

Château Gazin 2011

CSPC#753462

750mlx12

13.45% Alc./Vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Website

<http://www.gazin.com/en/>

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

With the vintage 2011, we return toward the more classic wines and we turn away from the exceptional vintages of the years 2005, 2009, and 2010. Nevertheless, the 2011 is not without its merit. Harvest were early. The merlots came in from September 5th to the 20th, and the Cabernet francs and Sauvignons came in on September 26th and 27th; we brought in a mature and heavy harvest with a yield of 43 hl per hectare. 74,000 bottles of Château Gazin 2011 and 47,000 bottles of the Hospitalet de Gazin second wine are composed of a blend of 90% merlot, 5% Cabernet franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. A very careful selection allowed us to produce a very full-bodied wine that is rather meaty, tannic, raised for 15 months in new barrels (45%), with the rest in one wine barrels. The alcohol level of this vintage is 13.45°.

Vinification

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.

Maturation

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 The wine's appearance is dark, brilliant bordeaux. 2011 features strong tannic notes, with red and black berry aromas: sour cherry, blackberry and black currant, a slightly toasted smell, winy, peppery, with a hint of caramel. The taste is silky, rather full, with a nice lingering effect, and a clearly tannic finish that doesn't overpower and will soften with age. You can enjoy this wine today, after an hour or two of decantation, but the wine will improve with another five years (2018). It should not be kept longer than fifteen years.

Production 6,250 cases made

Cellaring Drink 2014-2028

Scores/Awards **89 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014
89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012
93+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014
88-91+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012
91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012
88-90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012
87-90 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May 2012
16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012
16 points/3 stars - Decanter.com - April 2012
90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012 (score only)
91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 31, 2012
89-91 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012
90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
16 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"Shows a roasted alder note, which lends a lightly firm edge to the core of plum and blackberry fruit, while espresso and dark earth details chime in on the finish. A bit thick and extracted in feel, but shy on purity. Drink now through 2019. 6,250 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Still quite primal, with fleshy plum skin, warm raspberry confiture and dark roasted woodspice notes still wrestling a bit with each other. A bit thick on the finish as this seems to have aimed for extraction; it will need to develop some finesse during the élevage for balance. Score range: 89-92"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"A powerful, virile 2011, Gazin reveals a dense ruby/purple color, a big, meaty, earthy richness, lots of coffee, black cherry liqueur and spice notes, and a full-bodied mouthfeel. It will benefit from another 3-4 years of cellaring and should keep for 15+ years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Gazin is normally a big, backstrapping Pomerol as its vineyard sits between Lafleur and Petrus. However, the 2011 is a softer, more gentle effort with a deep plum/purple color and a sweet bouquet of balsam wood, damp earth, black cherry jam, licorice and a hint of tomato skin. Medium to full-bodied and deep, this Gazin is closed and slightly unformed. I suspect there is more to this wine than it revealed on the several occasions I tasted it. Anticipated maturity: 2016-2028."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the UGC Pomerol tasting. A blend of 90% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon the Gazin 2011 has a fine nose that unfurls nicely with aeration, revealing ripe black cherries and raspberry fruit that is in synch with the oak. The palate is medium-bodied with rounded tannins on the entry. There is fine minerality here, good substance, the smectite clay coming to Gazin's aid in this dry season and lending more body towards the finish. This should merit long-term ageing. Tasted April 2012."

- NM, Wine Journal

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Reviews *"88-90. Barrel sample. This firmly tannic wine has a dry character that lays over lighter fruits. With soft spice and some sweetness, this wine is developing already."*

- RV, *Wine Enthusiast*

"Good medium-deep red. Blackcurrant, plum, smoke, iron and mint on the nuanced nose. Juicy, bright and penetrating, with nicely delineated flavors of plum, minerals and lead pencil. Finishes with firm, dusty tannins and a lingering note of blackcurrant. This will need time."

- ST, *International Wine Cellar*

"Ripe dark fruit with violets and chocolates. Pretty intense on the nose. Very floral. Leaner on the palate than I expected but has just enough flesh for the structure. Not overly generous. Drying finish."

- JH, *JancisRobinson.com*

"Tight, intense and fleshy. Structured but rather chewy, robust tannins. Needs time to settle."

- *Decanter.com*

"Medium bodied, and offering dark cherry, plum, coffee and black raspberry notes, this soft, refined and successful for the vintage wine finishes with dark plum, cocoa and earthy notes."

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

"2011 Deep looking; some resin, plums, spices and depth; palate structured and deep; pretty extracted and chewy. Chewy finish. Pretty structured and serious. Drink 2016-2026. 89+ UGC Oct '13 [Earlier note] Deep saturated, colour; plums, spices and pure fruit flavours, less worked nose; feels good and deep; sappier than the Clinet though – bluer fruits, less red fruit tones; nice palate, ripe and full, spicy, briary notes; chewy finish but should settle. Plummy and spicy, chewy and dense with grip. 89-91/100 April 2012"

- JW, *winewordsandvideotape.com*

"Full, rich, plum and blackberry fruit with very generous, firm tannins. Gazin is walking that fine line between extraction and losing detail and they do it well here. The wine shows good detail while still having weight and depth. Good length. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young."

- JCL, *asianpalate.com*
