

Château Gazin 2009

CSPC#753462

750mlx12

13.0% Alc./Vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc.

Appellation

Pomerol

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 is a powerful, well-structured vintage with a dark, intense bordeaux colour. There are notes of toast, black fruit, cherries, liquorice and spices. The tannins are supple and soft, but with a definite presence. The wine is rich, sumptuous, with a lot of substance and a long finish. It should be aged for eight to twelve years in the cellar and can easily be kept for 25 to 30 years.

Production

5,541 cases made (66,500 bottles of wine made)

Cellaring

Drink 2014-2028



Scores/Awards **93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012
92-95 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012
94-96* points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010
95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - Web Only 2012
92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012
89 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July 2012
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010
17.5 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - May 2012
17-18+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010
17.5 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010
90 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 31, 2012

Reviews *"This has it all in place—dark, smoldering tobacco and cocoa notes, rich plum sauce, braised fig and steeped black currant fruit, joined by lengthy, mouth coating, tar-tinged grip. Still youthfully raw, though, so cellar for maximum effect. Best from 2014 through 2028. 5,541 cases made."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Blackberry and light tar aromas follow through to a full body, with soft and velvety tannins and a fruity finish. Delicate in a rich way. Score range: 92-95"
 - JS, Wine Spectator

"A big, powerful, masculine Pomerol with a style not dissimilar from Le Gay, the dense purple-colored 2009 Gazin exhibits black currant, black cherry liqueur, coffee, roasted herb, an exotic Asian spice component, vanillin, creme caramel and toasty oak in its aromatics and flavors. From a vineyard near Petrus, Le Gay and La Fleur Petrus, it is full-bodied with licorice, earth, truffle and creme de cassis in the mouth. Give this powerful, backward 2009 an additional 6-8 years of cellaring and drink it over the following three decades."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"Ferocious extract, huge tannin, an opaque purple color, and enormous richness all make for a potentially brilliant wine from this vineyard, located on the plateau of Pomerol just adjacent to Petrus. Probably a late finisher of malolactic given its showing on three separate occasions, this wine, which is enormously endowed, very rich, and full-bodied, has a chance to be the best Gazin ever made. However, patience will be a virtue, as the wine will certainly need 5-8 years of cellaring. (Tasted three times.)"
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London. The Gazin 2009 is much more introverted on the nose, showing more earthy characteristics, but none of the greenness that afflicted previous vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with firm grip on the entry, a saline tang that infuses the dark berried fruit. Introverted compared to say, Clinet, but full of intrigue. Tasted November 2011."
 - NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at Chateau Clinet. This has a well defined, quite a cerebral bouquet with aromas of blackberry, Morello and a touch of liquorice, becoming more rounded and voluptuous with aeration. The palate is very well balanced with firm tannins, superb definition and minerality coming through on this Gazin, the best that I have tasted at primeur. Very precise towards the finish, very sophisticated. Wonderful. Tasted April 2010."
 - NM, Wine Journal

"A smoky wine, its fruit submerged in the wood character. It does have weight, along with powerful, tight tannins. It's a wine that will need many years."
 - RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *“Bright ruby. Sweet aromas of black raspberry, dried blueberry, cooking spices and toffee. Plush, sweet and intriguing, with dried berry and dried flower flavors dominating. The long finish features chewy tannins but could use a bit more vigor.”*
- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Luscious and intense with the merest hint of animal fur. Thick and then rather tough and acid. Rather austere on the end.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Dark, slightly gamey, very ripe fruit character here, with dark plum fruit tinged with some with slightly inky tones and certainly a vein of liquorice running through it. A broad and supple palate, rich and concentrated, very bold in style. And there is plenty of grip too, a wine where this shows through the fruit rather than being completely hidden beneath a more velvety structure. And the structure in the finish seems fairly full-on; there is even a slightly drying edge to the end because of this. Nevertheless this is very good, and tightening up I think. From a Grand Cru Classé Tasting. 17.5/20 (May 2012)”
- CK, The Wine Doctor

“Merlot 90%, Cabernet Sauvignon 7%, Cabernet Franc 3%. Alcohol here 14.3%. The nose here has the suggestion of substance, with some evocative dark fruit. Quite fresh, pure fruit, quite creamy, with a good backbone of measured tannin beneath. The acidity is nice, the overall composition is well balanced, and the substance hides that alcohol well. A very ripe character. Massive in style, but everything sits quite well together, and overall I think this is really good. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 17-18+/20 (March 2010)”
- CK, The Wine Doctor

“Ripe but poised. Aromatic red fruit (crushed raspberry) aromas, smooth tannic frame, attractive mid-palate fruit and a balancing freshness that is marked. Assured value.”
- SS, Decanter.com

“Fresh black raspberries, plums and chocolate covered, dark cherries make up the perfume. This powerful, tannic, firm style of Pomerol is built to age.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
