

Château Gracia 2020

CSPC# 888286

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St.-Emilion

Classification

Grand Cru Classe

Website

N/A

General Info

Chateau Gracia is 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 then 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.

Gracia is the true, original Garage wine! It is produced inside the picturesque village of St. Emilion in a small space, located on a tiny back alley that is next to a working garage.

Winemakers

Michel Gracia

Vintage

This 2020 vintage was quite early. Growth in the vineyard was very fast due to a wet, rainy spring and mild temperatures.

The heavy rainfall led to extraordinary pressure from downy mildew, at a level never-before seen by winegrowers! Until June, the extraordinary climatic conditions made work in the vineyard difficult. Nevertheless, flowering was uniform and took place in good conditions. The hot and dry summer greatly accelerated ripening. In some parcels, water stress led to a slight loss of yield, while in the areas with more clay and clay-limestone soils, ripening was very slow. The harvest began on 10 September, about a fortnight ahead of a so-called "normal" year, still under strong heat. The rain did not come until the end of September...Just in time to finish harvesting the last Cabernet Franc.

Vineyards

Today, the vineyard of Château Gracia occupies 3 hectares of vines and is in conversion to organic farming, following pressure from the girls, who have taken training in oenology. There are three grape varieties: 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. The vines are on average 35 years old and produce grapes with good density.

Harvest

Hand harvested. The *harvest* took place two weeks before the norm and will yield grapes with high potential alcohol and the lowest acidity since the 2003 vintage. Yields are always low here. On average, they are often only 25 hectoliters per hectare and at times, they are even lower! Which explains the levels of concentration and the low quantity of wine available.

**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 pre-fermentation cold-maceration for one week, after which alcoholic fermentation takes place in concrete tanks. Malolactic's 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

Dark purple colour with violet hints and a black core. It has a powerful, multi-layered nose with an aroma of plums, cherries, orange zest, cocoa, and hints of toasted oak. The palate is opulent and fresh with velvety tannins and a long length.

Serve with

Gracia is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Gracia is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Gracia is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.

Production

Approx. 8,000 bottles annually.

Cellaring

Drink 2025-2045.



Scores/Awards **93-95+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021
94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021
92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021
94-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021
94 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021

Reviews *"Opaque purple-black colored, the 2020 Gracia charges out of the gate with powerful notes of baked black plums, boysenberries and blackberry preserves, followed by hints of cedar chest, espresso, Indian spices and garrigue. The medium to full-bodied palate has a rock-solid backbone of firm, grainy tannins and bold freshness supporting the generous black fruits, finishing long and spicy."*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"A young wine with fantastic depth and richness. Lots of fruit and velvety tannins that are intertwined in layers. Rich and focused. Chewy finish. All here, with the potential to become something great."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is always a big St-Emilion, and it stays true to brand. Pretty fierce in its extraction, but there is gorgeous juice that pours in alongside the liquorice root, muscular tannins, and cassis fruits if you are patient. Drinking Window 2025 – 2040."
- JA, Decanter.com

"Dark in color, the wine is rich, lush, opulent, and polished. The layers of flowers, silky-textured plums, cherries, licorice, and blackberry provide length, purity, complexity, and character. The finish is fresh, long, and rich. I am really liking the style of this wine."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2020 Gracia has plenty of hubris on the nose, bursting from the glass with scents of black plum, kirsch, and crème de cassis, and later, a more floral/crushed violet aroma; almost Margaux-like in style. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent tannins, fine acidity and edgy black fruit laced with allspice and black pepper. This is a powerful Gracia, but it is kept on a firm leash, and it fans out with confidence and class on the finish. This garagiste (remember that term?) should drink well for 15–20 years, possibly longer."
- NM, Vinous

"Coming from a tiny terroir and mostly Merlot blended with 25% Cabernet Franc, the 2020 Château Gracia sports a deep, inky color as well as gorgeous notes of pure cassis interwoven with notes of flowers, charcoal, camphor, and classy oak. Winemaker Michel Gracia continues to make a rich, powerful wine, yet his 2020 has a wonderful sense of purity and elegance, with a bright spine of acidity as well as outstanding length. This is certainly in the realm of the 2019, and maybe even the 2018. It's going to benefit from 4-6 years in the cellar, but it's worth it!"
- Jeb Dunnuck

"Fine purity and intensity - floral dark fruit, blackberry, violet, cigar box and fine toast. The palate is nicely concentrated with vigorous but ripe tannin adding freshness, layers of crushed dark berries, fluid, and digest in an unctuous modern style with great length."
- AL, Tasted.com
