

Château Potensac 2017

CSPC# 763553

750mlx12

13. 71% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	47% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Medoc
Classification	Cru Bourgeois
Website	http://www.domaines-delon.com/en/potensac-chateau_potensac_vins.html
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	<p>2017 was an early but balanced vintage. Spring frost was avoided thanks to the hilltop morphology of our vineyard and its proximity to the Gironde. The grapes were able to develop rapidly and homogeneously, benefiting from heat and necessary episodes of rain. The attention paid to the vineyard allowed us to reach full maturity and to maintain a very good sanitary state until the last days of the harvest. The Merlots offer a soft tannic structure and expressive fruit. The Cabernet Francs are dense and complex. The Cabernet Sauvignons are powerful yet silky. The 2017blend offers very attractive ripe fruit and a smooth, tight tannic structure. The wine is powerful and harmonious. There is a perfect balance between the flattering aromatic palette and a long, refined structure in the mouth.</p>
Vineyards	<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>
Harvest	Hand harvested from 14th September to 29th September 2017
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	Already very expressive, the Chateau Potensac 2017 is a great reflection of its vintage. With a profile that emphasizes freshness and exudes a purity of fruit, this wine presents a beautiful aromatic concentration. On the palate, this Medoc wine reveals an elegant texture mounted on a fine tannic structure and tightened with a balanced acidity. Powerful, dense and of great finesse, the Chateau Potensac 2017 embodies the pure Medoc style, an inimitable Potensac signature.
Production	20,833 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2021-2029
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020</p> <p>90-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018</p> <p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p>88-90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p>91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p>



Scores/Awards **92 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2020
90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018
17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018
91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018
90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018
15 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
91-93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
14 points - Farr Vintner - April 2018
89-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018
88 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020
87-89 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018
88 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020
88-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018
87-88 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018
17+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018
16-17 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - April 2018

Reviews *"Damson plum and red currant fruit is streaked with light charcoal and savory accents, ending with a tug of earth on the finish. A touch old-school, this should develop with a touch of cellaring. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2021 through 2029. 20,833 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"A bright, high-pitched style, featuring cherry and pomegranate fruit laced with floral and chalk hints. On the leaner side, with the mineral edge holding sway on the finish, but this remains fresh and pure."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Medium to deep garnet-purple in color ('), the 2017Potensac reveals delicate, perfumed scents of roses, chocolate-covered cherries, spice box and mulberries with hints of wild sage and pencil lead. Medium-bodied, the palate exudes freshness with plenty of bright, crunchy black fruits, framed by grainy tannins, finishing with an herbal lift."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2017 Potensac is a blend of 47% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it gives lovely red and black plums notes with touches of red currants, pencil shavings and underbrush. The palate is medium-bodied with great freshness and well-judged, chewy tannins, finishing with a lively herbal lift."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Lots of blackberries and currants, as well as violets and stone. Medium to full body. Creamy tannins and a flavorful finish. Precise."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A bright and vivid young red with currant, berry and floral aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied, tight and concentrated. Fine tannins."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Tannins in this wine are supple and lithe, providing a good backbone for the blackberry fruits. It is already an attractive wine, ready to drink over the medium term from 2022."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Balanced and structured, this wine has plenty of ripe black fruits and attractive acidity. It is juicy, with a black currant flavor and a touch of Cabernet Franc perfume. Already delicious, it will develop quickly."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep cherry red. Lovely bright fruit aroma, really fragrant, almost a touch floral. This has lovely freshness in both the acidity and the tannic structure. Extremely fine tannins, almost delicate, and yet there is an underlying power and persistence. Tannins much finer than I recall from previous vintages. One of my favourite wines of the primeurs tastings. Should be GV (good value). 17/20 points. (JH)"
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

"This successful wine feels zippy and bright, with good fruit definition. I really like how this takes shape over the course of the palate, starting off with fresh, summery red fruits and slowly expanding through the palate to develop blackberry and hawthorn notes. It's not up to the standard of 2016 but sits between the '14 and '15 in my opinion. Enjoy that waft of coffee smoke on the finish. 54% of grand vin compared to 65% in 2016, so they were being extremely selective. 1% Petit Verdot makes up the blend. (JA)"

- JA, Decanter.com

"Ruby in color with a cedar wood soul and leafy green spirit, you'll find bright red fruits assigned to the nose. Medium/full bodied and nearly approachable right now, the willing, accessible fruit displays a cheerful and zippy personality."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Medium ruby in colour with a nose of crunchy red fruits, this is clean and pure. The palate follows, with relatively crunchy tannins and plump red cherries. This is compact and midweight, with quite fresh acidity, and just a touch of spicy, smoky complexity on the finish."

- Farr Vintners

"Sweet and ripe the nose has a rich mix of black fruits the palate black plum, chocolate and coffee beans a complex mix. Firm but fine tannins support the back palate has power depth of the fruit the finish persistence and length. Drink 2022-2023."

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2017 Potensac has a straightforward, well defined bouquet with slightly rustic red fruit mixed with tobacco and smoke. The palate is medium bodied with quite chewy tannin. The acidity lends this freshness and bite, although it just misses a touch of finesse towards the finish. Still, there is fine length."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Potensac was picked 14 to 29 September, represents just 55% of the production this year and it was matured in 35% new oak. The bouquet gently unfolds with graphite-infused black fruit, a touch of iris developing with aeration. The oak here is nicely integrated. The palate is just a little green on the entry, though not under-ripe, armed with grippy tannin and a tarry, pencil lead-tinged finish that just needs to find more precision during the remainder of its élevage. Drink 2021-2030."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Potensac is an attractive, supple wine to drink now and over the next few years. There is lovely purity and aromatic lift to the fruit, if not quite the aromatic or structural complexity of the best years."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2017 Potensac is a pretty wine with good depth and resonance to its dark red cherry and black stone fruit. Soft and open knit in feel, with lovely depth, Potensac is especially fruity and supple in this vintage. Even so, all the elements are very nicely balanced. creamy, but understated through to the finish."

- AG, Vinous

"A normal blend of 47% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Franc (which is slightly elevated) and the rest Petit Verdot, the 2017 Château Potensac offers a deep, ripe, nicely textured style that's already a joy to drink. It has bright acidity, classy notes of raspberries, spring flowers and damp earth, medium body, and a juicy, clean finish. Still aging in 35% new French oak, it will be a good value"

- Jeb Dunnuck

"With older vines and much more complexity than the second wine, added to the fact there is more press wine included, this is a more masculine and powerful style of 2017 and it is showing some tension and also a few raw tannin notes, too, on the finish. The IPT level is quite pronounced for this vintage which also explains some of the power in the skins and this is translated to brute force on the finish."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com