

Château Potensac 2010

CSPC# 869820

750mlx6

14.14% alc./vol.

CSPC# 103484

750mlx6

14.14% alc./vol.

Part of a Vertical Mixed Pack

Grape Variety

42% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Médoc

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html

Analysis

Total Acidity: 3.53 gH₂SO₄/l pH: 3.47 ITP: 76

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

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.

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

From 27th September to 9th October 2010

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

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.

Production

16,666 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2020-2033

Scores/Awards

90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2013

90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2011

87 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020

88 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013

87-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011

90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0313 - November 2012

89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0511 - March 2010

91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2011

91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2013

16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2020

16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - February 2020

16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011

89 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - January 2020



Scores/Awards **16.5 points** - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011
89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2013
90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2011
90+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2011
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
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