

# Château Gazin 2012

CSPC#753462

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

**Grape Variety**

90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 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 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.

**Vintage**

Indeed, the merlot harvest that began on September 20th and concluded on October 4th brought in perfectly ripe grapes of excellent quality after the first rains of September refreshed the clusters, lowered the temperature, and slightly raised production by plumping up the berries. Truth be told, other than the familiar old maladies that all vintners contended with in the spring and in early July, the year 2012 was dry, too dry, and that's never good for grapes.

On the other hand, the cabernets were gathered on October 10, before they were perfectly mature, because of the very abundant rains (with a temperature of 19°) that very quickly threatened to provoke rot that in a matter of days could have irreversibly degraded the quality of the grapes. So the harvest was a little sudden and the grapes were not quite mature

**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 2012 vintage represents a 25% reduction in grape production as compared to 2011. With 31.9 hl per hectare (as opposed to 43 hl in 2011), the vineyard was still able to produce 54,000 bottles produced with 100% merlot blend. The Merlot harvested from Sept 20- October 4, while the Cabernets were harvested Oct 10.

**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.



<b>Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>This 2012 vintage is promising to be a bit like the 2009s and 2010s: alcohol level of 14.5 degrees that you don't even notice either in the aroma or in the taste because of a high, yet silky, presence of tannins that balance the wine. Also, this "pure merlot" (which is by no means a betrayal of the Pomerol style since merlot traditionally dominated the label) has produced a wine that is of course full-bodied, well-rounded, and supple without being heavy, and features a fresh aroma and taste. This is nothing like those merlots you sometimes find where heaviness and power rhyme with lack of finesse and absence of complexity.</p> <p>The bordeaux appearance is quite complete and features black reflections. Fresh aroma, full of red and black berry: raspberry, cherry, and currant, finished with a subtle woody note (50% new barrels). To the taste, the wine is ample, elegant, smooth, lingering, and refined, leaving a fresh and light after-effect, with a lingering finish, lacking in high acidity, but offering supple tannins because of how well they are aged.</p>
<b>Production</b>	5,165 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2020-2033. You can enjoy the 2012 vintage right away, even without decantation, but it will be better after aging 5 or 6 years (2018), during which time it will develop a complement of classic Pomerol notes: humus, truffle, leather...It should not be stored longer than 15/18 years, even in good storage conditions.
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015</p> <p><b>89-90 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>86-88 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 9, 2013</p> <p><b>87-89 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - April 2013</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Decanter.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>90-91 points</b> - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 26, 2013</p> <p><b>93-95+ points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>87-89 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Gault &amp; Millau (score only)</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Fleshy, with dark plum sauce and blackberry reduction flavors wrapped in a solid coating of toasty vanilla and carrying through a cocoa-edged finish. Still has some toast to absorb, but this features a pleasant bolt of graphite and good lingering fruit and anise notes. Best from 2017 through 2023. 5,165 cases made"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Fleshy, ripe and enticing, with a singed mesquite note churning through the core of crushed plum, blueberry and blackberry paste flavors. Long and toasted on the finish, this remains polished and integrated. Opulent but not overdone. Score range: 90-93"</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p>

**Reviews** *“This is certainly one of the great 2012s from Pomerol. What’s amazing is that it is 100% Merlot. Readers may have forgotten (or never knew) that a chunk of this vineyard was sold to Petrus in the early 1970s, but what remains is still a superb terroir and incredibly well-placed on the plateau of Pomerol, adjacent to Petrus and across the road from Lafleur. This wine tips the scales at 14.5% natural alcohol, which puts it right up there with the 2009 and 2010. This points further to the sensational success Pomerol enjoyed in 2012. It is inky purple in color, with a glorious nose of black fruits, an unctuous texture, and a full-bodied mouthfeel. Sometimes Gazin can show too much new oak in its youth, but that is not an issue with the 2012. This is sensational Pomerol and one of the great wines of this vintage. Give it another 5-8 years of cellaring and drink it over the following two to three decades.”*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*“This may be the first time in the history of this estate that Gazin has been made from 100% Merlot. That was the favored cepage (grape varietal) in 2012, and Gazin has produced a powerful, concentrated, dark plum/purple-hued wine displaying notes of balsam wood, forest floor, camphor, blackberries and cassis. As the wine sits in the glass, hints of white chocolate and espresso roast (no doubt from the barrels used) emerge. Full, rich and intense, this impressive 2012 reminds me of the 2001, only slightly more masculine. Give it 2-3 years of cellaring and drink it over the following two decades.”*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*“Nicolas de Baillienecourt told me that the Cabernet Franc was affected by rot this year, so the Grand Vin is 100% Merlot picked between 20th September and 4th October. It has plenty of ripe raspberry and fresh strawberry fruit on the nose with hints of dark plum underneath – the oak neatly integrated. The palate is well balanced with firm, grainy tannins. There is good structure here, fine focus, with a lovely touch of white pepper on the expressive finish. Good potential. Tasted April 2013.”*

- NM, Wine Journal

*“This is a gorgeous wine with superb density and balance for the vintage. Full body, polished, fine tannins and a long, long finish. There’s so much complexity and beauty to this with blueberry, wet earth and spice character. Some sliced Chinese mushrooms as well. One of the best wines I have had from here in a long time. Better in 2020.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Aromas of fresh herbs and raspberries follow through to a full body, with silky tannins and a solid finish. A pretty core for fruit here. Slightly better than 2011.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“86–88. Barrel sample. Floral, fruity and juicy, this is a soft wine that has an overwhelmingly fragrant character. It’s lush and ripe, but with some attractive acidity on the finish.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Deep purple-ruby. Refined but currently subdued aromas of dark fruits and minerals. Linear and clean in the mouth, with crisp dark plum and fresh blackcurrant flavors. Finishes long but slightly dry, with a pretty saline tang.”*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*“Dark crimson. Intense red-cherry fruit with a touch of pepper. Sweet, deep and generous. Tannins are firm and chewy but supple. Really nice fruit, finesse and fresh length. Drink 2016-2024. 17/20 points”*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“Riper and fuller bodied than 2011. Lovely blackcurrant notes. Firm, long finish.”*

- JL, Decanter.com

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

- Decanter.com

**Reviews** *“Again, reduction on the first nose, but underneath have tight black fruits, good acidity, well-worked tannins. Good potential, astringency is excellent, really get that whoosh of controlled mouth-emptying of saliva without being drying! 90-91 / 17-17.5. Highly recommended. Drink 2018-2032.”*

*- JA, The New Bordeaux*

*“Produced from 100% Merlot, as no Cabernet Franc was included in the blend, there is a lot to like about the fresh, sweet, lush, black cherries, plum, truffle and dark chocolate sensations, coupled with the round, smooth finish. This should develop well.”*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*“Deep ruby in color, black cherry liqueur and cocoa notes open to a rich, supple, round and fresh black cherry-filled wine with hints of chocolate in the finish. 90-93 Pts”*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*“Deep and saturated; pure blackcurrant cassis, with black cherry notes; deep but fresh; summer fruit compote notes; polished palate; very bouncy and seductive. Very attractive wine and continues the Gazin run of top form. Some pretty serious oak here but the fruit is quite sublime. Grip too. 100% Merlot 14.5% alc. 93-95+ Tasted at UGC 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013”*

*- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com*

*“A delicious, beautifully layered Pomerol with lovely floral and red berry flavours. This wine has delicacy and detail with supple tannins and freshness to suggest it will age beautifully. Fairly long finish. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (09-Apr-2013)”*

*- JCL, asianpalate.com*

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