

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
Analysis	Total Acidity: 3.33 gH ₂ SO ₄ /l pH: 3.59 ITP: 78
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	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	<p>87 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2012</p> <p>87-90 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 2010</p> <p>89 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2019</p> <p>90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - July 2013</p> <p>90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - January 2012</p> <p>89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - December 2011</p> <p>89-91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188 - April 2010</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #188 - April 2010</p> <p>92 points - Stuart Pigott, JamesSuckling.com - March 2019</p> <p>92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2012</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2010</p> <p>16+ points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010</p> <p>90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - February 2019</p>



Scores/Awards **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

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

Reviews *"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

Reviews

“(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 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
