

# Château Lynch Bages 2000

CSPC# 756596

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety** 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot  
**Appellation** Pauillac  
**Classification** Grand Cru Classé  
**Website** <https://www.jmcazes.com/en/chateau-lynch-bages>

## General Info

Château Lynch-Bages was owned by the Lynch family for three quarters of a century. They descended from John Lynch, a young Irishman from Galway who was chased out of his country in 1691. In the 18th century, Count Jean-Baptiste Lynch, mayor of Bordeaux, inherited the estate and handed over management to his brother Michel Lynch, who was also mayor of Pauillac during the French Revolution. Jean-Charles Cazes, highly respected in the Médoc for his experience in viticulture and winemaking, bought the property in 1934. With his son André, he devoted all his energy to Lynch-Bages for more than 35 years. In 1974, his grand-son Jean-Michel Cazes set about restructuring and managing the estate and recently, in 2006, handed over the running of the property to his son Jean-Charles.

## Vintage

Rumours had been emanating from Bordeaux since the first Merlot grape was plucked from the vine back in mid-September. All unanimous that 2000 was going to be something quite special. The weather leading up to the harvest had been perfect and from mid-July to mid-September there was virtually no rain at all. The fine weather continued through to the end of the Cabernet Sauvignon harvest in mid-October with only one day of rain to refresh the vines and momentarily worry the vignerons. The winter of 1999-2000 will remain a vivid memory for the inhabitants of the Medoc region following the storm of the 27th December. 2000 is also the story of a vintage in two parts: after a warm winter and wet spring, the first half got off to a bad start. The second half was a total turn-around. This wonderful late summer weather seems to have given Lynch-Bages its rich and superb complexity. An utterly profound Lynch-Bages, this wine has definitely its place in the hall of fame of the few vintages of the century.

## Harvest

Harvest took place between September 25th and October 10th

## Vineyards

Stretching over some 100 hectares in the commune of Pauillac, the vineyards of Lynch-Bages lie entirely upon the soil of choice for great wines, formed along the estuary by the alluvia from the gravel of Médoc. The property sits among favourably designed hillcrests located south and southwest of the city. This particular topography allows for both a natural drainage of soils to the river and, with help of the water table in shallow areas, a fine feeding of water for the vines. The red wine vineyard of Lynch-Bages extends across a homogeneous soil and subsoil of deep Garonne gravel. Early yielding, scantily fertile and well drained, these soils are particularly favourable for Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. In the plots located along the river and the Gaët channel, the Garonne gravel soil is associated with clayey subsoil, more specifically suitable for Merlot. There is also a small part of the vineyard of predominantly sandy gravel, ideally suited for growing Cabernet Franc, which helps to yield lighter, aromatic and nicely rounded wines. This analysis of the characteristics of the terroir, recorded during the planting of the varieties, has made it possible to identify an optimal planting. It is now composed of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. The average age of the vines is about 30 years old, with the oldest vines over 60 years old.

## Maturation

Aged in French oak barrels for 15 months (70% new wood)

## Tasting Notes

Very dark ruby with some evolution. Toasty and appetizing. Very appealing subtlety and complexity on the nose though on the palate it is clearly not as ripe as some. Maybe higher yields? An attractive drink but far from intense.

## Production

35,000 cases made

## Cellaring

Drink 2015-2040



**Scores/Awards** **96 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007  
**96 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003  
**95-100 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001  
**97 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #196 - August 2011  
**95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 2010  
**95+ points** - Robert Parker, Bordeaux Book - December 2003 (no review)  
**95+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #149 - October 2003 (no review)  
**95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003  
**93-96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 2002  
**94-96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2010  
**95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2010  
**95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2009  
**96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - October 2006  
**95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2003  
**94(+?) points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - January 2012  
**92 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2003(no review)  
**16 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011  
**18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - August 2005  
**18 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011  
**94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 22, 2013  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 21, 2012  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - November 1, 2011  
**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 5, 2010  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 15, 2009  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 15, 2008  
**89 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (no review)  
**94 points** - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - November 2011

**Reviews** *"This is a super structured wine with loads of plum, blackberry and licorice. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a long finish. Gorgeous. Tight. Needs time. --Lynch-Bages non-blind vertical. Best after 2010. 35,000 cases made."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Gorgeous aromas of plums, blackberries and licorice, with hints of mineral. Full-bodied, with full, silky tannins and a long, long finish. Big and solid. Fantastic. If you love Lynch, you won't be disappointed. Best after 2010. 35,000 cases made."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Incredible aromas of violets and currants. Full-bodied and very tannic but loads of ripe fruit and a super long finish. What can I say? This is amazing. If you love Lynch, buy this. Score range: 95-100"*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Beginning to open magnificently, the still dense purple-colored 2000 reveals a blossoming bouquet of blackberries, cassis, graphite and pen ink. Full-bodied with velvety tannins that have resolved themselves beautifully over the last eleven years, this wine is still an adolescent, but it exhibits admirable purity, texture, mouthfeel and power combined with elegance. One of the all-time great examples of Lynch Bages, the 2000 is just beginning to drink well yet promises to last for another 20-25+ years."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"There were two bottles of this wine tasted, one of my own and one from another person's cellar. Although both were outstanding, one was much more evolved and displayed a slight dirtiness, but it was still impressive. The other displayed beautiful creme de cassis, and cedar in a surprisingly full-bodied and evolved style that could be drunk now. I originally predicted 2008-2025 for the window of full maturity, and that looks accurate, as this wine, which exhibits a little amber and loads of glycerin, is probably the biggest, richest Lynch Bages produced after the 1995 and before the 2005. Succulent, with lots of juicy black fruit and silky tannin, this is a beauty that can be drunk now or cellared for another 15-20 years."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*“An utterly profound Lynch-Bages, this wine continues to remind me of a hypothetical blend of the 1990 and 1989. Interestingly, when I asked Jean-Michel Cazes to rank his top four vintages of Lynch-Bages, he ranked the 1989 first, followed by three vintages that he said were essentially equivalent in quality - 1990, 1996, and 2000. The 2000 Lynch-Bages exhibits a dense purple color, loads of glycerin and extract, big, muscular, sweet creme de cassis notes, with hints of new saddle leather, earth, and tobacco leaf. The 2000 is forceful yet plush, with a thick, juicy, succulent mid-palate, ripe tannin, and a long, layered finish. I know it will be tempting to pull corks on this wine in its youth, but it really will not hit its stride for 7-10 years and will last for at least 25. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2025.”*

*RP, Wine Advocate*

*“A profound Lynch Bages, the 2000 is a huge, massive, concentrated effort that coats the palate with an unctuous display of black currant fruit bolstered by considerable levels of glycerin and extract. There are no hard edges, but there is considerable tannin in this beefy, full-bodied, muscular, incredibly well-balanced, pure wine. It should drink well young, yet last for twenty-five years. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2025. A tour de force for Lynch-Bages.”*

*RP, Wine Advocate*

*“A prodigious Lynch-Bages, the 2000 exhibits a saturated purple color as well as exploding aromatics of new saddle leather, creme de cassis, creosote, truffles, and oak. A sweet entry reveals a full-bodied, concentrated, succulent style with tremendous class as well as charm. This mouthfilling, lush, super-concentrated, gorgeously pure Lynch-Bages stains the palate. It will undoubtedly firm up during its barrel aging, or after bottling, but it offers a hedonistic mouthful of massive Pauillac at present. Anticipated maturity: 2004-2025. For statisticians, it is a blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot aged in 70% new French oak.”*

*RP, Wine Advocate*

*“Tasted blind at Bordeaux Index’s 2000 tasting in London. This is more taciturn on the nose than Pontet-Canet ‘00, but is well defined with some lovely savoury, chestnut and black truffle aromas developing in the glass. Touches of damp moss/lichen. The palate is full-bodied with firm tannins, gentle grip, foursquare but good weight, blackberry, graphite, leather and cedar, chewy towards the dry, structured finish. Very fine, perhaps a little broody and introverted at the moment. But great potential. Drink 2016-2040. Tasted March 2010.”*

*- NM, Wine Journal*

*“Ex-cellar bottle tasted blind at the Lynch Bages vertical. This has a more introverted, sulky nose with intense black fruits infused with hints of leather, sous-bois and a touch of crushed stone. Brilliant definition. The palate is medium-bodied, well balanced but a little conservative. Supremely well focused, a wine surfeit with crisp black fruits, a touch of graphite and blueberry, leading to a grippy, tannic finish. Wonderful but barely out of the starting block. Drink 2015-2035+ Tasted September 2009.”*

*- NM, Wine Journal*

*“This has an intense, quite broody nose, tightly coiled, touches of smoke, like a younger sibling of Latour. It remains rather broody in the glass. The palate is medium- to full-bodied, vigorous, very well balanced with good acidity cutting through layers of thick chewy black fruits. Very primal, quite masculine and a millennial wine in for the long-term. The tannins really coat the mouth in cedary black fruit with tobacco and liquorices lingering longingly on the aftertaste. This is a great Lynch Bages – very natural, very poised. Drink 2015-2035. Tasted September 2008.”*

*- NM, Wine Journal*

*“Deep garnet hue. A fabulous nose of blackberry, cassis, pencil-lead and a touch of cooked meat from the Cabernet Franc. Great definition and intensity, perhaps a little more lift than the Lynch Bages 1996. The palate is full-bodied, quite rich and surprisingly supple for a 2000. Blackberry, tobacco, cedar vie for attention, harmonious and beautifully interwoven tannins. Has an opulence that I did not expect and a persistent finish with a touch of liquorice. A superb Lynch Bages. Drink from 2012. Tasted October 2006.”*

*- NM, Wine Journal*

**Reviews** *“Typical of Lynch-Bages in its sumptuous rich style, this is a resounding success for the team of Jean-Michel Cazes. With its sweet fruit, opulent but balanced wood and red and black fruit flavors, it is a wine that will develop relatively quickly but will certainly age.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“71% cabernet sauvignon, 16% merlot, 11% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot; 5.5 g/l total acidity; 13.3% alcohol): Deep ruby-red. Knockout aromas of blackcurrant, blackberry, mocha and cedar complicated by scorched earth and tobacco. Big, ripe and dense, with flavors similar to the aromas and a seamless, rich texture. Though powerful and rich, with a sensual mouthfeel, it maintains a graceful, light-on-its-feet quality. Finishes with ripe, fine-grained tannins and excellent length. Still an infant, but clearly a great vintage for this property.”*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*“Very dark blackish crimson. Dense and super ripe. Sweet black-cherry notes on the nose but rather awkward and tart on the palate. Rather ‘styled’ somehow. Not very well integrated. Really quite hard work with drying green notes on the end.”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Very, very deep, blackish crimson. Singed, fireworks on the nose. Excitement! Full, punchy. Very solid and dependable. Quite smooth. Makes the most of the vintage. Drink 2008-2020. Date tasted 20th Jan 05.”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Chateau Lynch-Bages 2010 offers a very good concentration of Cabernet fruits, rich and earthy, vibrant, vigorous flavours and packed with energy, a wine that once again justifies this chateau's reputation.”*

- SS, Decanter.com

*“Caramel, smoke, tobacco, cassis and stone aromas opened to a youthful, full bodied, concentrated, still tannic wine. The wine is fresh, rich and balanced. A few more years will add a lot of softness and complexity to this cassis dominated wine.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Tight, currently this wine demands more time, if you can't wait, give it a few hours of air, and some serious efforts at swirling, else you'll miss the tobacco, spice, cedar wood, cassis and earthy nose. Powerful, full bodied and filled with layers of ripe, fresh, juicy Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine fills our mouth with flavor and ripe tannins. I'll try another bottle in 2015, but I imagine it will not kick into high gear until 2020. It's a good thing time flies.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“My favorite post 1990 vintage of Lynch Bages, although the 2009 might end up being better, this deep colored wine offers smoke, truffle, cigar box, blackberry, spice and stone aromas. In the mouth, this wine is powerful, fresh and round. There is a wonderful sense of ripe, purity to the fruit. Still young, give it another 5-10 years to develop additional layers of complexity while it softens and becomes better integrated. This should age and evolve for decades.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Aromatics of cedar, herbs, cassis and ripe black fruits. Polished in style, with some tannin needing to be resolved, the wine ends with a rich, black and red fruit filled finish. Other bottles tasted have scored higher.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Deeply colored with notes of cassis, leather and black fruit, the wine was already starting to show well. Very concentrated and full bodied. On the palate, the wine delivered a lush, powerful feeling, similar to the 90, but with more power. The finish was long, clean and pure. Tasting this made me happy knowing I had a case laid down in the cellar. 5-10 more years of bottle age will really add a lot to the wine. However, for Lynch Bages, this is very precocious and will deliver a lot of pleasure early in life.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

**Reviews** *“This marries the levels of concentration found in the 89 with the supple tannins and plusher style found in the more approachable 90. Still incredibly young, this will grow up to be a stellar Pauillac. Boatloads of concentrated, juicy ripe fruit are found in every sip. This has all the right stuff to age and evolve into a great bottle of wine.”*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*“13% alcohol. Dense and ripe with pure blackberry and blackcurrant fruit and some nice, ripe, earthy notes. Structured and mineral with lovely ripe fruit. 94/100”*

*- JG, Wineanorak.com*

---