bois turning more graphite with time. The palate is well balanced with a crisp entry of blackberry, blueberry, and a touch of graphite. Citric freshness, almost peppery towards the finish with very good length. Tasted September 2011."*

- NM, Wine Advocate

*"This fairly priced Medoc from Jean-Hubert Delon (the proprietor of Leoville-Las-Cases) has hit almost 14% natural alcohol and looks to be the best wine made at this estate since 1982, which drank well for 15 years and cost about \$4.00 a bottle in that era. Crisp, mineral notes intermixed with mulberry, black cherry, and black currant fruit jump from the glass of this classic Bordeaux, which is both powerful and elegant. There is considerable substance to the wine, with its attractive texture and overall sense of precision and elegance. This is a sleeper of the vintage not to be missed. Anticipated maturity: now-2022."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"A sleeper of the vintage, the 2009 is probably the finest Potensac ever made, eclipsing even the stunning 1982. This blend, dominated by both Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, hits 13.9% alcohol, but the pH is a normal 3.58. Dense, rich, and full-bodied with lots of freshness, the wine reveals abundant red and black currant fruit, a distinctive minerality, and a plush, full-bodied mouthfeel. It should drink well for 10-15+ years. (Tasted once.) Drink 2010-2025."*

*Robert Parker added an asterisk to this wine score to signify that it is a wine he considers has the finest potential of all the offerings he has ever tasted from this estate in nearly 32 years of barrel tasting samples in Bordeaux."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*"A blend of 48% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Cabernet Franc with 7.3% vin de presse, delivering 13.9% alcohol, this has a ripe blackberry nose with raspberry, kirsch, a touch of cassis and cedar, all cloaked in warm alcohol. The palate is full-bodied with ripe, slightly chewy tannins, very good weight, certainly more complexity than recent vintages, well defined towards the finish and coping with that alcohol adeptly. This is a better Potensac than in recent years but still a little "conservative" in style. Tasted March 2010."*

- NM, Wine Advocate

*"Maybe this isn't quite as stunning as the brilliant 2010 Potensac, but it's a ripe and very classic Médoc with great cassis fruit, medium body and supple tannins making for a very flexible food wine. Drink or hold. (Horizontal Tasting, London, 2019)."*

- SP, JamesSuckling.com

*"Shows smoky new wood and black currant fruit. This is a structured wine, powerful, while preserving just the right balance of acidity. It's dark and dense in character, yet with great freshness."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Very deep crimson. Minerals and great ripeness. But very much restrained by a corset of structure. Great lift and pzazz. Not at all a country wine, not too chewy. But very serious. This has a really long-term future. Date tasted 31st March 2010. Drink 2018-2030."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Dense red, fine floral concentration, very good Médoc with depth, length, and class. Drink 2014-18."*

- SS, Decanter.com

*"One of the value wines in the lineup, from the Delon stable, this is enjoyable if notably shorter on the finish than some of the more concentrated wines. It has clear spice notes, and enjoyable hedgerow fruit with a blackberry and cedar character."*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Tobacco, cigar box, spearmint and earthy red fruit scents open the wine. On the palate, the wine is firm, crisp, chewy, and bright, with a sweet, cassis and cherry finish. This is starting to show well, but it needs another 3-5 years to show at its best."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"With gravel, smoke and cassis in the perfume, the wine is filled with layers of juicy, ripe cassis filled berries. Fresh, ripe, and crunchy, this is my favorite vintage of Potensac"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Well structured, Englishman's claret. Classic balance and bright acidity from this Northern Medoc property owned by Leoville Las cases. A real food wine and a fine Potensac, focused and balanced."*

- Farr Vintners

*"Sweet upfront black fruits give some weight to both nose and palate refreshed by the fresher bilberry and black cherry that appear at the back. The tannins are well handled and give support but not aggression. Drink 2016-2040."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2009 Potensac has an attractive bouquet with blackberry, melted tar, black tea and graphite scents. Nicely defined it maybe a little conservative given the growing season. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, crisp acidity. Classic in style with fine graphite and cedar notes towards the finish. Enjoy this now and over the next decade. 2021 - 2035."*

- NM, Vinous

*"(a blend of 48% merlot, 38% cabernet sauvignon and 14% cabernet franc; 13.9% alcohol; pH. 3.58, IPT 71; 30% new oak) Dark, purple-tinged ruby. Initially reticent nose opens with air to reveal cabernet franc-driven strawberry, violet, cocoa, and mineral aromas. Then broad and chunky in the mouth, with red berry and black cherry flavors complicated by a welcome element of minerality. Became increasingly graceful with air, finishing long and vibrant, with very fine tannins. Deeper and more complex than usual for this wine, and a*

**Reviews** *great success of the vintage. This wine avoids the excessive ripeness of many other '09s. Always a solid choice and one of the better buys in Bordeaux, if rarely especially complex, Potensac has outdone itself in 2009. These vines are situated on gravel-covered limestone, very similar soil to that found in Saint-Esteph*  
- ID, Vinous

*"Drinking at point now, but with another decade of life ahead of it, the 2009 Château Potensac offers a classic, mature nose of red and black currants, cedary herbs, tobacco, and flowers. It shows the ripe, powerful style of the vintage yet has remarkable freshness, ripe, polished tannins, a kick of minerality, and a great finish. Beautifully done, you'll be happy if you have bottles of this in the cellar."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Fresh cherries and sour cherries, oranges, tobacco nuances, herbal spices. Fresh, sweet red berry fruit, lively structure, fine bitter chocolate aftertaste, nougat on the finish, good potential."*

- Falstaff Magazine

---

# Château Potensac 2010

CSPC# 103484

750mlx6

14.14% alc./vol.

Part of a Vertical Mixed Pack

<b>Grape Variety</b>	42% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	Médoc
<b>Classification</b>	Cru Bourgeois
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html">http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html</a>
<b>Analysis</b>	Total Acidity: 3.53 gH <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> /l    pH: 3.47    ITP: 76
<b>Sustainability</b>	Sustainable agriculture is an essential point of the work of the vine.
<b>General Info</b>	<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>
<b>Winemakers</b>	Pierre Rolland – cellar master
<b>Vintage</b>	After beginning with a very dry and hot month of April, the growth cycle was then considerably slowed down by cool temperatures in May and June. Bunch closure and colour change took place in perfect conditions thanks to dry, sunny weather in July and early August. The grapes were able to ripen beautifully with the excellent weather of August and September.
<b>Vineyards</b>	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.
<b>Harvest</b>	From 27th September to 9th October 2010
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The 2010 Château Potensac possesses a pure and strong palate with dense, distinguished, and spicy tannins. The 2010 Château de Potensac has an astonishing density due to the advanced age of the vineyard and offers a beautiful ageing potential. It is the only Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel of its Medoc appellation.
<b>Production</b>	16,666 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2020-2033
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>90 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2013 <b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2011 <b>87 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020 <b>88 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013 <b>87-89 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011 <b>90 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0313 - November 2012 <b>89-91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0511 - March 2010 <b>91-92 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2011 <b>91 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2013 <b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2020 <b>16 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - February 2020 <b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011 <b>89 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - January 2020 <b>16.5 points</b> - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011 <b>89 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2013 <b>90 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2011 <b>90+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2011</p>





**Scores/Awards** **88-91 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011  
**91 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2020  
**86 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - April 2011  
**92-94 points** - Falstaff Magazine - May 2011  
**90 points** - Tom Cannavan, wine-pages.com - January 2011  
**16.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2012  
**16.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2011  
**16 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - March 2013  
**15.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2011

**Reviews** *"Solid, if a bit chunky, with cocoa and ganache coating a core of black currant and blackberry fruit that hangs through the muscular finish, where a warm paving stone note rings out. A touch austere, but the stuffing is there for cellaring. 16,666 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Very primal, with cassia and violet running from start to finish, backed by a lightly chalky, slightly tight finish. Shows the austere side of the vintage but has admirable length. Tasted non-blind. Score Range: 90-93"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Deep garnet colored, the 2010 Potensac features notes of baked red and black cherries, mulberries, and leather with wafts of dried herbs and charcuterie. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has a chewy texture and tons of freshness giving the red and black fruit a boost on the finish."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2010 is a winner again and a sleeper of the vintage. A blend of 52% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest a whopping 21% Cabernet Franc (which is unusual in this part of Bordeaux) has loads of cedar, wood, sweet cherries, some damp earth, and a hint of strawberry liqueur in a medium-bodied, elegant style meant for consuming over the next decade or more."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Traditionally made, yet exhibiting some modern touches such as ripe fruit, the 2010 Potensac is another sleeper of the vintage from this estate, owned by Jean-Hubert Delon, the proprietor of Leoville Las Cases. Classic Bordeaux notes of red and black currants, earth, and spice box are well-presented in this deep ruby/purple-colored, medium-bodied wine, which should drink nicely for a decade or more."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The Potensac has a well-defined, classic Medoc nose with copious sous-bois notes intertwined into the red fruit profile. The palate is much better than the deuxième vin with fresh red berries, crisp acidity and an elegant, slightly austere but utterly pleasurable finish. Just a wine you want to drink rather than intellectualize over."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"There is just a slight sense of sur-maturité on the nose perhaps from the Merlot, just a hint of prune. Not over the top but it is just there. The palate is full-bodied with succulent grippy tannins...a huge Potensac that is redeemed but very silky finish. Long in the mouth, one of the few 2010's that actually reminds me of the 09."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"This is one of the fruitiest Potensac's that I remember, with loads of blueberry and currants. Full and velvety. Plenty going on underneath."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Firm and prominent yet dusty tannins show one side of the richness of the vintage. The other is the ripe, black fruits, with acidity in fine balance. This estate, under the same ownership as Léoville las Cases, is serious Médoc, needing to age."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

## Reviews

*"Very dark crimson. Rich and scented and very ripe black fruit on the nose. Loose texture - much more so than I would have imagined for this property in 2010 - with tightening tannins only on the very end. Almost painful levels of tannin and acidity on the finish. Bit of a trial to taste at this stage. Were stones macerated in the fermentation vat? A lesson in austerity."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Tasted blind. Mid youthful crimson. Scented, almost floral, slightly leafy, peppery. Lithe, compact, and fresh. Perhaps a little bit sharp on the finish."*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Still quite purplish. Nicely evolved nose with some biscuity appeal. A little light but everything is in the right place. GV 14%. Drink 2016 – 2030."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Dense blackcurrant fruit, still backward, but much more class than its Médoc neighbours and a very good future. Drink 2015-25."*

- SS, Decanter.com

*"Cedar wood, tobacco and cassis scents lead to a full bodied, powerful, structured, classically styled Potensac with the ability to age and develop. This is a powerful, masculine, tannic, old school, classic style of wine that will appeal to some tasters more than others."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Potensac Beefy in style, powerful and tannic, with a long bitter chocolate and cassis finish that is slightly marred by some dryness in the finish traditionally styled wine. 88-90."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Well structured, Englishman's claret. Classic balance and bright acidity from this Northern Medoc property owned by Leoville Las cases. This has a smoky nose with hints of candied black fruit. On the palate there is plenty of density with some firm tannins to match. Quite austere and finely tuned. This is really proper claret with balance and structure."*

- Farr Vintners

*"The nose has an attractive brightness, and this freshness is there on the start of the palate. Sweet blackcurrant enriches the middle and there is a nice weight of flavour towards the back. Although not that complex it has real charm."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2010 Potensac has a high-toned, airy bouquet with balsamic and Hoisin infusing the black fruit. The palate is well defined with supple tannins and a fine bead of acidity. There is something just a little 'Oriental' about the style of this Potensac that delivers impressive body and grip on the finish. Very fine"*

- NM, Vinous

*"Very dark ruby garnet, violet reflections; initially somewhat restrained, pleasant dark berry fruit, fine spice, delicate nougat; Firm, present tannins, sweet red berry nuances, fine structure, rich in finesse, mineral, chocolatey touch, very good length."*

- Falstaff Magazine

*"This too has that inky, fruity brightness of the Chapelle, with cherry and touch of lipstick dryness that's almost reminiscent of Gamay. Some oak beneath and a touch of gamey earthiness adds complexity. The palate has structure, that slightly inky dryness again, but there is good balance and good acidity suggesting this might be rather nice in bottle."*

- TC, wine-pages.com

---

# Château Potensac 2015

CSPC# 103484

750mlx6

13.32% alc./vol.

Part of a Vertical Mixed Pack

<b>Grape Variety</b>	45% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	Médoc
<b>Classification</b>	Cru Bourgeois
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html">http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html</a>
<b>Analysis</b>	Total Acidity: 3.69 gH <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> /l      pH: 3.55      ITP: 66
<b>Sustainability</b>	Sustainable agriculture is an essential point of the work of the vine.
<b>General Info</b>	<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>
<b>Winemakers</b>	Pierre Rolland – cellar master
<b>Vintage</b>	Very favourable weather conditions in April and June allowed a very even bud-burst and flowering in 2015. The hot and dry summer then ensured a complete degradation of any vegetal aromas as well as a welcome hydric stress, beneficial for the thickening of the grape skins and a rapid maturation of the pips. The colour change was also beautifully even, thanks to the regular rain showers. The careful thinning out and vine care during the growth cycle meant the bunches remained perfectly healthy right through to the end of harvest-time.
<b>Vineyards</b>	The vineyard of Château Potensac extends mainly over limestone subsoil covered with clay-gravel hillocks with a high proportion of gravel. These limestones are very similar to those found in the Saint-Estèphe appellation. This singular terroir has plots of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc planted over 80 years ago, producing perfectly ripe and healthy grapes. The first edition of Féret already mentioned the hamlet of Potensac for the typicity and longevity of its wines.
<b>Harvest</b>	Harvested between 25th September to 10th October 2015
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	A 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.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	23,750 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2020-2028
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>90 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2018</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - April 2016</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - February 2018</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - November 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p><b>90-91 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2016</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2018</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p>



**Scores/Awards** **92 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018  
**90 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2016  
**90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018  
**87-89 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016  
**91 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016  
**90 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019  
**90 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018  
**88-90 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016  
**88 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017  
**17+ points** - Matthew Jukes - April 2016  
**89 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2017  
**88 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - May 2016  
**92-94 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2016  
**89-90 points** - Vert de Vin - April 2016  
**16 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2019  
**16 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2018  
**15.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - June 2018

**Reviews** *"Pepper, savory, and bay leaf notes lead the way, with a core of medium-weight cassis and cherry flavors. A tobacco hint and chalky minerality extend the finish, which has a pleasant austerity. A touch reticent in style but will age well. Best from 2020 through 2028. 23,750 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"An austere style, offering a frame of warm stone around the core of currant and bitter cherry flavors, with tangy minerality through the finish. Perhaps not as broad as some of its peers, but with good cut, drive, and focus."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2015 Potensac is a blend of 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc, and it represents 55% of the production even though they could have done more. It has a well-defined bouquet, crisp and focused, with tobacco-tinged black fruit and a light brine-like tinge that becomes accentuated with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with a gentle grip on the entry. This is smooth and harmonious, perhaps more cohesive than recent vintages, with slightly chalky tannin on the tensile, graphite-tinged finish. This is a fine Potensac that may have greater longevity than I originally thought."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"The 2015 Potensac is a blend of 45% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Cabernet Franc that was cropped at 50 hl/ha and raised in one-third new oak. There is a sense of airiness on the nose: small dark cherries, crème de cassis and crushed strawberry, pretty and nicely focused. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy tannin, fresh and citrus in style, just a touch of reduction towards the finish, but they will blow off by the time it is in bottle. I would have just preferred more persistence on the finish, but otherwise this is a decent Potensac. Drink 2019-2030."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"A clarity and transparency to this pretty red with currant, lemon-peel, and lemon-grass character. Full body, very fine tannins, and a pretty texture. Precise wine. Drink or hold."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Lots of mineral and stone aromas and flavors with blackberry and blueberry aromas. Full and very fine texture. Well made for the vintage considering the moisture in Northern Médoc."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"While this wine has plenty of ripe tannins, the delicious blackberry fruit speaks loudest. Ripe, full and with a fine line of acidity, it is gently structured and likely to age well. Drink this fruity wine from 2023."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Tasted blind. Solid, slightly sweet. Well balanced with some structure. Drink 2022-2028."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

**Reviews** *“Savoury and polished. Lots of personality. Quite marked acidity on the end - too concentrated perhaps? 13.32%. Drink 2021-2028.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Concentrated cassis fruit – more class than expected and will show very well. The best Beaumont so far.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“One might have expected Potensac to have produced an intimidating wine in this fine vintage, but it’s actually quite accessible and fluid. The nose is sweet and ripe, with elegant cherry and blackcurrant aromas. The tannins are firm but ripe, giving grip, but there’s complexity and spice too. Assertive and long.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“Minty fresh, cedar, fennel and spicy red fruits bring you to a fresh, solid block of ripe tannins and juicy berries. Classic, but in a good way, this will need time to develop and soften.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“From a blend of 45% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.32% ABV and will be aged in 1/3 new, French oak barrels. Offering up classic notes of earth, cedar and cassis, the wine is firm, structured, masculine, and tannic. Give this old school wine a decade of age, before it begins to unfurl its secondary characteristics and starts to soften. The finish is fresh, with a nice licorice accent to the crisp, fresh cassis.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“One of Jean-Hubert Delon’s favourite tricks is to slip Potensac into blind tastings, such is its ageing potential. This is more forward than some recent vintages, with supple tannins, grassy fruit, and well-integrated tannins, but could still surprise a few people. Drink: 2020-25.”*  
- TA, timatkin.com

*“The 2015 Potensac has a crisp, well-defined bouquet with blackberry, autumn leaves and light sandalwood aromas, just a touch of black tea in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with a gentle grip, quite harmonious but surprisingly punchy toward the pencil lead-tinged finish. This is a good solid Potensac. Tasted blind at the Southwold 2015 Bordeaux tasting.”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“The 2015 Potensac is just as beautiful from the bottle as it was from barrel. Dark, succulent, and super-expressive, the 2015 is a terrific choice for drinking now and over the next handful of years. It does not have the aromatic expansiveness or body of the very best years, but in exchange, it will drink well pretty much upon release.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2015 Potensac is gorgeous. Dark red cherry, plum, spice, new leather and licorice abound in this racy, voluptuous Médoc from the Delon family. Dark red cherry, mocha, plum, spice and sweet floral notes grace the racy, silky finish. The 2015 is a lovely Potensac. The blend is 45% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Cabernet Franc.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2015 Potensac comes from vines near the northern edge of Saint-Estèphe and is 45% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 17% Cabernet Franc. It’s a rock-solid, medium-bodied, classic Potensac offering notes of black cherries, underbrush, violets and even a hint of peppery herbs. With medium-bodied richness, juicy acidity, and fine, nicely integrated tannin, it’s a classic 2015 to drink over the coming 10-15 years. 2018 – 2033.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

**Reviews**

*“Only 55% of fruit was used here for the Grand Vin which actually improved both this and the second wine. With high-density planting and soils like Saint-Estèphe this is a great terroir and with old vines (40 years old) this is the reason why this wine is so delicious. Quite forward and very bright with typical swagger and density of cassis this is a brilliant wine. A little rounder than 2014 but I love this style equally because the 2014 had more obviously classical tannins.”*

- Matthew Jukes

*“Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections, delicate edge lighting, fine black berry fruit, ripe heart cherries, a hint of nougat, delicate after candied orange zest. Complex, juicy, black blackberry nuances, present, supporting tannins, fresh structure, cherry fruit in the aftertaste, a versatile food companion.”*

- Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose reveals notes of cherry candy associated with small notes of berries as well as a touch of bell pepper and a hint of blueberry. The palate is fruity, gourmand, racy, well-balanced and offers a small minerality and precision. On the palate this wine expresses notes of plum, sour cherry and red cherry associated with a touch of redcurrant. Good length.”*

- Vert de Vin

---

# Château Potensac 2016

CSPC# 103484

750mlx6

14.14% alc./vol.

Part of a Vertical Mixed Pack

<b>Grape Variety</b>	44% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Médoc
<b>Classification</b>	Cru Bourgeois
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html">http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html</a>
<b>Analysis</b>	Total Acidity: 3.39 g/l    pH: 3.49    ITP: 75
<b>Sustainability</b>	Sustainable agriculture is an essential point of the work of the vine.
<b>General Info</b>	<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>
<b>Winemakers</b>	Pierre Rolland – cellar master
<b>Vintage</b>	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.
<b>Vineyards</b>	<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>
<b>Harvest</b>	Harvested between 5th to 19th October 2016
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	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
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	23,333 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2020-2035



**Scores/Awards** **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

---

# Château Potensac 2018

CSPC# 103484

750mlx6

14.42% alc./vol.

Part of a Vertical Mixed Pack

<b>Grape Variety</b>	45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Médoc
<b>Classification</b>	Cru Bourgeois
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html">http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html</a>
<b>Analysis</b>	Total Acidity: 3.80 gH <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> /l    pH: 3.67    ITP: 71
<b>Sustainability</b>	Sustainable agriculture is an essential point of the work of the vine.
<b>General Info</b>	<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>
<b>Winemakers</b>	Pierre Rolland – cellar master
<b>Vintage</b>	The north of the Médoc experienced a generally rainy and mild winter, then becoming cold from mid-March, leading to a late but homogeneous budburst, followed by a strong vegetative growth. The hot and dry summer accelerated the ripening of the grapes, the alternation of cool nights and hot days developed their richness while maintaining their freshness. This 2018 vintage offers a ripe, very expressive fruit and a powerful and particularly velvety tannic structure. Elegant and opulent, it combines the power and classicism of a great vintage to age with the delicacy of solar vintages.
<b>Vineyards</b>	<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>
<b>Harvest</b>	21st September to 13th October 2018
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Richly coloured, the aromatics feature cherry and raspberry fruits, with a little perfume, and an impressive clarity for the appellation. It is no less convincing on the palate, showing a nicely defined and slightly sinewy substance, with a touch of floral potpourri to the dark and curranty fruit here. Ripe tannins, modest acidity and a little length mean this is a Médoc which should enjoy wide appeal.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	15,000 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2022-2035
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>92 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2021 <b>89-92 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2019 <b>90 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021 <b>90-92 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p>



**Scores/Awards** **94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2021  
**93-94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019  
**91 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 2021  
**17 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019  
**91 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - March 2021  
**91 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020  
**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021  
**90-92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019  
**90 points** - Farr Vintner - April 2019  
**89 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021  
**89-91 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019  
**90-92 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019  
**93 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021  
**91-93+ points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019  
**17.5+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019  
**89 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019  
**93 points** - Yves Beck (score only) - April 2019  
**92-93 points** - Vert de Vin - April 2019  
**93 points** - Falstaff Magazine - May 2019  
**16-16.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2019  
**16 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2019  
**15.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

**Reviews** *"Damson plum, cherry, and savory notes meld together nicely, set against a backdrop of light cedar and sanguine accents on the finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2026. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 15,000 cases made."*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"The dark cherry and plum fruit are fresh and direct, with light tobacco and toast accents hanging on the finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot."*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2018 Potensac is composed of 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. The wine has 14.42% alcohol and was aged in 35% new barriques. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it rolls out of the glass with open-knit scents of ripe, juicy black plums, boysenberries, redcurrant jelly and cassis, plus hints of dried Provence herbs, cinnamon stick, and dusty soil. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is chock-full of lively black and red berry layers, supported by soft tannins and a racy line, finishing with a lively skip in its step."*  
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2018 Potensac is blended of 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, all harvested between September 21 and October 13, with yields of 49 hectoliters per hectare. The wine has 14.42% alcohol and is to be aged in barriques, 35% new; the finished blend was put into barrels last December. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it rolls effortlessly out of the glass with bright, fresh red and black plums, crushed blackcurrants, and bay leaves with hints of cracked pepper and damp soil. Full-bodied, rich, and laden with red and black fruit layers, it has a plush frame of rounded tannins and fantastic freshness, finishing long. "*  
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Fruity nose of blackcurrant and blueberry with sage and vanilla. It's full-bodied with firm tannins. Savory and juicy with pleasant acidity. Compact and long. Racy. 45% merlot, 36% cabernet sauvignon, 18% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. Try after 2023."*  
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"The excellence of this lies in the quality of the tannins, which are so polished and refined. Compact and tight. Medium-bodied. Very, very long. Beauty already"*  
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

**Reviews** *“Under the same ownership as Château Léoville-las-Cases in Saint-Julien, this estate performs way above its appellation. With rich tannins and layers of ripe Merlot, the wine has a proper structure and sense of purpose and will age well. Drink from 2025.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Inky core with purple rim. Such beautifully pure black fruit. Such fine texture and so juicy and lively. Absolutely delicious and fresh with no heaviness and no sense of the alcohol. Low pH because of the terroir, says Pierre Graffeux. They picked the Merlot early and spread out the picking for the Cabernet Sauvignon. Silky finesse and freshness. Lovely wine with a red-fruited brightness and persistence. 17/20 points.”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“2018 was the warmest season of the last 10 years at Potensac, with just under half the usual rainfall over the summer. The property has produced a great bottle: bright and cheery with vibrant fruit, it's highly enjoyable and approachable. You rarely find such impressive mid-palate focus in the Médoc, and that alone makes this a year worth exploring for the wines at this price level.”*

- JA, Decanter.com

*“Plush plum in colour, with a depth to the body that starts from the first sip. A clear step up from the second wine, as I have found in many Médoc's in the vintage. Raspberry and blueberry fruits which then deepen out to the classic black fruit notes of Potensac. Bottled in mid-April, ageing in barrel was kept to 14 months to avoid any over-extraction, because alcohol levels are pretty high. 1% Petit Verdot completes the blend. Drinking Window 2024 – 2025.”*

- JA, Decanter.com

*“The ripe nose exudes fresh, juicy, sweet fruit, cedar, smoke, spice, and tobacco notes. Full-bodied with ripe, soft, round tannins and finish filled with sweet, ripe, fresh red berries that linger with flavor. For Potensac this is forward, so you will be able to enjoy this within a few years. This is the finest wine made in the history of Potensac. The wine was produced from blending 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, 14.5 ABV.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Tobacco, cedar, and smoke are paired with ripe, red berries that have a roundness in them this year. The wine is full-bodied and continues with its classic spirit. But with the 2018, you find more generosity than normal. Still, I would wait at least a decade before opening a bottle. The wine was produced from blending 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Deep ruby in colour, with a cool nose of fresh blackcurrant, blackcurrant leaf and cedar. The palate is firm and chalky, with a medium body and bright acidity. Cool, compact, and savoury, with a long and lightly spicy finish.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The 2018 Potensac has an outgoing nose of wild strawberry and raspberry notes and touches of meat juices, a slight gaminess emerging with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy, crisp tannins. Quite tight on the entry, it finds its groove in the second half, displaying commendable delineation and tension on the graphite-tinged, slightly austere finish. Fine. 2022-2038.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2018 Potensac has an intense and – for this Haut-Médoc – flamboyant bouquet of black cherries mixed with bilberry jam and meat juices. The palate is fresh on the entry, with a fine line of acidity. Possessing more body and grip than the 2017, this is a confident Potensac, although at the moment it feels a little clipped on the finish. If it fleshes out by the time of bottling, it deserves to be at the top of my banded score.”*

- NM, Vinous

**Reviews** *“The 2018 Potensac is bold, dense, and powerful. Grilled herb, smoke, leather, cedar and tobacco give the inky blue/purplish fruit a decidedly savory character. Although a bit rough around the edges, the 2018 has plenty of nuance as well as personality. It will be interesting to see if the 2018 develops a bit more finesse in élevage. The blend is 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Tasted two times.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The Grand Vin 2018 Château Potensac (45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc, and the balance Petit Verdot) sports a deeper purple, almost opaque hue to go with lots of ripe black cherry and currant-like fruits intermixed with notes of toasty oak, tobacco, graphite, and earth. Richer and more concentrated than the Chapelle de Potensac release, with full-bodied richness and building tannin's, it's going to benefit from a solid 5-7 years of bottle age and keep for 15+.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The 2018 Château Potensac sports a saturated purple color as well as a Cabernet-dominated nose of blackcurrants, cassis, tobacco, and earth. This beauty is full-bodied and concentrated, with notable freshness balancing terrific ripeness. It's going to evolve nicely for two decades. The blend is 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot, still aging in 35% new oak. 91-93+”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“(45 Merlot, 36 Cabernet Sauvignon, 18 Cabernet Franc, 1 Petit Verdot) | 35% new oak | 14.4% alc | 71 IPT | 49 hl/ha Rather ravishing and approachable with serious length and also superb red fruit and balance. The nose is beautiful, harmonious, and rich and moreish. It is possible to drink this wine early, but I have a suspicion that it will greatly repay those who decide to cellar it.”*  
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

*“Deep dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate lightening of the edges. Nuances of ripe plums, aromas characterized by merlot, black cherries, orange zest. Firm, powerful, extract-sweet texture, mineral, ripe tannins, good length, powerful food accompaniment with good aging potential.”*  
- Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is fruity and offers a fine richness. It reveals notes of blackberry, wild raspberry and small notes of ripe wild red berries associated with slight hints of violet as well as discreet hints of licorice. The palate is fruity, juicy, well-balanced and offers a good definition, a beautiful juicy fruit, a beautiful freshness, suavity, fat, richness, gourmandise as well as a slight acidulous frame. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy blackberry, juicy fleshy raspberry and small notes of fleshy / juicy red berries associated with fine touches of cassis as well as very slight hints of licorice, chocolate, and vanilla.”*  
- Vert de Vin

---