Château Potensac

2023



TERROIR

Situé sur les hauteurs d'Ordonnac, au nord de Saint Estèphe, Potensac bénéficie d'un terroir singulier de croupes argilo-graveleuses reposant sur un sous-sol calcaire, particulièrement rare dans cette partie du Médoc. Cette combinaison géologique favorise à la fois drainage, concentration et fraîcheur naturelle. L'altitude relative du vignoble permet également de capter les influences tempérantes de l'estuaire de la Gironde à l'est et des courants atlantiques à l'ouest, apportant une fraîcheur bénéfique à la maturation des raisins et l'équilibre des vins dans les millésimes chauds. Les vieilles vignes de Cabernet sauvignon et cabernet franc, dont certaines sont centenaires, y trouvent des conditions idéales pour produire des vins structurés, profonds et dotés d'un fort potentiel de garde.

MILLÉSIME 2023

Le millésime 2023 à Potensac a débuté précocement, avec un débourrement homogène fin mars. Les températures élevées de mai et juin ont favorisé une croissance rapide de la vigne, nécessitant une grande réactivité au vignoble. Juin a apporté des précipitations régulières et une pression sanitaire persistante. Les deux vagues de chaleur, fin août et début septembre, ont accéléré la maturité des raisins. Une gestion précise des vendanges a permis de préserver le fruit en évitant les pluies de septembre. Le millésime 2023 se distingue par sa fraîcheur, sa structure et sa profondeur. Un grand classique du Médoc né d'un millésime maîtrisé.

INFORMATIONS TECHNIQUES

Assemblage : 48% Cab. Sauvignon 35% Merlot 17% Cab. Franc
Date de vendange : Du 18 au 29 septembre 2023
Degré : 13,50 % - Acidité totale : 3,50 gH2SO4/l

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NOTES DE DÉGUSTATION

93/100

JAMES SUCKLING

Aromas of mulberries, blackberries, tobacco, cedar and herbs. Gentle yet expressive, with dark fruit throughout. Precise, fine grained tannins that will need some time to soften, but overall it's cohesive and structured. 48% cabernet, 35% marlot and 17% cabernet franc. Should be approachable from 2028.

92/100

JEB DUNNUCK

With roughly 13,500 cases produced, the 2023 Château Potensac is a Cabernet Sauvignon-heavy blend of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and 17% Cabernet Franc that spent 12 months in 20% new French oak. This is the first vintage where they used an optical and water bath sorting method, and it shows in its overall purity and elegance. Cassis, black cherries, leafy tobacco, and some mineral nuances all shine here, and it's medium-bodied, with a pure, layered, focused mouthfeel, ripe tannins, and integrated acidity. It's a beautiful, classic, elegant Potensac that will keep for a solid 30-40 years and will probably exceed the 1982. Drink 2028-2063. (April 2026)

93/100

THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER / JEFF LEVE

With a flowery edge to the perfume, you also find notes of black cherries, tobacco, and spices. The palate is vibrant, with layers of sweet, ripe, juicy cherries, black currants, chocolate, and savory herbs. The wine was produced from blending 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and 17% Cabernet Franc.13.4% ABV. Drink from 2028-2045. (April 2026)

90/100

THE WINE DOCTOR/CHRIS KISSACK

This is 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, the highest proportion ever here, with 17% Cabernet Franc, the rest mostly Merlot, from old vines aged 60 years on average. The nose is intriguing, with quite perfumed red fruits, red peony, a little red pepper too, the Cabernet Franc showing through, with notes of crushed mint. The palate is quite charming, with a soft and supple character

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at the start, with dry red fruits and red pepper swirled with finely grained tannins, tinged with leather and tobacco. An attractive style, although in a different vein to the Potensac of old. A long, lightly tannic grip. A very good result for this northerly appellation in this vintage. The alcohol is reported to be 13.4%. 90/100 (December 2025)

92/100

THE WINE PALATE/LISA PERROTTI-BROWN

Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2023 Potensac springs from the glass with notes of red currant jelly and kirsch, plus hints of rose oil, cardamom, and dried Provençal herbs. The medium-bodied palate is silky and racy, with vibrant red berry flavors and plenty of savory accents, finishing fragrant. The blend is 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and 17% Cabernet Franc. The alcohol is 13.4%.

93/100

VINOUS / ANTONIO GALLONI

The 2023 Potensac is every bit a compelling as is was en primeur. Dark cherry, blackberry, gravel, incence, licorice, graphite and dried herbs are amplified in the glass.This Cabernet-driven Haut-Médoc has a ton to offer, starting with its notable freshness and savory drive. (March 2026)

92/100

VINUM/ADRIAN VAN VELSEN

Offener als noch en Primeur, mit dunklen Beeren, steinigen Noten, Zartbitterschokolade, Tabak; am Gaumen reiffruchtig, dicht, konzentriert, delikater Fruchtkern, feinkörniges Tannin; salines Finale. Ein Wein voller Rasse.

90/100

WINE SPECTATOR / JAMES MOLESWORTH

Juicy and engaging, with red and black cherry compote notes scored with savory, chalky minerality and chestnut leaf on the finish. Shows character. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2035. (March 2026)

94/100

YVES BECK

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Historiquement élevée, avec 48 %, la part de Cabernet Sauvignon joue un rôle crucial dans cet assemblage. Elle amène de la fraîcheur et du tempérament pour accompagner ce si charmant Merlot ! Porté par des tannins puissants, et parfaitement intégrés, le vin s'illustre par son harmonie, par cette fusion entre velouté et tension, par une structure tannique qui atteint le sommet de sa vigueur en fin de bouche et qui assure une assise solide avec un grand potentiel de garde à la clé !

92-93/100

ALEXANDRE MA

The 2023 vintage of Château Potensac reveals the classic essence of Médoc's heritage. Even in its youth, it exudes a profound undertone of graphite and pencil shavings, instilling anticipation for its multi-layered development with aging. The aromas of pomegranate and sour plum are clear and lively, harmonizing effortlessly with the relatively gentle tannins, making it very approachable. For fans of Bordeaux's traditional style, the 2023 vintage of Château Potensac is worthy of special attention.

92/100

JANE ANSON

Concentrated and intense, fragrant spicy notes of green peppercorn, liqourice root, smoked earth, freshly cut herbs and black tea. Plenty of lift, a little serious and austere, but this is a well balanced and enjoyable wine. Harvest September 18 to 29, 20% new oak for ageing. No 2nd wine of Potensac since 2021, since they pulled out more than 20ha of vines to retain only the most high quality parts of the vineyard.

90/100

JEAN-MARC QUARIN

Couleur rouge sombre, intense et vive. Nez très aromatique et fin. Nuances pures de fruits mûrs et de cerise. Caressant à l'attaque, minutieux au toucher, le vin s'étire entre le milieu et la finale, long et savoureux.

18+/20

MATTHEW JUKES

Potensac has never had so much care and attention lavished on it, and with recent warmer vintages, it appears to be having a profound effect on this property. While the fruit is spectacular, the freshness and vibrancy on the finish catapult this wine up the ladder of excellence. One might have

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imagined that this vintage would have made somewhat bigger, heftier wines, but the opposite is true. There is scintillating purity here, and with an average vine age of over 55 years, there is incredible depth of fruit, too. It feels like Potensac has made a perfect fusion of ancient and modern in 2023, and I cannot recommend it enough. I hope the pricing is reasonable so keen collectors can add this delicious wine to their inventory!

91-93/100

RVF

La proportion de cabernets monte progressivement et le vin prend une dimension plus stricte, mais aussi plus racée. Tendu, mais avec du volume et des tanins structurants, il s'inscrit comme un Potensac de garde.

89-91/100

THE WINE ADVOCATE/WILLIAM KELLEY

The 2023 Potensac is a solid effort, offering up aromas of dark berries, cherries, loamy soil and cigar wrapper, followed by a medium-bodied, fleshy palate that's taut and penetrating, with good depth at the core.

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