

Château Gracia 2011

CSPC#763546

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

Website

Appellation

St.-Emilion

General Info

Chateau Gracia produces garage-style (aka "vins de garage") St-Emilion wines from a 4.4-acre vineyard with microscopic yields of 18-22 hectoliters per hectare (400-550 cases). Michel Gracia the proprietor is good friends with Ausone's Alain Vauthier, produces wines that have much in common with the lushness and concentration of Ausone.

Founded in 1997, Michel is a first-generation immigrant, originating from Spain. After less than a decade since his first crush, Michel was already recognized by Robert Parker as one of the twenty best wine estates in France in 2006.

Vineyards

Vines cover just 1.9-hectares of clayey/limestone soil, planted with 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and an average age of vine at just under thirty years. Yields are kept low, down to a paltry 21hl/ha. There is another 1.26-hectares parcel on more sandy soil planted with 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc which is the source of "Les Angelots de Gracia".

Harvest

Hand harvested

Vinification/

Maturation

After picking by hand (well, machine harvesting would take just a couple of minutes given the size of the vineyard), the must undergoes a prefermentation cold maceration for one week, after which alcoholic fermentation takes place in concrete tanks. Malolactics take place in new oak barriques where the wines mature for between 18 to 24 months with no lees-stirring. Just around 4,000 bottles are made per year, bottled without fining or filtration. The wines are aged in 100% new oak and bottled without fining or filtration

Tasting Notes

The blend is 80-90% Merlot and the remainder, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. They exhibit massive fruit power and tannin as well as equally huge extract, intensity, and length.

Serve with

Great with BBQ or grilled red meats.

Production

415 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2022

Scores/Awards

90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only, 2014
90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012
95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014
94-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012
89-90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012
91-93 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012
15 points - Decanter.com - April 2012
90 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012 (score only)
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 24, 2012
92 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)

Reviews

"This pumps out exotic ganache, fig sauce and blackberry coulis notes, with a hefty frame of roasted vanilla and espresso hints. This ambitious version has a lot going on but manages to pull it off. Best from 2015 through 2022. 415 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Shows some zip, which lends a vibrant edge to the blueberry, linzer torte and blackberry fruit, with lots of spice bouncing through the finish. This still has some toast to soak up, but there's lots to like. Score range: 90-93"

- JM, Wine Spectator



Reviews *“One of the few blockbuster wines in this vintage, Gracia’s 2011 exhibits an opaque blue/purple color along with gorgeous aromas of graphite, chalk, black currants, blueberries, camphor and a hint of truffles. Full-bodied and rich, with good acidity, this luscious St.-Emilion should drink well in 2-3 years and last for 15.”*
- RP, Wine Advocate

“I tasted this cuvee three times, and on each occasion, it was totally exhilarating. Notes of white chocolate, creme de cassis, raspberry liqueur, truffles and lead pencil shavings emerge from this stunningly proportioned 2011. With massive fruit and richness, sweet tannin and adequate acidity, it is even more impressive than most vintages to date given the less than perfect growing conditions of 2011. Drink it over the next two decades. One of the candidates for the wine of the vintage, Michel Gracia’s tiny garagiste offering from the St.-Christophe des Bardes area of St.-Emilion is a blend of 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. The natural alcohol hit 14.5%, which is up there with such blockbuster vintages as 2009 and 2010. Unfortunately, production is only around 500 cases.”
- RP, Wine Advocate

“This is well done with dark ripe fruits with plums and blueberries. Full and velvety with hints of chocolate. Plenty of fruit. A tiny bit hollow.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Opaque inky purple. Penetrating, pure, ripe aromas of blackberry, cocoa and minerals. Large-scaled, dense and rich, with compelling complexity to the pure blackcurrant, mineral and coffee flavors. Finishes long and elegant, with rising tannins. Great stuff.”
- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Ripe to overripe with 'confit', plum notes. Plush, sweet fruited palate yet chewy and drying on the finish. Drink 2015-2022. (15 points)”
- Decanter.com

“.. Chocolate, licorice, black cherry and truffle scents, lush textures and a polished black cherry, raspberry and chocolate-filled finish are found in this wine. 91-93 Pts”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
