

Château Gloria 2018

CSPC# 864278

750mlx6

14.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	St. Julien
Classification	unclassified
Website	http://www.domaines-henri-martin.com/en/chateau-gloria
General Info	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Winemaker	Henri Martin. Technical Director Rémi di Constanzo.
Vintage	<p>Extreme weather conditions wildly rocked the 2018 vintage between alternating periods of humidity and dryness.</p> <p>The 2018 vintage was perfect for St. Julien once the rains ceased by late June. The winter and spring drenched the region. But picture-perfect weather, warm sunny and dry hit the region in July and with a few minor showers, which helped promote maturity to the vines, beautiful conditions continued through to the harvest, allowing growers to pick, when they found their desired level of maturity.</p> <p>Being a small appellation, at only 910 hectares, much of the gravel terroir was able to work its magic, alleviating the excess water while retaining the right amount of moisture to nourish the vines when needed during the dry summer months.</p> <p>The warm, sunny, days, dry conditions and cool nights were perfect for the region, allowing much of the harvest to reach the desired level of maturity that each estate wanted to achieve.</p>
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.
Harvest	Manual harvest.
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	This is one of the most attractive releases from the estate we've tasted. While it is not a Classed Growth property, it certainly performs like one. The 2018 is expressive and well-balanced, with aromas of blackcurrants, liquorice and blackberries. The palate is full-bodied with a rich texture and good concentration. One to look out for.



Serve with Chateau Gloria is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Gloria is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.

Production 20,000 cases made

Cellaring Drink 2022-2040

Scores/Awards **93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019
93-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2019
92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine - March 2021
92-94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021
93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019
94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2021
17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020
16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019
93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021
93-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019
91+ points - Farr Vintners - April 2019
93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021
92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019
93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021
91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019
94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021
92-94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019
16.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019
93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019
91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019
91 points - Falstaff Magazine - May 2019
16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019
93 points - Vertdevin.com - April 2019

Reviews *"Fresh and energetic, with violet, licorice and cassis aromas and flavors spilling forth while bramble and graphite run underneath. Applewood streak gives the finish some spine. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2022 through 2035."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"There's lots here, with raspberry, blackberry, currant and blueberry fruit all playing a role, along with lively briar and licorice snap notes. An apple wood frame keeps the elements in line. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Score Range: 93-96."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2018 Gloria is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, aged for approximately 14 months in oak barriques, 40% new. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it sashays out of the glass with flamboyant notes of kirsch, black raspberries, and cassis, plus hints of potpourri, unsmoked cigars and star anise. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers a good amount of juicy black and red fruit flavors, backed up by slightly chewy tannin's and just enough freshness, finishing spicy."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2018 Gloria is deep garnet-purple colored and gives up expressive notions of warm red and black currants, black cherries and boysenberries with hints of spice cake, cedar chest, pencil lead and menthol. Full-bodied with a firm texture of ripe, grainy tannins, it has a lively line cutting through the dense, savory layers, finishing on a lingering spicy note. (LPB)"
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"A full-bodied red with a dense, juicy palate of blueberries and blackcurrants. Some black tea and tree bark, too. Tight yet long and linear finish. Very structured and polished. Drink after 2024."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *"This is a tight and linear red, showing dark berries and blueberries with cedar with flowers. Full-bodied and foursquare. Framed and focused.:*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This wine has all the structured intensity and ripe fruitiness of a Saint-Julien. At the same time, it displays a light touch with the black fruits and open texture, promising an attractive wine. Drink the wine from 2026."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Black core with crimson rim. Wonderfully pure and intense cassis aroma, fragrant but not sweet. Upright, bone-dry, super-fine tannins. Even though this is so embryonic still, at the core is juicy, lively fruit, the dry and firm tannins kept in balance by that fruit. Tannins add to the freshness. Long finish. 17/20 points (JH)"
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc; 50% new oak. Barrel sample. Deepest cherry red. Aromatic black fruit, finely scented without excess sweetness or ripeness. On the palate, flattened a bit by the oak and the tannins, which are compact and layered but dominant at the moment. Should come round once they slim down and unlock the fruit. (JH) 14.1%. Drink 2026-2034."
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Gloria is fast becoming one of the most exciting insider wines of the entire Bordeaux region, and that rare species of a non-classified St-Julien. The fruit here is brambly, textured, and autumnal, and again the alcohol seems generous but balanced, with plenty of St-Julien finesse. It has a feeling of not needing to go too far to convince anyone. This is some austerity here but there's a bounce to the tannins through the mid-palate, while the alcohol is clearly there but not dominant, helped I would expect by relatively generous yields of 46hl/ha. Very good quality. (JA)"
- JA, Decanter.com

"Flowers and currants aromas are backed up by wet earth, cedar, tobacco and espresso. On the palate the wine is elegant, soft, and juicy with loads of sweet berries, lift and focus. There is freshness and length in the finish. Give this 4-6 years in the cellar and enjoy it over the following 2 decades. The wine was made from a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot 8% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Floral, espresso, blackberry and tobacco aromas are only the drum roll. The action here is on the palate with its lush, ripe tannins, freshness, and smooth, fresh fruits. It is hard to believe this is better than the beautiful 2016 but it is! The wine was made from a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot 8% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep in colour, with a cedary, spicy nose of pencil shavings, blackcurrant and rosemary. The palate shows initially quite toasty with new oak, but the plush fruit builds with silky, ripe tannins gently framing juicy cherries and plums. The finish is long, with the oak integrating and the fruit shining through."
- Farr Vintners

"The 2018 Gloria has a wonderful, harmonious bouquet of copious blackberry, briary, cedar and tobacco notes that just feels so... effortless. The very harmonious palate offers pure black fruit laced with graphite. Displaying moderate weight and fine acidity, and quite linear and focused on the finish, this is a very classy Gloria that may warrant a higher score down the line. (NM)"
- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Gloria is tight at first but soon finds its voice with attractive blackberry, raspberry and light cedar/tobacco aromas. The oak is nicely integrated here. The palate is fresh and focused on the entry, classic in style with tobacco and cedar quite vocal towards the fresh and linear finish. This is a stylish, cerebral Gloria that I suspect will age with style and grace. Excellent. Drink 2024-2050."
- NM, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2018 Gloria has turned out beautifully. Medium in body, with terrific balance and tons of class, Gloria will especially appeal to readers in search of a wine that is not super-exuberant, as so many 2018s are. Bright floral notes, blood orange and red berry fruit all run through this wonderfully expressive Saint-Julien. Give the tannins at least a few years to soften."

- AG, Vinous

"Gloria is once again fabulous. Brisk and vibrant, the 2018 has so much to offer. The 2018 is a bit more linear than other recent vintages (such as the 2016) but it nevertheless has a lot to offer. Bright red cherry, cedar, tobacco, spice and floral notes pulse with tremendous energy. The tannins need a few years in bottle to unwind, but there is so much to look forward to. The blend is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Tasted four times."

- AG, Vinous

"A youthful, unevolved 2018 with lots of up-front blue and black fruits as well as cedary herbs, violets, and scorched earth, the 2018 Château Gloria is medium to full-bodied and has a beautifully balanced, elegant mouthfeel, ripe tannins, and both richness and freshness. The purity of fruit is spot on. It's another brilliant wine from this estate that readers will love. It's going to benefit from 2-4 years in the cellar and cruise for two decades in cold cellars."

- Jeb Dunnuck

Readers looking for an estate on the uptick need to check out the 2018 Château Gloria, which is up with the finest vintages I've tasted from this Saint-Julien estate. Deeply colored with terrific cassis and blackberry fruits as well as ample leafy herbs and sappy flower notes, it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, has polished, elegant tannins, and a great finish. It's a juicy, fruit-forward effort with good concentration and lots of class. Drink it over the coming 25 years or more. The blend is currently 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, and the balance Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, from a selection of 65% of the total production, that's currently resting in 40% new French oak. ""

- Jeb Dunnuck

"(60 Cabernet Sauvignon, 32 Merlot, 5 Petit Verdot, 3 Cabernet Franc) | 40% new oak | 14.1% alc There is a nice bonus of red fruit in this wine which sits atop the darker core, and it excites the palate. The tannins and acidity are both firm and unresolved, but the fruit is holding them back so I can taste this wine easily. Good balance and decent shape make this an unexpected success for Gloria."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate rim lightening. Subtle cassis nuances with herbal spices, fresh wild berries, a hint of orange zest. Medium-bodied, red cherries, freshly structured, somewhat wide-meshed, charming style, fine fruity sweetness in the aftertaste."

- Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is fresh, fruity and concentrated. It reveals notes of ripe fresh Boysen berry, crunchy/ripe fresh strawberry and small notes of violet associated with small touches of liquorice, irsi, fresh red fruits, racy minerality as well as very discreet hints of toasted. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers a good definition, gourmandize, a racy minerality as well as an acidulous frame. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy/juicy blackberry, fresh/crunchy wild strawberry and small notes of ripe/fresh small red berries associated with small touches of cassis, hints of flowers as well as fine hints of graphite, cardamom and toasted. Good length."

- Vert de Vin
