

Château Gazin 2015

CSPC# 753462

750mlx12

14.5% 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 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 have been discontinued today.

Vintage

2015 Pomerol wines are the stars of the vintage. 2015 Pomerol at its best can easily be described bottled decadence, hedonistic thrill rides of almost unequaled sensual pleasure. They are often close in quality to the best 2009 Pomerol wines. There are also several chateaux that have really kicked their game up to an entirely new level with this vintage. Those producers made better wine in 2015 than they did 6 years ago, in the 2009 vintage. 2009 has been my personal benchmark vintage for Pomerol, so that is saying something.

2015 Pomerol is the product of a near perfect growing season. A mild winter led to a warm, spring. Budbreak took place slightly later than usual in mid-April. The spring was sunny and warm. The flowering, in early June was quick and even, two very important factors that need to take place in a great vintage. Perhaps the hot, dry, almost drought conditions from June 15 to July 22, with absolutely no rain had the biggest impact on the 2015 Pomerol wines. Had those dry conditions continued, the vintage could have turned out completely different. But the August rains provided the necessary moisture for the growth cycle to continue. With one exception, the best 2015 Pomerol wines were all produced from estates with deep clay soils.

With 2015 Pomerol, most of the growers started picking Merlot by September 15. With very few exceptions, the Cabernet Franc was brought in by the start of October.

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 grape harvest took place between 10 and 24 September (10, 11, 15, 18, then 21, 22, 23 and 24) for Merlots and 7 October for Cabernet Francs and Sauvignon. This spreading of the grapes by hand reflects our desire to harvest perfectly ripe grapes,



Harvest	but carefully avoiding the maturity in order to preserve freshness and complexity. The great wine is 14.5 degrees /% and consists of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. The Cabernet Sauvignon were not retained for the assembly of the great wine and were integrated into the second wine. The Hospitalet de Gazin blends 82% Merlot and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon.
Vinification	Château Gazin 2015 has a total acidity of 3.16 (in grams of sulfuric acid / liter), a pH (hydrogen potential) of 3.85 and a total polyphenol index of 84. The 18-month ageing with 50% new barrels and 50% barrels of a wine. The second fermentation, malolactic, was carried out for half of the great wine in new barrels, the rest of the harvest traditionally making this second fermentation in concrete vats.
Maturation	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.
Tasting Notes	This Gazin was bottled in June 2017 will have to finish its aging by another 8/10 years in your cellar to reach its full maturity. The wine will then have a lifespan of 15/20 years. Certainly, you will be able to consume it without waiting for these 8/10 years of aging, but it will then be necessary to decant it and leave it three or four hours in its decanter before consumption so that it develops its aromas and further enhances the elegance and finesse of its tannins. It will then offer a nose of undergrowth, truffle, leather that will complement the notes of black and red fruits (raspberry, black cherry, blackcurrant, blackberry), incense, cedar, violet ... emanating from a wine that is silky, ample and round, very long on the finish.
Production	6833 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2032.
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018</p> <p>17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>16+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>93-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>89-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>95+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>17+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>90-92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Plush and warm, with fig, boysenberry and blackberry confiture notes inlaid with light charcoal, black tea and fruitcake hints. The fleshy finish lets the charcoal element lead the way. Best from 2022 through 2032. 6,833 cases made."</i></p> <p><i>- JM, Wine Spectator</i></p>

“Ripe, rounded and inviting in feel, with a red licorice frame around a core of plum sauce and cherry preserves. A touch of alder peeks out on the finish, as this has yet to digest the oak, but the pieces are in place for a rock-solid Pomerol. Score range: 91-94”

- JS, Wine Spectator

“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.”

- LPB, Wine Advocate

“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 Baillencourt 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.”

- NM, Wine Advocate

“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

“Lots of cedar, tea-leaf and hazelnut character and ripe fruit aromas. Citrus peel, too. Full body, round and juicy tannins and a flavorful finish. Smoky undertone. This is structured and so complex. Drink in 2023.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Barrel Sample. Firm with spicy, generous tannins, this is a wine that is showing both ripe black fruits and wood aging flavors. The wood will temper as the ripe, full black fruits develop. It has good aging potential. Barrel Sample: 90-92”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Mid crimson. Dark fruit and graphite on the nose. Dark and nicely savoury. Elegantly dry in texture. Perhaps less generous than some in terms of fruit weight but beautifully balanced. Impressive length and lots of pleasure to come. (JH) “

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“Bright crimson. Appetising and savoury on the nose. Much drier than most Pomerols. Racy and mineral.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. Warm, round and complete. Much sweeter and fleshier than the 2016. Lots of acid and tannin but a massive weight of ripe fruit too. Bravo!”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Maintaining great consistency these days. Big, bold and succulent with an impressive depth of ripe fruit and tannins. Rich but balanced. A reliable purchase.”

- Decanter.com

“Continuing to develop nicely, the wine offers silky textures, floral, cocoa and plums from start to finish.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

- Reviews** *"Fresh, ripe, black and red plums, small hints of oak, and a concentrated, boatload of sweet, juicy, fresh cherries that really linger."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Concentrated and near bottomless in length and depth, this wine is ripe with dense color and a stratum of sweet, juicy plums, truffle, floral and cocoa notes. This should develop quite well, adding additional nuances and softer texture as it ages. The wine was made from a blend of 95.2% Merlot and 4.8% Cabernet Franc."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Attractive vibrant colour; pure black cherry aromatics with some briary tones; great purity; lots of extract and texture on the palate; lots of matter; needs to settle a bit but has great potential. Spices on the finish. Excellent length and structure. [95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc]. Tasted UGCB 6/4/16. Drink 2022-2035. 93-95"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "I can't remember tasting a better vintage of Gazin at this age. Exceeding my expectations, this is a lovely, harmonious, well balanced blend. This carries its 14.5% alcohol with ease, thanks to the succulent black fruits balanced by acidity and minerality. Drink: 2022-30"*
- TA, timatkin.com
- "This property is wonderfully situated, right next door to Petrus on the Pomerol plateau. The vineyard is planted with 92% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc. Deep purple colour. Blackcurrant and black cherry on the nose, with a spicy menthol character on the palate. There are lots of smooth, soft tannins on the palate that build to provide structure around the vivid, vibrant black fruit core. This is juicy and polished, with a long, refined finish."*
- Farr Vintners
- "Depth of fruit on the nose the palate is fleshy and sweet with ripe black plums. Brighter in the middle a nice balance with the ripe fruit the sweet black plum giving velvety richness and depth at the back. 2025-36"*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "Balanced, elegant and quite focused in this vintage. The flavors are delicate, layered and quite spicy and complex - find bay leaf, plums, green tea leaves and cassis. A lovely wine that should age beautifully."*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- "Neither too oaky, nor too green, this is a confusing wine because the astringency is pervasive, and this must be accountable to over-extraction and raw tannins. The fruit, or rather what I can sense of the fruit, is aromatic and enjoyable. The question is, will it shed its tannic, oaky cloak before the fruit gives up the game? I doubt it."*
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
- "The 2015 Gazin is dark, fleshy and wonderfully expressive. Mocha, bittersweet chocolate and a host of ripe dark fruit, along with the wine's contours, give the 2015 much of its sumptuous personality. This is a decidedly plush, extracted style, but all the elements are nicely balanced throughout."*
- AG, Vinous
- "A straight up smokin' red from this vintage is the 2015 Château Gazin and it's a big, powerful, stacked 2015 that's for those with patience. Made from almost all Merlot (I think it's 100%), my notes on this beauty start - and end - with "love it." Cassis lead pencil shavings, graphite, forest floor, and tons of minerality all soar from the glass of this sensationally rich, concentrated, medium to full-bodied 2015 that has building tannin, a seamless texture, and a blockbuster finish. Forget bottle for 5-7 years and enjoy over the following two to three decades. 2023 - 2053"*
- Jeb Dunnuck
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