
Château Gloria 2016

CSPC# 742342

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot

Appellation

St. Julien

Classification

unclassified

Website

<http://www.domaines-henri-martin.com/en/chateau-gloria>

General Info

While many Bordeaux Chateaux have long histories in the region, especially in the Medoc, that is not the case with Chateau Gloria. In fact, it's a relatively new estate that when compared to its peers, was born quite recently. You could say, Chateau Gloria dates back to 1903, but that is not exactly the case. The creator of Chateau Gloria, Henri Martin was born in 1903. Martin had a background in Bordeaux wine before his first birthday. His birth took place at a neighboring St. Julien estate, Gruaud Larose. Henri Martin was born on the property. background since the day he was born. Obviously, Henri Martin was destined for life in wine.

During the war, in 1942, Henri Martin purchased 6 hectares of vines located in the Left Bank in the St. Julien appellation. The vines were previously the property of Chateau Beychevelle. Martin made the purchase on the advice of his friend, Jean-Charles Cazes. Cazes is the father of Jean Michel Cazes of Chateau Lynch Bages. That early purchase eventually grew into Chateau Gloria. It took time, but eventually they able to cobble together a total of 48 hectares for Chateau Gloria. Forty years after he created Chateau Gloria, Henri purchased his first 1855 Classified Growth, Chateau St. Pierre, also located in St. Julien. Aside from the classified growth, Chateau St. Pierre, which we already mentioned, they also produce the following wines; Bel Air from Haut Medoc, Pey Martin from St. Julien and Haut Beychevelle Gloria, which comes from St. Julien as well.

Winemaker

Henri Martin. Technical Director Rémi di Constanzo.

Vintage

2016 St. Julien is a perfect vintage. Or if you think this is hyperbole, I can change that to almost perfect. Every vineyard in this appellation made prodigious wine. Some of the estates, due to the perfect storm of having a new cellar, extraordinary climatic conditions, and the financial willingness to make the best wine possible produced the best wine in their long-storied history! 2016 Saint Julien did not start out with much promise. The flowering in the Left Bank took place under good conditions. But the majority of the first half of the year will be remembered for being late, and for the continuing deluge of water that soaked the vineyards. Growers knew much had to work to work in their favor from this point forward, as wet, and late are not descriptors that bring smiles to their faces.

By late June, warm, sunny, and dry were the new normal. The Indian summer conditions were almost too much. The summer set records for the lack of rain. Young vines were in danger of dying. Plants were close to stopping their growth cycle and many people were worried about this becoming a difficult vintage. But the cool nights, which is where the much-needed freshness came from helped and the rains that fell September 12 and 13 showed that Bacchus must love Bordeaux, because they saved the vintage! The harvest took place at a leisurely pace under outstanding conditions. The rest as they say is history.

They are in such a beautiful style with their richness, ripe, velvet, textured tannins, concentration, freshness, and elegance. There are no hard edges here, just delicious tasting wines made from perfectly ripe grapes. Lower in alcohol than the more recently fabled 2009 and 2010 vintages, plus depth and a wealth of raw material, if you're a fan of these wines, this is a vintage to consider laying down. While most of the Saint Julien is classified, every chateau made truly great wine.

Vineyards

A vineyard covering 50 hectares, with an average vine age of 40 years, spread across three areas, in the middle of Beychevelle and then in the west and the north of the



Vineyards	appellation (bordering Pauillac) on soil made up of Gunzian gravel covering a layer of clay and sand. The grapes are 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot.
Harvest	Picked from 29 September until 17 October.
Vinification/ Maturation	Once the grapes have been picked by hand, the harvest is vinified in the traditional way in heat-regulated stainless-steel vats, in order to produce truly exceptional wines which can be laid down for a long time. The wine then spends 14 months being aged in casks, 40% new and 60% one-year-old barrels.
Tasting Notes	An intense garnet color. Complex red berry, jammy and spicy aromas. Well-balanced and dense on the palate, fresh tannins, and an outstanding elegance, with a long, precise, elegant, silky finish.
Production	20,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2033
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 2017</p> <p>93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - November 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>93+ points - Farr Vintners - November 2020</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - August 2020</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2017</p> <p>17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This has a slightly chunky feel now, with bramble and tar notes jutting out a bit, but the core is saturated with cassis and blackberry fruit flavors and there's fun energy throughout. Offers a lovely tug of sweet tobacco detail on the finish too. Just let this settle in the cellar. Best from 2024 through 2038."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Shows a flash of mint before giving way to a torrent of blueberry, blackberry and cassis flavors, pushed by energetic acidity and juicy, brambly grip. Plum cake and anise line the finish, along with a flash of tobacco. Lots going on here. Score Range: 93-96"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Gloria is comprised of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot aged 14 months in 42% new and 58% one-year-old French oak. Deep garnet-purple in color, it sings of plum preserves, warm cassis, and dark chocolate with touches of tobacco, bay leaves and lavender with a waft of dusty soil. The palate is medium-bodied, elegant, and savory in the mouth with loads layers and a lifted finish. Drink Date: 2020 – 2035."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Gloria is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 7% Cabernet Franc that was picked from 29 September until 17 October. It is matured in slightly less oak than the Saint-Pierre, at 40%. This is a little more backward and broody compared to the Saint-Pierre and indeed its Saint Julien peers, demanding more coaxing from the glass. It almost reluctantly unfolds and unveils subtle pencil box and dry tobacco aromas. The palate is more outgoing than the aromatics with a vibrant, almost citrus-fresh opening,</i></p>

Reviews *tensile tannins, and a satisfying sense of energy. This feels nimble and agile in the mouth with a touch of white pepper lingering on the aftertaste. You come away with the feeling that this Gloria has something up its sleeve for those with patience to cellar it for eight to ten years. Drink 2024 - 2060.*

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 Gloria is comprised of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot aged 14 months in 42% new and 58% one-year-old French oak. Deep garnet-purple in color, it sings of plum preserves, warm cassis, and dark chocolate with touches of tobacco, bay leaves and lavender with a waft of dusty soil. The palate is medium-bodied, elegant and savory in the mouth with loads layers and a lifted finish."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Beautiful aromas of blackcurrants and blueberries. Hot-stone undertones. Full-bodied, very tight and focused with very fine tannins that are strong and bright. Compressed. Serious. Try in 2023."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Dense and layered red with berry and tobacco character, a full body and a savory finish. Got it all here."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"90–92. Barrel Sample. The tannins in this wine are firm, resulting in a selection of more structural grip than fruity opulence. It will need to evolve and mellow, ensuring that the fruit is allowed to come forward."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Tasted blind. Restrained nose suggests there's a lot going on here. Savoury – as dry as a Barton wine – but with great constitution. Drier than usual. Drink 2027 – 2045."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Immediately on the nose you get the rich structure of the fruit, rippling with texture and life. It has just the right amount of drama, offering a tight and well-focused delivery. This is beautiful, showing great underlying freshness and grip with real tension and minerality. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Elegant, fresh, floral, refined and with a real Saint Julien refined character, the wine has concentration focus, energy, ripe red fruits and freshness. This is easily the best wine produced in the history of the estate."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Forward, fresh and refined, the deep red fruits, espresso, wet earth and spice combine to produce an outstanding wine of character and charm. This is clearly in contention to end up as the finest vintage Gloria has ever produced."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Exotic tobacco, anisette and fresh-picked currants on the nose. On the palate, the wine is well coiffed and fresh. The fruit is clean and pure, and the perfume lingers in your brain. This is clearly the best wine ever from Gloria. The wine was made from a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Working with its new winery for the first time in 2016, Gloria has made a fine, aromatic, well-structured blend, with more tannin and concentration than the 2015, but similar levels of perfume and finesse. Serious and age worthy, it's sappy and long. 2024-36."

- Tim Atkin MW

Reviews

“Tasted blind at the 2016 Southwold Group Tasting. A deep ruby colour in the glass. Cool black fruits and riper red fruits are layered with cedar and graphite on a pure and refined nose. The palate is chalky, with good bite from the tannins and acidity bringing real focus and finesse - this is cool, compact, and fine with real potential. Fresh blackcurrant and dark cherries form the core of fruit, intense but never heavy. These flavours flesh out towards the finish, complemented by flecks of savoury spices and graphite once more, keeping everything cool and elegant. Long and intense at the finish with lingering ripe tannins, this will need a decant if opening now. The structure should soften in the next 2-3 years, after which the intensity suggests this will evolve and drink well for a further 15+ years.”

- Farr Vintners

“The 2016 Gloria is noticeably deeper in color than its peers. It has a charming bouquet of blackberry, briar, brown spices, and touches of sandalwood, complex and developing loamy elements with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins and a fine bead of acidity. Quite mineral-driven, leading into a composed, precise finish that indicates careful winemaking from great terroir. Superb. Tasted blind at the Southwold tasting. 2026 – 2060.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Gloria is one of the undisputed stars of this vintage. Rich, deep and explosive, the 2016 possesses tremendous intensity in all of its dimensions. Sweet red cherry, tobacco, menthol, licorice, and dried rose petal all add complexity. In 2016 Gloria is a real head-turner. It should be a fabulous value as well. There is not much else to say.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 Gloria is striking. Ripe, dense, and beautifully layered in the glass, the 2016 exudes class. Super-ripe red cherry, plum, pomegranate, rose petal, cinnamon and licorice notes abound, but it is the wine's juiciness and overall texture that are most appealing. A super-classic Saint-Julien, Gloria delivers serious quality for the money. Despite its obvious depth and fleshiness, the 2016 Gloria is also one of the most restrained, gracious Saint-Julien readers will come across.”

- AG, Vinous

“I was lucky enough to taste the 2016 Château Gloria on multiple occasions and it's unquestionably the finest vintage of this cuvée I've tasted. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, aged in 42% new French oak, its deep purple color is followed by a powerful, medium to full-bodied wine that has thrilling purity in its ripe black and blue fruits, tobacco, and graphite-laced aromas and flavors. Deep, layered, with ripe tannins and the purity and freshness that makes the vintage so special, this is a brilliant Gloria to drink over the coming 20+ years.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, subtle lightening of the edges, inviting dark berry confit, a hint of spices, tobacco nuances. Medium complexity, red berries, present tannins, freshly structured, lemony-mineral finish.”

- Falstaff Magazine
