

Château Gloria 2015

CSPC# 742342

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot, 6% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Julien

Classification

unclassified

Website

<http://www.domaines-henri-martin.com/en/chateau-gloria>

General Info

While many Bordeaux Chateaux have long histories in the region, especially in the Medoc, that is not the case with Chateau Gloria. In fact, it's a relatively new estate that when compared to its peers, was born quite recently. You could say, Chateau Gloria dates back to 1903, but that is not exactly the case. The creator of Chateau Gloria, Henri Martin was born in 1903. Martin had a background in Bordeaux wine before his first birthday. His birth took place at a neighboring St. Julien estate, Gruaud Larose. Henri Martin was born on the property. background since the day he was born. Obviously, Henri Martin was destined for life in wine.

During the war, in 1942, Henri Martin purchased 6 hectares of vines located in the Left Bank in the St. Julien appellation. The vines were previously the property of Chateau Beychevelle. Martin made the purchase on the advice of his friend, Jean-Charles Cazes. Cazes is the father of Jean Michel Cazes of Chateau Lynch Bages. That early purchase eventually grew into Chateau Gloria. It took time, but eventually they able to cobble together a total of 48 hectares for Chateau Gloria. Forty years after he created Chateau Gloria, Henri purchased his first 1855 Classified Growth, Chateau St. Pierre, also located in St. Julien. Aside from the classified growth, Chateau St. Pierre, which we already mentioned, they also produce the following wines; Bel Air from Haut Medoc, Pey Martin from St. Julien and Haut Beychevelle Gloria, which comes from St. Julien as well.

Vineyards

A vineyard covering 50 hectares, with an average vine age of 40 years, spread across three areas, in the middle of Beychevelle and then in the west and the north of the appellation (bordering Pauillac) on soil made up of Gunzian gravel covering a layer of clay and sand. The grapes are 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot.

Vinification/

Maturation

Once the grapes have been picked by hand, the harvest is vinified in the traditional way in heat-regulated stainless-steel vats, in order to produce truly exceptional wines which can be laid down for a long time. The wine then spends 14 months being aged in casks, 40% new and 60% one-year-old barrels.

Tasting Notes

Attractive dark and dense colour. The expressive nose displays subtle blend of black fruits (Morello cherry, blackcurrant) and roasted touch (toast, vanilla). On the palate, the wine is wide and fleshy, with nice fruity touch enhanced by elegant woody notes and pleasant tannins.

Production

18,333 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2019-2033

Scores/Awards

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018

90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016

91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018

92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018

90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016

94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018

92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016

94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018

91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016

17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017

17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016

90 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016

93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018



Scores/Awards **92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
90-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016
90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
15.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016
90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016
91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
87-89 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018
15.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016
91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016
16.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016

Reviews *"Well-steeped plum, fig and boysenberry fruit is richly layered, supported by embedded brambly grip and backed by waves of ganache and sweet tobacco on the finish. This has plenty of energy to carry it in the cellar while it rounds into form. Best from 2023 through 2038. 18,333 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Rock-solid, with loads of bramble and bay leaf underscoring the ripe blackberry and black currant fruit. There's lots of grip, but this is plush, staying focused through the toasty finish. Shows nice refinement. Score range: 90-93"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2015 Gloria, a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot and 6% Cabernet Franc, matured for 14 months in 40% new and 60% one-year-old barrels. Deep garnet-purple in color, it has an earthy/meaty nose with a core of black plums and blackberries plus touches of eucalypt and anise. The medium-bodied palate is just a little lean and chewy with an earthy finish."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Gloria has a lovely blackberry and boysenberry-scented bouquet with superb definition, one of the most "classic" Gloria wines that I have tasted in recent years. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, quite crisp and tensile and even if the finish is still a little disjointed, but that will meld together with time. The bottle tasted at the chateau in January 2018 was actually better than the one at the UGC tasting in London a few weeks earlier. This is an excellent Gloria. Anticipated maturity: 2021 - 2040."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Gloria is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot cropped at 51 hl/ha, matured in 40% new wood. It was picked between 21 September and finishing on 7 October with the Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a fragrant bouquet with dark cherries, cedar and touches of cigar box - classic Saint Julien in many ways, though it does not have the complexity of great recent vintages such as the 2010. The palate is well balanced, clean and pure with fine tannin. The acidity is nicely judged, not a million miles away from the 2015 Lagrange in terms of its refinement, but this has perhaps a touch more detail on the finish. Perhaps one of the more approachable Saint Julien wines this vintage, give this 4-5 years in bottle and then drink over the next 20 years."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"What a gorgeous and supple young wine with ultra-fine tannins and vivid acidity. Medium to full body and direct and driven tannins. Shows such beauty. Better in 2020 but already beautiful."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Pretty Gloria with plenty of tension and energy. Full body yet silky textured and extremely long. Exciting."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *"91–93. Barrel Sample. New wood flavors give a dry toast character to this wine. Its fruitiness takes a while to show through the dry exterior. It does have the weight to sustain the wood as it develops."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Glossy and penetrating with real vitality and some stoniness. I love the freshness (without tartness). Likely to be GV."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Exceptionally deep crimson. Deep and crisp and even on the nose. Very good concentrated glossy fruit. Polished and racy. A very neat, accomplished rendition that's almost drinkable already, so well handled are the tannins. Bravo! Showing much better than its stablemate Ch St Pierre when I tasted it, this could be GV"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Fine, fragrant nose and succulent fruit. It has a lovely texture, rounded tannins and fresh finish, with more finesse than in past years."*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "Another property that has excelled in 2015. This is gloriously perfumed and appealing, with graphite and liquorice on the nose, followed by layers of crunchy black fruits, savoury tannins and well-integrated (40% new) oak. Fresh, balanced and very long. Drink: 2022-32"*
- TA, TimAtkin.com
- "This is just a terrific wine and value. Elegant, refined, fresh, lively, and with an earthy, ripe, dark, red berry character that grows and expands in the glass and on your palate. Medium/full bodied, this will be just great with 5 years or so in the bottle."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Elegant, polished, fresh, medium bodied with a really nice character to all its sweet, black and dark red fruits."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Licorice, black raspberries and earth create the perfume that leads to a finish laced with freshness, cherries and thyme. This medium-bodied, finesse-styled wine was produced from a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot and 6% Cabernet Franc. The wine will be aged in 45% new, French oak barrels for about 14 months. The harvest took place from September 21 to October 7. This one should drink well early. If this develops well, and it should, this will be a contender for the best vintage Gloria has ever produced."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep and saturated look; dark at centre; earthy purple at edge; little reductive at first but fresh and bright fruit beneath; opens up in the glass; enjoyable fruit on the palate; nice purity; black cherry and summer compote fruit notes; joyful St Julien. Plenty of fruit and depth overall. Grip on the finish. [60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 40% new oak]. Drink 2022-2030. 90-92+"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "This Chateau was created in the 1950's by the late Henri Martin who was also the regisseur of Chateau Latour. Consequently, it does not appear in the 1855 classification but surely would, if it were ever updated. Along with big brother Saint Pierre, the quality here has improved massively in the last few years and this is a top St Julien performer these days. 50 hectares of vines which are planted 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Petit Verdot. 2015 was the first vintage to be made in the new cellar. Ageing in 40% new oak. Medium purple in colour, this has a smoky mulberry and blackberry fruit nose. The palate is crunchy with vibrant, juicy red cherry fruit and a little toasted charcoal character from smoky new oak. The texture is silky and smooth, making this approachable and elegant at this young stage."*
- Farr Vintners

Reviews *“The mix of black fruits is sweet and ripe both nose and palate has depth. Ripe cassis and black cherry are underpinned by fine tannins the back palate has sweet fruit the finish though lighter, bright and long.”*
- Derek Smedley MW

“A delicious Gloria with plush round tannins and dark plum flavors. Attractive aromatics of cassis and cedar with a mid-palate that offers a lovely range of flavors. Enjoy now and over the next 7-10 years.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2015 Gloria is even better than it was from barrel. Dark, voluptuous and intense, the 2015 hits all the right notes. Black cherry, plum, spice, gravel, tobacco and cedar give the wine much of its complexity and nuance. Gloria is one of the very finest values readers will come across in Bordeaux. Tasted two times. (AG)”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2015 Gloria is intense and quite powerful, but also a bit rough around the edges. Iron, smoke, red stone fruit, pencil shavings and tobacco give the wine its rustic personality, an impression that is reinforced by the burly tannins. There is good intensity in the glass, even if some angular contours remain. Hints of inky crème de cassis and spice add the closing shades of Saint-Julien expression. Tasted three times.”
- AG, Vinous

“A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that saw 40% new oak, the 2015 Château Gloria is a beautiful Saint-Julien that’s well worth seeking out and drinking. Blackcurrants, damp earth, spicy oak and hints of leafy herbs all flow to an upfront, elegant, yet fruit forward 2015 that has sweet tannin and good freshness. It’s no doubt a charmer yet will see its 20th birthday in fine form. Tasted twice.”
- JD, JebDunnuck.com

““Rather dull and a little dank, this is a flat wine with little aroma and a grainy finish. The fruit lacks true ripeness and the extraction seems too harsh. Add to that some bullying oak and the result is a difficult wine with a lack of core fruit and little balance.”
- MJ, MatthewJukes.com
