

Château Rauzan-Gassies 2017

CSPC# 869824

750mlx6

13.50% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot.

Appellation

Margaux

Classification

2nd Grand Cru Classe

Website

<https://www.domaines-quié.com/rauzan-gassies/>

Sustainability

For 20 years now, with the same values and philosophy as our elders, we have perpetuated along with our teams a know-how with the highest precision standards. Year after year, we analyze, refine, and improve each stage of our winemaking processes, rethinking them for prospective viticulture excellence. We thus commit all of our wine estates to ecologically sound agriculture to pass on this living heritage. Because a family Grand Cru is, above all, a crossroad between exceptional terroirs and people who take the time to cherish them.

A legacy of its centuries-old past, the Château holds as many forests, meadows, and marshes as it does vineyards.

These natural areas, some of which are part of the Natura 2000 site, aim to preserve the local fauna and flora heritage, each serving a distinct purpose. Forests are a reserve of endemic plant species and habitat for wildlife, as are hedges planted on the plot borders. The meadows are entrusted to a breeder of Blonde d'Aquitaine. His cattle happily share the pasture and, in return, provide natural manure fertiliser for the vineyard. Finally, just as in the 17th century, the Médoc marshlands still regulate the water drainage by the vineyard soils today.

General Info

At the time, it was a part of the gigantic Rauzan estate owned by Pierre de Mesures de Rauzan. The massive Bordeaux wine property was over-time split up again and again.

By the time of the 1855 Classification, the once vast Margaux estate had given birth to not only Rauzan Gassies, but Chateau Rauzan Segla, Chateau Marquis de Terme, and even Château Desmirail.

After World War 2, in 1946, Chateau Rauzan Gassies was sold to Quié family. The Quié family continue to own Chateau Rauzan Gassies today as well as Chateau Croizet-Bages in Pauillac and Chateau Bel Orme Tronquoy de Lalande, a Cru Bourgeois estate in the Medoc.

In 2008 they opened an attractive new tasting room, overlooking their vineyard. In 2018, they completed a renovation and modernization of their cellars.

Winemaker

Jean-Philippe Quié is the Technical Manager

Vintage

Although the Chateau Rauzan-Gassies vineyard was not spared by the frost at the end of April 2017, the unaffected plots benefited from the most favorable climatic conditions during the summer.

Vineyards

The 28.5-hectare, Left Bank vineyard of Chateau Rauzan Gassies is planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. The terroir is gravel and sandy soils. Their best gravel parcels are located near the chateau. At their peak, they have elevations of up to 21 meters. They also have vines planted close to Chateau Kirwan and Chateau Margaux.

The average age of the vines is 35 years. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 10,000 vines per hectare. Chateau Rauzan Gassies is one of the very few 1855 Classified Growths that do much of their vineyard work, using machine harvesting.

Harvest

Currently, 50% of the vineyards are harvested by machine.

Vinification/

Maturation

The wine of Chateau Rauzan Gassies is vinified in temperature-controlled, stainless-steel vats that range in size from 25 hectolitres to 150 hectolitres. The vats are new, having been installed after a renovation and modernization of the estate that was completed in 2013.

At Rauzan Gassies, they now practice co-inoculation, which means that alcoholic



Maturation	fermentation and malolactic fermentation take place at the same time. The wine of Rauzan Gassies is aged in 30% new, French oak barrels for an average of 12 months. On average, Chateau Rauzan Gassies produces close to 11,000 cases of Margaux per year.
Tasting Notes	With its blend dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon (76%), complemented by Merlot (23%) and Petit Verdot (1%), the Chateau Rauzan-Gassies 2017 displays a superb profile, full of the nuances of this peculiar vintage. The wine presents a wonderful combination of power and finesse. Full of elegance, the bouquet reveals fresh and pure aromas of black berries, evolving on beautiful mineral notes that echo the terroir of origin in Margaux. On the palate, the wine develops a very dense and silky texture, emphasizing the discreet power of the tannins. The mid-palate is also quite mellow, stretching into a lingering finish. Undoubtedly one of the most successful vintages of Rauzan-Gassies in the last 10 years.
Serve with	Chateau Rauzan Gassies is usually better with at least 6-8 years of bottle age. Of course, that can vary slightly, depending on the vintage character. Chateau Rauzan Gassies offers its best drinking and should reach peak maturity between 10-20 years of age after the vintage. Chateau Rauzan Gassies is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Rauzan Gassies is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.
Production	11, 00 cases made (approx. 70,000 bottles annually)
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2028
Scores/Awards	<p>94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p>91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p>93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2020</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2018</p> <p>89 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p>87 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2020</p> <p>88 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p>84-86 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p>89-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p>89-91 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2018</p> <p>89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>94 points - Vert de Vin - April 2019</p> <p>89 points - Falstaff Magazine - May 2018</p> <p>16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021</p> <p>14 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2020</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Rauzan-Gassies rolls out of the glass with expressive notes of baked plums, warm cassis, and kirsch plus wafts of cedar chest, oolong tea and lilac. Medium-bodied, the palate delivers loads of perfumed black berry flavors with a fine-grained texture and long, pure finish. Nice!"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Tight and lightly chewy with pretty dark fruit, stone and real terroir character. Firm and silky. Very pretty. Better than 2016?"</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This wine's tannins are firm and bold, giving structure to the juicy black fruits. It has weight while preserving plenty of the Margaux elegance. The wine will age well, so drink from 2024."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"This is a fruity, well-balanced wine. While the wood aging shows strongly, so does the fruit. It makes for a generous pour that will age well. Drink from 2023."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p>

Reviews *“A highly attractive wine, showing soft floral aromatics and finely-expressed black cherry fruits, nicely defined. The constraints of the vintage see a little dilution through the mid-palate, but it has been extremely well handled, with a careful delivery, although it lacks reach. For medium-term drinking. Drinking Window 2024 – 2036.”*

- JA, Decanter.com

“Forward, medium-bodied and already showing off its bright, almost crunchy red fruits, earth and herbs, you can enjoy this with just a bit of time in the cellar.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Medium bodied with an herbal, leafy accent to the bright red fruits, a few years in the cellar will add more complexity and softness to the wine.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2017 Rauzan Gassies has a predictably light, rather herbaceous bouquet that does not quite click out of second gear. The palate is medium-bodied with dry, slightly green tannin and it feels a little hollow towards the finish. I always wish this Margaux would improve but frustratingly it rarely delivers where it matters...in the glass.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 Rauzan Gassies offers good depth, but firm tannins and angular contours convey a feeling of rusticity. Even so, the 2017 finishes with real weight and gravitas. It will be interesting to see if it acquires a bit more finesse during the course of its aging.”

- AG, Vinous

“The Margaux appellation, while not as consistent as Pauillac, did well in 2017. The 2017 Château Rauzan-Gassies offers an exotic, complex, medium-bodied style as well as good concentration, ripe tannin, and the fresher, more mid-weight style of the vintage. I like its overall balance, and it has quality tannin, all suggesting a solid wine.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges, delicate honey, dark wild berry confit, ripe plums, some dried figs. Slim, red berries, fresh acidity, delicate tannins, some nougat, an uncomplicated food accompaniment.”

- Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fruity, racy, elegant and offers power and gourmandize. It reveals notes of raspberry, cassis and small notes of strawberry associated with fine hints of violet, cherry as well as fine hints of liquorice, discreet hints of chocolate, almond, and caramelization. The mouth is fruity, well-balanced, racy and offers a juicy/acidulous frame, a good definition, elegance as well as gourmandize. On the mouth this wine expresses notes of cassis, cherry, raspberry, and small notes of blackberry associated with fine touches of violet, tonka bean and subtle hints of spices. Tannins are elegant. Good length and persistence.”

- Vert de Vin