

Château Gazin 2005

CSPC# 753462

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Website

<http://www.chateau-gazin.com/>

General Info

The Pomerol vineyard developed from the 12th century up to the French Revolution of 1789 around the commandary of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta . The present day, Château Gazin, which was once a village in the 18th century, is located on the site of the hospital built by the Knights to host the pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostella.

The logo for Chateau Gazin was inspired by an ancient connection to Knights of the Templars. Not only is the logo for Chateau Gazin old, so is the property. It dates all the way back to 1772 when the Pomerol vineyards were purchased by Antoine Feuilhade. Over the years, Chateau Gazin was sold and resold to numerous owners before it was bought by the current owners, the Bailliencourt family.

The estate's Bordeaux wine vineyards are large for the Pomerol appellation. They are 64.2 acres. The vineyards are in one single parcel, which is also unusual for Pomerol. The terroir is clay with gravel. Gazin is situated on the Pomerol plateau. Chateau Gazin has good neighbors. They share borders with Petrus and L'Evangile! In fact, in 1969, Chateau Gazin sold 12.5 acres to Petrus. While the sale helped the cash starved property, the loss of those vines reduced the quality of Chateau Gazin. Further exacerbating the loss of quality was when the estate switched to machine harvesting in 1979, coupled with an increase in yields. Both practices has been discontinued today.

Vineyards

The terroir at Château Gazin consists of Gunzian gravel on the surface and a subsoil of blue and green clay with iron oxides (iron residues). As is characteristic of great terroirs, these clays (smectites) ensure that the vines have a reasonably stable supply of water. Château GAZIN's terroir essentially consists of the clay-gravel subsoil of the Pomerol plateau. The vineyard is planted with 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc. The average age of the vines is 35 years. The vines are planted with a density of 5,500 to 7,000 per hectare.

Harvest

The harvests are carried out by hand, as each plot reaches perfect ripeness. The grapes undergo an initial sorting in the vineyard, carried out by the pickers. Two further sorting stages take place in the vat room, before and after removal of the stalks, to optimize the quality of the fruit.

Maturation

Alcoholic fermentation takes place in small concrete vats, separated by grape variety and plot, the juice and skins are then left to macerate for two to three weeks. The free-run wine is then drawn off and kept separate from the wine obtained by pressing the residue ("marc"). The second fermentation, or malolactic fermentation, is then carried out, each grape variety being kept separate, either in barrels or vats, depending on the quality of the batches. The wines are then transferred to oak barrels (50% new barrels). They mature for eighteen months, during which the wines are progressively blended during meticulous rackings approximately every three months. The contact with the fine lees and the oak tannins gradually adds structure and complexity, enabling the production of wines that can be laid down and that will improve over time.

Tasting Notes

This was a great vintage, with a solid structure that will allow the wine to age for 30 years or more. The colour is an intense almost black bordeaux. In the mouth, it offers notes of ripe black and red fruit, with Morello cherries, blackcurrants and red-currants, these are supplemented by hints of liquorice, plums and spices. The woodiness from being matured in barrels is subtle and well-integrated. This wine has already developed flavours of truffles, leather and undergrowth, with the meaty notes that are typical of Pomerols. Sumptuous, long and full-bodied on the palate



Tasting Notes	with supple, blended tannins, that are nevertheless noticeable in the finish, and will continue to mature for another ten to fifteen years. A vintage to be laid down.
Production	5300 cases made (65,000 bottles)
Cellaring	Drink 2015-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008</p> <p>89-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2006</p> <p>96+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #219 - June 28, 2015</p> <p>94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 29, 2008</p> <p>90-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 29, 2007</p> <p>92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 23, 2006</p> <p>90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - February 8, 2015</p> <p>90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 29, 2013</p> <p>91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 30, 2009</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - Web Only 2012</p> <p>88 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2008</p> <p>92 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - score only</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February, 2015</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February, 2015</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin - score only</p> <p>90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 20, 2008</p> <p>92+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - December 2009</p> <p>92 points - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - October 29, 2007</p> <p>91 points - Michael Schuster, Bordeaux Index - October 2007</p> <p>86 points - Wine & Spirits Magazine - score only</p> <p>93 points - Falstaff Magazine - score only</p> <p>17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France - score only</p> <p>17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve - score only</p> <p>15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - score only</p> <p>3 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2009</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Has gorgeous aromas of blackberry, spices, chocolate and flowers. Full-bodied, with a mouthfilling palate. Long and velvety. A joy to taste now. Best after 2011. 5,300 cases made."</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Aromas of berry, toasted oak and coffee. Full-bodied, round and velvety. Lots of fruit. Chewy. Could move up a notch. Score range: 89-91"</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2005 Gazin is a big, masculine, full-throttle Pomerol that comes closer to the style of a Pauillac than some of the other Pomerols. Nevertheless, this wine is locked and loaded, with an inky plum/purple color, stunning concentration, a boatload of tannin, and unlimited upside potential. Sweet cassis, plum, vanilla and truffle notes are followed by a dense, deep, profound wine with blackcurrant and black cherry fruit, high extraction, and a multi-layered texture. This is a long distance runner, even for a 2005, and probably won't even be close to full maturity for another decade. It should easily last 30 or more years. Drink 2015-2045."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"An exuberant, sweet bouquet of caramelized black cherries and currants interwoven with tapenade, toasty oak, earth, and truffles soars from the glass of this dark purple-hued 2005. It is a rich, concentrated, full-bodied, impressive effort displaying well-integrated wood and unobtrusive acidity. This is the finest Gazin since the brilliant 2001. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2028."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Gazin is typically oaky, tannic, and backward in its youth, but the 2005 is more open-knit and not as aggressively woody. It possesses an impressive color as well as a moderately intense nose of black cherries, berries, caramel, subtle pain grille, roasted herbs, and black and red fruits. Medium-bodied, elegant, and pure, it should be at its finest between 2013-2025. P.S. I should note that three separate samples were slightly different in quality, two of which were better than this numerical score suggests. The ultimate truth won't be known until the wine comes out in bottle, but I believe it will correspond to this review. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2025."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *“Gazin’s superb 2005 is equal to their brilliant 2001. Its dense purple color is accompanied by sweet plum, cherry, and cassis fruit, a touch of pain grille, full body, sweet tannin, and a persistent, 45-second finish. This beauty will be drinkable in 4-5 years, and last for two decades or more. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2026.”*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- “The Château Gazin 2005 is a little green and herbaceous on the nose, which is a trait that I often found with this Pomerol during this era. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly dry tannin, moderate depth but it does not quite flow towards the finish, feels a little stilted compared to others, like a child actor forgetting its line on stage. This is one Pomerol where I much prefer Nicolas de Bailliencourt’s recent vintages such as 2009 and 2010. Drink 2016-2032.”*
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Tasted at the Pomerol tasting at the Antique Wine Company. The Gazin 2005 has a lucid deep ruby colour. The nose is fragrant with abundant dark berries, sloes and more truffle notes emerging with time in the glass. The palate is surprisingly backward and masculine with a rigid backbone. It is more rounded than two or three years ago with a slightly austere finish. Give this wine another couple of years for those tannins to soften. Tasted December 2012.”*
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Tasted single blind at Southwold. The Gazin -05 seems to be coming into its own after a relatively abrasive youth and each time I return I have to increase my score. Tasted blind, this has an earthy nose, sloes, mulberry. Lacks a little definition but imbued with a sense of mineralite with those mulberries growing in intensity. Earthy entry, black pepper, fine tannins, a little angular but that should round out in time. Nice character and rusticity. Very fine. Drink 2012-2020. Tasted January 2009. Drink 2012-2020.”*
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Dominated by ripe black berry fruits, spices and pepper, this is just on the right side of overblown. There is a tannic structure, which does suggest that, given another 4–5 years, this will become a better integrated wine.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Not that expressive on the nose and a bit tight and introvert. A bit dull overall. 13.5% Drink 2020-2032”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Dark. Rich and powerful and quite modern. Rather dry tannins on the finish. Savoury but true Pomerol character”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “This is a Pomerol for traditionalists. I can see some people liking this beefy styled wine. But it lacks elegance and charm, my two favorite characteristics from wines in Pomerol”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Saturated black; tight to the rim; legs; dense, concentrated nose; later opened up with wonderful roasted coffee bean and mocha notes; palate with ample body and concentration and lots of extract but not over done. A wonderfully concentrated wine with ripe tannins and good grip. Excellent. 92+/100 Dec ‘09”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “Coffee and chocolate edge to the dark fruits nose. The palate has nice purity of dark fruit and firm tannins, with some spicy oak. Classy.”*
- JG, Wineanorak.com
- “Dark red; fresh, minerally red fruit nose; fullish, firm, fresh in acidity, and finely tannic; ripe, sweet, vivid flavour, with a lovely depth, a gentle, minerally complexity and excellent fruit length. Will need a bit of time, but this is very good middle rank Pomerol. Give it a few years yet! 2018-30+”*
- MS, Bordeaux Index