

## Château Potensac 2018

CSPC# 866973

750mlx12

14.42% alc./vol.

CSPC# 103484

750mlx6

14.42% alc./vol.

Part of a Vertical Mixed Pack

<b>Grape Variety</b>	45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
<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: 3.80 gH <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> /l    pH: 3.67    ITP: 71
<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>	<p>The north of the Médoc experienced a generally rainy and mild winter, then becoming cold from mid-March, leading to a late but homogeneous budburst, followed by a strong vegetative growth. The hot and dry summer accelerated the ripening of the grapes, the alternation of cool nights and hot days developed their richness while maintaining their freshness. This 2018 vintage offers a ripe, very expressive fruit and a powerful and particularly velvety tannic structure. Elegant and opulent, it combines the power and classicism of a great vintage to age with the delicacy of solar vintages.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<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>
<b>Harvest</b>	21st September to 13th October 2018
<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>	Richly coloured, the aromatics feature cherry and raspberry fruits, with a little perfume, and an impressive clarity for the appellation. It is no less convincing on the palate, showing a nicely defined and slightly sinewy substance, with a touch of floral potpourri to the dark and curranty fruit here. Ripe tannins, modest acidity and a little length mean this is a Médoc which should enjoy wide appeal.
<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>	15,000 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2022-2035



**Scores/Awards** **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2021  
**89-92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2019  
**90 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021  
**90-92 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019  
**94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2021  
**93-94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019  
**91 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 2021  
**17 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019  
**91 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - March 2021  
**91 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020  
**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021  
**90-92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019  
**90 points** - Farr Vintner - April 2019  
**89 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021  
**89-91 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019  
**90-92 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019  
**93 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021  
**91-93+ points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019  
**17.5+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019  
**89 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019  
**93 points** - Yves Beck (score only) - April 2019  
**92-93 points** - Vert de Vin - April 2019  
**93 points** - Falstaff Magazine - May 2019  
**16-16.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2019  
**16 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2019  
**15.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

**Reviews** *"Damson plum, cherry and savory notes meld together nicely, set against a backdrop of light cedar and sanguine accents on the finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2026. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 15,000 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The dark cherry and plum fruit are fresh and direct, with light tobacco and toast accents hanging on the finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2018 Potensac is composed of 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. The wine has 14.42% alcohol and was aged in 35% new barriques. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it rolls out of the glass with open-knit scents of ripe, juicy black plums, boysenberries, redcurrant jelly and cassis, plus hints of dried Provence herbs, cinnamon stick, and dusty soil. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is chock-full of lively black and red berry layers, supported by soft tannins and a racy line, finishing with a lively skip in its step."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2018 Potensac is blended of 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, all harvested between September 21 and October 13, with yields of 49 hectoliters per hectare. The wine has 14.42% alcohol and is to be aged in barriques, 35% new; the finished blend was put into barrels last December. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it rolls effortlessly out of the glass with bright, fresh red and black plums, crushed blackcurrants, and bay leaves with hints of cracked pepper and damp soil. Full-bodied, rich, and laden with red and black fruit layers, it has a plush frame of rounded tannins and fantastic freshness, finishing long. "*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Fruity nose of blackcurrant and blueberry with sage and vanilla. It's full-bodied with firm tannins. Savory and juicy with pleasant acidity. Compact and long. Racy. 45% merlot, 36% cabernet sauvignon, 18% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. Try after 2023."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

**Reviews** *“The excellence of this lies in the quality of the tannins, which are so polished and refined. Compact and tight. Medium-bodied. Very, very long. Beauty already”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Under the same ownership as Château Léoville-las-Cases in Saint-Julien, this estate performs way above its appellation. With rich tannins and layers of ripe Merlot, the wine has a proper structure and sense of purpose and will age well. Drink from 2025.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Inky core with purple rim. Such beautifully pure black fruit. Such fine texture and so juicy and lively. Absolutely delicious and fresh with no heaviness and no sense of the alcohol. Low pH because of the terroir, says Pierre Graffeux. They picked the Merlot early and spread out the picking for the Cabernet Sauvignon. Silky finesse and freshness. Lovely wine with a red-fruited brightness and persistence. 17/20 points.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“2018 was the warmest season of the last 10 years at Potensac, with just under half the usual rainfall over the summer. The property has produced a great bottle: bright and cheery with vibrant fruit, it's highly enjoyable and approachable. You rarely find such impressive mid-palate focus in the Médoc, and that alone makes this a year worth exploring for the wines at this price level.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“Plush plum in colour, with a depth to the body that starts from the first sip. A clear step up from the second wine, as I have found in many Médoc's in the vintage. Raspberry and blueberry fruits which then deepen out to the classic black fruit notes of Potensac. Bottled in mid-April, ageing in barrel was kept to 14 months to avoid any over-extraction, because alcohol levels are pretty high. 1% Petit Verdot completes the blend. Drinking Window 2024 – 2025.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“The ripe nose exudes fresh, juicy, sweet fruit, cedar, smoke, spice, and tobacco notes. Full-bodied with ripe, soft, round tannins and finish filled with sweet, ripe, fresh red berries that linger with flavor. For Potensac this is forward, so you will be able to enjoy this within a few years. This is the finest wine made in the history of Potensac. The wine was produced from blending 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, 14.5 ABV.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Tobacco, cedar, and smoke are paired with ripe, red berries that have a roundness in them this year. The wine is full-bodied and continues with its classic spirit. But with the 2018, you find more generosity than normal. Still, I would wait at least a decade before opening a bottle. The wine was produced from blending 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Deep ruby in colour, with a cool nose of fresh blackcurrant, blackcurrant leaf and cedar. The palate is firm and chalky, with a medium body and bright acidity. Cool, compact, and savoury, with a long and lightly spicy finish.”*  
- Farr Vintners

*“The 2018 Potensac has an outgoing nose of wild strawberry and raspberry notes and touches of meat juices, a slight gaminess emerging with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy, crisp tannins. Quite tight on the entry, it finds its groove in the second half, displaying commendable delineation and tension on the graphite-tinged, slightly austere finish. Fine. 2022-2038.”*  
- NM, Vinous

## Reviews

*“The 2018 Potensac has an intense and – for this Haut-Médoc – flamboyant bouquet of black cherries mixed with bilberry jam and meat juices. The palate is fresh on the entry, with a fine line of acidity. Possessing more body and grip than the 2017, this is a confident Potensac, although at the moment it feels a little clipped on the finish. If it fleshes out by the time of bottling, it deserves to be at the top of my banded score.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2018 Potensac is bold, dense, and powerful. Grilled herb, smoke, leather, cedar and tobacco give the inky blue/purplish fruit a decidedly savory character. Although a bit rough around the edges, the 2018 has plenty of nuance as well as personality. It will be interesting to see if the 2018 develops a bit more finesse in élevage. The blend is 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Tasted two times.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The Grand Vin 2018 Château Potensac (45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc, and the balance Petit Verdot) sports a deeper purple, almost opaque hue to go with lots of ripe black cherry and currant-like fruits intermixed with notes of toasty oak, tobacco, graphite, and earth. Richer and more concentrated than the Chapelle de Potensac release, with full-bodied richness and building tannin's, it's going to benefit from a solid 5-7 years of bottle age and keep for 15+.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The 2018 Château Potensac sports a saturated purple color as well as a Cabernet-dominated nose of blackcurrants, cassis, tobacco, and earth. This beauty is full-bodied and concentrated, with notable freshness balancing terrific ripeness. It's going to evolve nicely for two decades. The blend is 45% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot, still aging in 35% new oak. 91-93+”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“(45 Merlot, 36 Cabernet Sauvignon, 18 Cabernet Franc, 1 Petit Verdot) | 35% new oak | 14.4% alc | 71 IPT | 49 hl/ha Rather ravishing and approachable with serious length and also superb red fruit and balance. The nose is beautiful, harmonious, and rich and moreish. It is possible to drink this wine early, but I have a suspicion that it will greatly repay those who decide to cellar it.”*

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

*“Deep dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate lightening of the edges. Nuances of ripe plums, aromas characterized by merlot, black cherries, orange zest. Firm, powerful, extract-sweet texture, mineral, ripe tannins, good length, powerful food accompaniment with good aging potential.”*

- Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is fruity and offers a fine richness. It reveals notes of blackberry, wild raspberry and small notes of ripe wild red berries associated with slight hints of violet as well as discreet hints of liquorice. The palate is fruity, juicy, well-balanced and offers a good definition, a beautiful juicy fruit, a beautiful freshness, suavity, fat, richness, gourmandise as well as a slight acidulous frame. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy blackberry, juicy fleshy raspberry and small notes of fleshy / juicy red berries associated with fine touches of cassis as well as very slight hints of licorice, chocolate, and vanilla.”*

- Vert de Vin

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