

Château Gazin 2020

CSPC# 844658 750mlx6 14.5% alc./vol.
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Grape Variety 91.6% Merlot, 8.4% Cabernet Sauvignon
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 Baillencourt 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 2020 Chateau Gazin is the last vintage of a very successful trilogy, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Could it be the best of the three, even better than the 2019? Only time will tell.

The frost of 27 March forced us to employ anti-freezing techniques such as wind towers and heaters with no damage noted.

In 2020, we saw very early budding (16 March) and mid-flowering on 20 May, which led to a very early manual harvest. This was followed by very warm weather in July and August with a welcome addition of moisture due to storms in mid-August. The merlot grapes were harvested from 8 to 11 September, then 15 to 18 September and the cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc were collected on 29 September.

Alcoholic fermentation was achieved without sulphur under bio-control but the maturing stage -16 months in casks - naturally required a little sulphur.

The 2020 assemblage, which produced 82,000 bottles of first wine is 91.6% merlot and 8.4% cabernet sauvignon. The cabernet franc grapes were used in the assemblage of our second wine: L'Hospitalet de Gazin, which produced 12,000 bottles.

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. HVE Level 3 certification.

Harvest Despite the lack of moisture and high summer temperatures, choosing the right dates for harvesting helped produce a wine that offers freshness and good energy. Even with an alcohol content of 14.5 degrees. The merlot grapes were harvested from 8 to 11 September, then 15 to 18 September and the cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc were collected on 29 September.



Vinification/ Maturation	Our 2019 vintage, for which vinification was carried out without sulphur, produced 90,000 bottles with a yield of 43hl per hectare. The wine is made up of 88.5% merlot, 7% cabernet sauvignon and 4.5% cabernet franc with 14.8 ABV. The alcohol does not dominate and the wood from the maturing casks blends in perfectly (50% new barrels used for the grand vin).
Tasting Notes	For the first time ever Gazin is blending 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon without any Cabernet Franc. This vintage offers good structure, complexity, and finesse. A seductive scent of spring flowers, violets, and lavender. This lovely wine merges a noticeable richness of fruit with flavours of cherry, plum and a hint fresh cigar with a feeling of boldness and tight structured tannins. The class and origins are clear to see but it also has a degree of discretion with only half the window open. There is so much more to come. Superb potential.
Winemaker's notes	This vintage presents all the characteristics and smoothness of a complex and flavoursome Pomerol while retaining the balance and finesse of a grand vin. We believe that its ageing potential is around thirty years. We recommend letting the wine age in the bottle for ten years or so before drinking. The attentive enthusiast will discover a small animal hidden in the bunch of grapes on the back label designed by Otilia Fournier. It is the smiling face of a little rat, a nod to our Chinese fans as 2020 is the year of the rat in China.
Serve with	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.
Production	82,000 bottles made
Cellaring	Drink 2027-2050
Scores/Awards	<p>93+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>92-94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p>16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p>94 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Farr Vintners - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - December 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>93-95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>96 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A muscular, youthfully structured wine, the 2020 Gazin unwinds in the glass with aromas of dark berries, cherries, vine smoke, spices, and licorice. Medium to full-bodied, layered, and concentrated, it's deep and powerful, with ample reserves of powdery tannin that will require a bit of patience in bottle."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Gazin rolls effortlessly out of the glass with upfront scents of baked black plums, stewed black cherries and mulberries, plus hints of spice cake, chocolate box and cracked black pepper. The medium to full-bodied palate has a solid backbone of firm, grainy tannins and plenty of freshness supporting the muscular black fruits, finishing savory. Drink 2024-2042."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“Lovely texture to this Pomerol. Fine velvety tannins with plum, walnut, and crushed stone character. Savory finish. Needs time to soften. Very classy and structured, yet so refined. 91.6% merlot and 8.4% cabernet sauvignon. Try after 2025.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is really fantastic with so much intensity and focus. Firm, linear tannins frame the wine beautifully. Polished and fine. It’s full-bodied, yet tight and posed. Complex flavors of blackberry, black olive, mushroom, and bark. Persistent finish. Best of the trilogy?”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“93–95. Barrel Sample. This wine is dark with dense tannins and a solid texture. Along with the richness, there is the potential of massive black fruit weight that will give a wine of power and concentration.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Measured, savoury nose. With sinewy polished tannins. Dry end. Determined not to be a too-sweet right banker?! Lightly inky texture but at least it’s not sickly!”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Full bottle 1,360 g. Cask sample taken 6 April. Vines 39 years old. This is apparently the first time ever they have not included Cab Franc in the blend. Deepest crimson to purplish rim. Pure and fragrant with cassis and blackberry, the fruit shining above the oak though the oak is evident at this stage, of course. An attractive touch of stone dust on the nose. On the palate, it has a dry and chewy texture but fresh and nicely structured with the fruit. Not as powerfully built as some but attractive in its slightly lighter touch, the tannins refined. Blind, I would have thought this had more than 10% Cabernet. Juicy freshness on the finish. (JH) 14.5%. Drink 2027 – 2035.”

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“Supple and juicy, but still quite tight in terms of texture. A little reserved perhaps, the coiled and muscular mid-palate stops some of the push from the fruit which is really well defined with a crystalline aspect to it. Real purity and freshness, tannins have an appealing grip with a salty, cola, liquorice, dark chocolate, and coffee powder edge to them. Lots of nuance and complexity.”

- GH, Decanter.com

“I love this, extremely classic Gazin, which has depth and pep, and a jaunty feel to the black fruits. The freshness keeps the core of this wine firm from beginning to end, as do the chewy tannins. This is not an exuberant vintage but at this particular estate it suits the personality because it is always fairly old school and classic. For the first time no Cabernet Franc in the blend, just Cabernet Sauvignon. A yield of 35hl/ha. No added sulphur during fermentation. Tasted twice, there are plenty of tannins here, but it is highly successful. Drinking Window 2029 – 2043.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“A fairly serious Pomerol but then Gazin always is, an undeniably grownup wine with muscular tannins, tons of ageing ability, sleek dark fruits, charcoal, black chocolate, espresso. This has waves of complexity, it grips through the palate, touch of slate minerality as it opens, adding texture. 35hl/ha yield. First time with no Cabernet Franc in the blend.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“Violets and roses are in full bloom here before getting to all of its beautiful, ripe, lush, silky, vibrant cherries, red plums, cocoa and truffle. Medium-bodied, elegant, silky, and vibrant, there is good energy, length and refinement in the mid-palate that carries all the way through to the finish. Drink from 2025-2047.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Medium/full-bodied, elegant, fresh, and luscious, the earthy, spicy plums, cherries and cocoa notes are all over the place in the nose and on the plush, albeit reserved palate presence. Give this 4-6 years and it should be an even better wine.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“There is no Cabernet Franc in the blend for the first time ever. Deep ruby colour. Blueberry, plums, and lightly sweet spices on the nose. The palate has great purity, with silky fruit and fine, ripe tannins. Delicate, savoury spices add complexity without masking the fruit. Elegant and harmonious through to a long finish.”

- Farr Vintners

“The 2020 Gazin has a very alluring bouquet with pure blackberry, bilberry, and pressed flower scents, nicely focused with beautifully integrated new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins, ripe and tensile, gentle grip with quite a complex, lightly spiced, and persistent finish. This is a wonderful Pomerol that has the substance to repay long-term cellaring. Best after 2026.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2020 Gazin, which contains no Cabernet Franc this year, has a wonderful bouquet of blackberry, raspberry, crushed stone, and pressed iris petal scents, very focused and precise, that really whisks you down to Pomerol. The medium-bodied palate displays fine-grained tannins and a silver bead of acidity. Very sapid with a little more dryness on the finish than its peers, which gets the saliva flowing. Classic Pomerol through and through.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2020 Gazin is a wine of total precision and class. Vibrant, with tremendous nuance, the 2020 is so impressive. Dark red cherry, iron, tobacco, white pepper, and crushed flowers abound. The 2020 is a standout Gazin.”

- AG, Vinous

“I continue to absolutely love the wines from this Pomerol château, and their Grand Vin always brings a richness and depth that makes it a joy to drink. Coming from a larger vineyard near Petrus, La Fleur Petrus, and Le Gay, the dense purple hue of the 2020 Château Gazin is followed by a rocking bouquet of ripe black cherries, currants, melted chocolate, roasted herbs, and earth. Full-bodied, deep, opulent, and concentrated, give this gorgeous 2020 4-6 years of bottle age and enjoy over the following 25+.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“A quintessential Pomerol with its beautiful red and blue fruits as well as floral, earth, and sappy herb aromas and flavors, the 2020 Château Gazin is medium to full-bodied and has wonderful purity, ultra-fine tannins, and no hard edges. It shines for its purity and elegance and is just a classy, thrilling wine.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Blackberry confit, mint, plus a light balsamic herbal savouriness, pepper, damp asphalt. Lovely freshness to the fruit with real juiciness and a pronounced acid nerve, balanced, textured, crumbly-grainy tannins are not completely free of green tones, but are melded into the fruit, good structure.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“On the nose, it offers power (in elegance), depth (in finesse), complexity, delicacy as well as a nice structure. It reveals notes of pulpy/acidic blackberry, blackcurrant and subtle notes of violet associated with hints of redcurrant and cherry blossom, violet and bright cherry, wafts of timut pepper/green pepper, sweet blond tobacco, a discreet touch of black tea and spices. On the palate, fruity and offers a nice acidic frame, a good definition, harmony, smoothness, finesse as well as well-balanced richness, tension, a stretched side, roundness. The wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy blackcurrant, bright blackberry and subtle notes of pulpy redcurrant associated with touches of tart/black cherry as well as hints of violet, cherry blossom, tonka bean, wafts of caramelization and black tea (in the background). Chewy and with a nice level of bitter on the finish.”

- Vert de Vin

“(92% M, 8% CS; 35hl/ha). Soft, fragrant, persistent, lightly truffley Merlot, subtly mineral, too; rich, fresh, very finely tannic, a beautiful balance; sweetly ripe, juicy, creamy-textured wine, but with a lovely fresh definition, long, subtle, and refined, gently minerally in aroma, complete, and very fragrant to finish. A grand, complete, harmonious, and delicious Gazin, very much in the vein of the best Pomerols of the year. 2026–46+.”

- MS, The World of Fine Wine
