

Château Potensac 2012

CSPC# 763553

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

48% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Médoc

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

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

General Info

Potensac is owned by the same people as Leoville Las Cases, run by Jean-Hubert Delon. The estate is situated in the north of the Medoc, between the villages of Blaignan and Ordonnac.

Quality at Potensac has been on an upward curve ever since Michel Delon (of Léoville-Las-Cases) fame took over the running of the property in the 1970s. He sadly passed away in 2000 and Potensac is now run by his dynamic son Jean-Hubert, with the assistance of maître de chai Pierre Rolland, brother of guru oenologist Michel Rolland.

Winemakers

Pierre Rolland – cellar master

Vintage

2012 has, so far been a positive year for wineries around the world. While it may be a little too early to speak of the wines being made in the northern hemisphere, European and North American wineries have already begun reporting that their harvesting season has been generally very good and are predicting to continue with the kind of successes they saw in 2011. However, 2012 has been something of a late year for France, due to unpredictable weather throughout the summer, and the grapes were ripening considerably later than they did in 2011 (which was, admittedly, an exceptionally early year). French wineries are claiming, though, that this could well turn out to be advantageous, as the slow ripening will allow the resulting wines to express more flavour and features of the terroir, they are grown in.

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

it was harvested between October 3-17

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 Château Potensac 2012 is a high-quality vintage. At tasting, one can first observe a dense ruby and purple color. On the nose, you can smell scents of dust, earth, blackcurrant, black cherry, liquorice, and subtle cedar notes. On the palate, this wine is quite full-bodied, rich, fruity, and fresh. This high value vintage can be consumed between the next 6 to 10 years.

Production

18,000 cases made.

Cellaring

Drink 2018-2032

Scores/Awards

88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2015

87-90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2013

90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #227 - October 2016

87-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate - April 2013

86-88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0513 - April 2013

89 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015



Scores/Awards **90 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2015
16.5 points - JancisRobinson.com (score only) - January 2014
88 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2015
87-89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2013
88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2016
92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2013
88 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2013
15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2014
15.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

Reviews *"Features dark cherry and red currant fruit, allied to a brambly spine, with anise and savory accents on the finish. Not too dense or taut, exhibiting good energy overall. Drink now through 2019. 18,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Features fresh-cut plum and crushed blackberry fruit married to a sleek iron edge and a hint of lightly singed vanilla bean on the finish. Score Range: 87-90."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2012 Potensac surpassed my expectations from barrel, because as I stated back then, it has developed more flesh to counterbalance those prenatal hard tannins. It has an attractive if unspectacular raspberry, strawberry, and tobacco-scented bouquet, quite closed at first, opaque, but opening with several minutes in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with supple ripe blackberry fruit laced with tobacco and sea salt. I appreciate the finish here. There is satisfying substance, a gentle grip and a classic pencil lead, almost Pauillac-like finish. Enjoy this upstanding Médoc from Jean-Hubert Delon over the next 10-12 years. (October 2016)"
- NM, Wine Advocate

"A major sleeper of the vintage, the 2012 Potensac is composed of 50% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Cabernet Franc. A dense ruby/purple color is followed by scents of dusty, earthy, black currant, black cherry, licorice, and cedar characteristics. Medium-bodied, rich, fruity, and lush, it was harvested between October 3-17, and achieved 13.5% natural alcohol. This cuvee is usually a great value, so consumers take note. The 2012 should last for 6-10 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2012 Potensac is a blend of 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 48% Merlot and 19% Cabernet Franc cropped 44hl/ha and raised in one-third new oak. It has a lifted, quite floral bouquet with subtle seaweed notes infusing the black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with quite a tough, slightly brutish entry. There is good structure here and certainly very crisp, citric acidity, but it needs to develop more flesh on the finish."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A silky and refined Potensac and very well done for the vintage. Medium body, fine tannins and crisp acidity. Lots of citrus and raspberry character. Drink or hold. (February 2015)"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"One of the showpieces of the Médoc, this structured and firm wine has strong Cabernet flavors that give both dry tannins and juicy black currant fruits. Still youthful, this balanced wine is likely to age well."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Wet forest, cedar and cassis, firm, bright and classic, with a tannic, crisp, cassis and cranberry note in the finish."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Dominated by Merlot at 48% of the blend, followed by 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.47% alcohol and will aged in 33% new French oak. With dark color, the wine opens with herbs, cedar wood, wild strawberry, and pepper. Full bodied, dense, tannic, and strict, this powerful wine is packed with kirsch, cassis and acidity. It is going to need time to come together."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
