

## Château Gazin 2014

CSPC# 844658

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc.

**Appellation**

Pomerol

**Classification**

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

**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 Commanderie 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 have been discontinued today.

**Winemaker**

Michel Obert

**Vintage**

The 2014 vintage at Chateau Gazin is fully in keeping with the proud tradition of the wines of Bordeaux and Pomerol. It's a classic year that is different from previous ones. 2012 and 2013 were both made with 100% Merlot. This is rather unusual at Gazin, even if Pomerol consists primarily of this grape variety. The 2012 & 2013 vintages are pleasant to drink either today or in the next few years, however they do not have enough structure to warrant long ageing.

2014 consists of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet France. This latter variety was particularly successful in 2014, as opposed to Cabernet Sauvignon. Our vineyard produced 65,000 bottles of the Ch Gazin. This shows how demanding we were in preserving the quality of the grand vin. The 13.5 degrees of alcohol fit in well with the beautiful tannic structure. The wine is altogether ripe, complex, and well-balanced.

**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 harvest took place from the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to the 4<sup>th</sup> of October (to finish picking the Cabernet Franc).

**Vinification/  
Maturation**

This vintage produced 85,000 bottles of great wine. It consists of 87% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. Its alcoholic degree is 14%. Aging 18 months, with malolactic fermentation in new barrels for 45% of the great wine and in vats for 55%, then in barrels of a wine for this last batch, brought a bottling, in June 2018, without collage with egg whites.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The 2014 has a beautiful deep colour. It starts out quite powerful on the palate and continues into a beautiful long aftertaste. There are hints of black fruit (blackberry and blackcurrant) and red fruit (cherries), and already such nuances as forest floor, incense and cedar. The warm (balsamic) overtones confirm the ripeness in 2014. The wine needs a few more years, about 8, to reach its peak. It will then display all the rare complexity of the finest Pomerols, with truffle, leathery, and meaty aromas. Its structure should enable it to “hold” for the next 15 years, i.e. until 2030.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Gazin is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Gazin is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Gazin is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta.
<b>Production</b>	7,083 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2022-2045
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>90 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - February 2017</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2015</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2015</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017</p> <p><b>17++ points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2018</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2016</p> <p><b>90+ points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>88-92 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2018</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>“Solid, with a core of juicy raspberry and blackberry preserve flavors, harnessed by singed sandalwood and firm black tea notes. Shows a tug of earth through the finish, leaving a slightly dusty feel in the end. Best from 2018 through 2026.”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“A fresh and juicy style, with lots of blueberry, raspberry and plum coulis flavors that race through the anise-accented finish. Features ample, well-integrated toast. 5,417 cases made. Score range: 90 – 93”</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2015 Gazin is scented of baked plums, Christmas cake, mincemeat and plum preserves with hints of chocolate box, coffee, tapenade and smoked meats. Medium to full-bodied with mouth-filling baked berries and savory layers, it has firm, chewy tannins and a long finish. “</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>The 2015 Gazin has a perfumed bouquet with layers of black cherry, raspberry coulis and truffle scents, more welcoming and sensual than the wines a decade ago from barrel when they intermittently felt under-ripe. There is none of that here for sure. The palate is medium bodied with sappy black fruit on the entry. There is excellent structure here, a masculine Gazin with plenty of grip, counterbalanced by abundant tertiary, tobacco-tinged black fruit. There is real salinity towards the finish, completing a superb wine by Nicolas de Bailliencourt and his team. Do not overlook this Pomerol. It is one of the subtler expressions of the 2015 vintage and one that I am sure will develop beautifully in cask.”</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p>

**Reviews**

*“The 2015 Gazin has a very expressive bouquet with red and black fruit laced with black truffle and smoke, beautifully defined and gaining intensity with aeration. The palate is medium bodied with a supple opening, hints of dark chocolate filtering through the black fruit laced with white pepper and a touch of tobacco. The finish is refined and focused with a sense of tension lingering on the aftertaste. Gazin has enjoyed a superb run of form in recent years and the 2015 belongs to the canon of great modern-day Gazins.”*

- NM, Wine Journal

*“The Château Gazin 2014 is a blend of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc picked between 19 September and 8 October. I like the freshness on the nose here: more black than red fruit, a little broody and introspective at the moment but well defined with mineral tones coming through. The palate is medium bodied with ripe tannin and nicely judged acidity. There is a sense of nonchalance about this Gazin, nothing over-ambitious, something perhaps in keeping with the vintage, uninteresting in replicating the 2009 or 2010, happy in its own skin. Drink: 2019 - 2032 “*

- NM, Wine Advocate

*“The soy-sauce and savory aromas really make this stand out, but behind it are some very nice fruit and elegant tannins. This is a very well-made modern Pomerol with a lot of potential that needs some time to reveal its full class. Give it five or six years of bottle age.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Tasted blind. This looks quite different from the mainstream. Much richer and more nuanced. Layers and richness but not at all heavy. Some inky character and very juicy too. Obvious Cabernet character. Lots of juice and refinement. Drink 2023-2040”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Mid crimson. Sweet and simple and easy without great density of fruit but quite a bit of tannin underneath. For the moment the frame dominates the flesh.*

*Drink 2023-2031”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Mid cherry red. Lightly spicy red and black fruit and just a little dusty on the nose. Chalky, chewy texture, fresh and dry on the finish. Could do with a little more flesh but it is balanced even with the slightly higher alcohol.”*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“Undemonstrative but dense and powerful. Solid fruit and tannin. Austere at present with firm but rounded tannins. Good but will need time. Barrel Sample: 90+”*

- JA, Decanter.com

*“Luscious, round, supple textured, ripe, sweet, dark red fruits, with ripe flavors and a polished, silky finish are found here. This is really quite nice from start to finish.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Expressive, fresh and forward with a core of black raspberries, flowers and cocoa, this round textured wine showcases dusty tannins in its earthy, fruity finish.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Gazin often makes some of the finest, least flashy Pomerols, and that’s the case here. There’s some chocolatey oak on the nose and palate, complemented by leafy fragrance, textured, fine-grained tannins, a hint of green pepper and a lingering finish. Subtle winemaking.”*

- TA, timatkin.com

*“Tasted at the Bordeaux Grands Crus Classés tasting London April 2015. The nose has sweetness the start of the palate plump with ripe black plums. Obvious tannins at the back give a very firm structure holding back the fruit but under the tannins the fruit is rich, and the back palate has depth of flavour. 2022-30”*

- Derek Smedley MW

**Reviews**

*“The 2014 Gazin has another earthy bouquet, the red fruit laden with scents of white pepper, clove and bay leaf, yet perhaps missing the vibrancy of other vintages. The palate is medium-bodied, masculine and overtly austere. It lacquers the mouth with a vice-like grip, dense and foursquare on the finish. It is impenetrable at the moment; a Pomerol that does not want to get to know you, but let’s see what it will do with bottle age. Tasted blind at the annual Southwold tasting. 2020 – 2045”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2014 Gazin is laced with pretty red cherry, plum, raspberry and rose petal notes. Soft contours and silky tannins add considerable appeal. I would prefer to drink this juicy, midweight Pomerol over the next handful of years, while the fruit retains its youthful exuberance. In 2014, Gazin is all finesse.”*

- AG, Vinous

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