

# Château Gazin 2021

CSPC# 844658

750mlx6

13.4% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

100% Merlot

**Appellation**

Pomerol

**Classification**

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

**Website**

<http://www.gazin.com/en/>

**Sustainability**

The vines are cultivated using traditional growing methods and an environmentally-friendly approach with ploughing, organic fertilizers, minimum use of pesticides (including mating disruption), and manual harvests.

**General Info**

The Pomerol vineyard developed from the 12th century up to the French Revolution of 1789 around the Commanderie 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.

**Winemaker**

Michel Obert

**Vintage**

With its 2021 vintage, Château Gazin has had a difficult year. A serious attack of mildew caused a reduction of almost 60% in our grand vin taking into account the production of Hospitalet de Gazin, the domain's second wine, which contributed to limiting the share of the grand vin even more. Heavy rain in May and June, combined with lower temperatures in spring and summer, in contrast to recent years, made this vintage a more "traditional", less sunny Pomerol, providing a 100% merlot wine with an alcohol content of 13.4°.

**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. HVE Level 3 certification.

**Harvest**

The merlot harvest took place from 21 to 30 September. Yield 18 hl/ha.

**Vinification/**

**Maturation**

The 2021 was matured in barrels for 14 months: 50% in new barrels and 50% in one-year barrels with light fining with egg whites.

**Tasting Notes**

This year Gazin used 100% Merlot. Powerful with broad texture on the palate and harmonious, ripe fruit character. This has a linear, mineral element and very dense, ripe tannins. There's creaminess and spicy aromas from oak but it's integrating well. Some herbal character on the finish is refreshing and appetising.

**Winemaker's**

**notes**

Our 2021 vintage, pure merlot, presents red fruit (morello cherry) notes and also floral, airier notes that evoke violets and irises. The wine, build on balance and elegance, is rounded but not overpowering. It opens with a smooth attack and continues with a beautiful mid-palate, all carried by a freshness and energy that provide good length.



<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Gazin is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes, Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
<b>Production</b>	36,000 bottles.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2025-2042.
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>84 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p><b>91-93+ points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2024</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"I was optimistic for the 2021 Gazin in barrel, but that optimism hasn't been realized in bottle. Offering up aromas of minty blackberries and herbs, it's medium-bodied, firm and astringent, with a bitter, mouth-puckering, discreetly metallic finish. Time may be kind to it, but only gamblers would test that hypothesis."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Gazin is a fine effort, unfurling in the glass with aromas of sweet red berries, cherries, plums, incense, and raw cocoa. Medium to full-bodied, layered, and concentrated, it's rather rich and elegantly muscular in the context of the vintage, with a deep core of fruit, powdery tannins and bright acids. Mildew pressure combined with wet conditions that made it impossible to enter the vineyard with tractors, delivering low yields of only 18 hectoliters per hectare, and the grand vin is entirely Merlot this year. Directed by Christophe de Baillencourt and overseen by Mickael Obert, this 24-hectare family-owned estate is producing its best wines in the modern era. The vineyards themselves straddle two essential soil types: gravels opposite the chateau and deep clays on the plateau (where the estate is a neighbor of Pétrus, to which it ceded a prime bloc in the 1960s). Herbicides have never been used here, and cover crops are the order of the day since 2018. Planted with 85% Merlot, replanting is gradually introducing a touch more Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon (the latter first included in the blend with the outstanding 2019 vintage). New oak is much better integrated than was the case a decade ago, and Gazin has gained in depth and energy. The 2021 is a fine effort in a challenging year, and it's one of the vintage's more serious, structured wines."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Black berries and black plums on the nose with some tobacco leaf, graphite, and bitter chocolate. It's focused on the palate, with firm tannins that melt and relax into the black fruit. Medium-bodied and well-structured. Mineral at the end. Try from 2025."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Firm, grainy tannins accompany the core of black fruit. Medium-bodied. Stone character. Mineral, with tangy acidity."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Dark chocolate, perfume, and black fruits on the nose - fragrant rose and iris petals. Succulent yet quite densely mouth filling straight away, the chalky salinity and bitter chocolate edged tannins in full force gripping the tongue and cheeks with a blueberry, raspberry, and black cherry fruit pulp. It certainly has the density that others in the vintage don't have but it's missing the elongation and some of the refinement that others show. You do get fully ripe fruit here though, the acidity underneath and a plushness that should see this through ageing nicely."</i> - GH, Decanter.com</p>

**Reviews**

*“Plenty of fruits here, although a little sombre, majoring on redcurrant, blackcurrant, hawthorn, rose stem and touches of white truffle to give a gourmet kiss on the finish. Always a serious, structured Pomerol, and it makes it extremely severe in a vintage like 2021.”*

- JA, janeanson.com

*“Chocolate covered cherries, and flowers create the aromatic profile here. Made using 100% Merlot, the wine is fresh, soft, supple, vibrant, and fresh. There is a mildly, divergent green olive notes at the end that distracts just a bit from the otherwise, classic cherry and cocoa characteristics. Yields were quite low this year at only 18 hectoliters per hectare, which is less than half the normal production. Drink from 2025-2042.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Produced from 100% Merlot, the wine opens with notes of flowers, mocha, black cherry, and wet earth. Round, fleshy and fresh, there is lift and brightness to all the sweet, dark cherries and plums in the earthy, sweet, lifted finish. Yields were quite low this year at only 18 hectoliters per hectare, which is less than half the normal production. Drink from 2025-2042.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“This year Gazin is 100% Merlot produced from an extremely low yield of 18 hl/ha. Bright purple colour. The nose is very pure with fresh plums and the slightest hint of spice. The palate shows its 100% Merlot with silky, rounded fruit and moderate but refreshing acidity. Compact but soft, this supple Pomerol has a fresh finish that should make it very enjoyable in the mid-term.”*

- TP, Farr Vintners

*“The 2021 Gazin has a harmonious, defined bouquet of red and black fruit laced with black truffle and well-integrated oak. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly tough tannins on the entry. A much more linear Gazin compared to recent vintages, leading to a sapid finish. It pulls up a bit short now, but it should fill out during élevage.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2021 Château Gazin is another solid Pomerol and, I suspect, will end up being an outstanding wine. Giving up lots of red and black fruits, leather, and some earthy, herbal notes, it's medium-bodied, has a supple, rounded texture, and a good finish. It's going to keep for 20 years.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“This is an imposing and impressive wine. It shows a lot more depth and tannin than many, yet nothing is out of place or too forced. The perfume is superb, and while the oak is certainly expressive, and it is perfectly matched with the density of the fruit, this makes it not only an outlier in this vintage, but this point of difference will turn heads, and I admire the confidence and conviction in this wine.”*

- Matthew Jukes

*“The nose is elegant, racy and reveals a certain delicacy, a fine richness, silkiness, a good definition as well as a nice little multi-layer side. We find notes of blueberry, pulpy blackberry, blueberry and more slightly cherry combined with delicate touches of crushed currants, fine points of cherry blossom, nutmeg, star anise as well as discrete points of toasted almond, Bourbon vanilla and a subtle touch of cinnamon. The palate is fruity, balanced and reveals juiciness, minerality, good definition, harmony, delicacy, straightness, and finesse. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy blackberry, blueberry and more slightly crushed blackcurrant combined with touches of bright raspberry, hints of cardamom, toast, tonka bean as well as a subtle hint of sense of place/root/terroir and a very discreet hint of fresh vanilla. The tannins are supple, sapid, precise, and racy. Good length.”*

- Vert de Vin