

# 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

---