

# Château Lynch Bages 2010

CSPC# 888364

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety** 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot  
**Appellation** Pauillac  
**Classification** Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855  
**Website** <https://www.lynchbages.com/en/vintages/>

**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.

**Winemaker** Jean Michel Cazes

**Vintage** Following the superb 2009 vintage, came 2010 to rival it... Both 2009 and 2010 had great amounts of alcohol, tannins and colour. The big difference between the vintages is in the acid levels. Indeed, thanks to the cool nights and generally lower temperatures, 2010 had much higher levels of acidity. In a nutshell, the growing season was extremely dry but without extremes of temperature, so the grapes were small with thick skins, rich in colour and tannin and fresh of flavour. The relatively cool, sunny weather that prevailed during ripening was propitious to preserving fruit and acidity.

**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. The average age of the vines is about 30 years old, with the oldest vines over 60 years old.

**Harvest** The harvest started in summery weather on Monday September 27, and was completed on October 14. 2010 Lynch-Bages has all the hallmarks of a very great vintage. It may appear premature to describe it in detail, but its deep colour, complexity, intense fruit, freshness, and tannic density already indicate enormous potential.

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

**Tasting Notes** 2010 Lynch-Bages has all the hallmarks of a very great vintage. It may appear premature to describe it in detail, but its deep color, complexity, intense fruit, freshness, and tannic density already indicate enormous potential.

**Serve with** Chateau Lynch Bages is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Lynch Bages is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.

**Production** 25,000 cases made.

**Cellaring** Drink 2027-2067

**Scores/Awards** **96 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 2013  
**95-98 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - April 2011



**Scores/Awards**

- 97 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2022
- 96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013
- 95-97 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #196 - August 2011
- 95-97 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011
- 96 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020
- 96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal 0314 - January 2014
- 93+ points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal 0313 - March 2010
- 95-97 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal 0511 - April 2011
- 98 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013
- 98-99 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011
- 96 points/Cellar Selection** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2013
- 16 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011
- 18 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011
- 97 points** - PK, Decanter.com - May 2021
- 97 points** - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - April 2022
- 95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - October 2019
- 95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2013
- 94-95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2012
- 94-95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2011
- 95 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2011
- 98 points** - Farr Vintners - February 2020
- 97 points** - Farr Vintners - April 2011
- 92-95 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011
- 95 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2020
- 92 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2016
- 94 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - April 2011
- 90 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - March 2014
- 95 points** - Vert de Vin - April 2021
- 95 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 2011
- 18.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2012
- 17 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2012
- 17.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - March 2013

**Reviews**

*“Roasted cedar, tobacco and bay leaf notes start off this structured but lively bottling, with intense currant, blackberry, and black cherry flavors at the core. The iron-laced grip and pleasantly austere plum pit and licorice snap accents fill in on the tar-tinged finish. Great range, character and typicity. If you ever need to explain Pauillac to someone, give them this. Best from 2018 through 2037. 25,000 cases made.”*  
 - JS, Wine Spectator

*“This is densely packed, with loads of crushed fig, plum and blackberry. Shows ample tobacco, roasted apple wood and bittersweet cocoa notes as well, but stays defined, with a long, authoritative finish that delivers waves of grip, backed by even more grip.”*  
 - JS, Wine Spectator

*“Still a saturated ruby-black in hue, the 2010 Lynch-Bages offers up aromas of rich cassis fruit mingled with hints of pencil shavings, loamy soil, and cigar wrapper. Full-bodied, deep, and muscular, it's rich and layered, with a concentrated core of fruit that's framed by firm, powdery tannins, and lively acids. The most brooding, backward Lynch-Bages of the decade and one of the real successes of the vintage, this is a vibrant, tightly wound wine that is still an infant at age 10. Readers with bottles in their cellars might try one now out of curiosity, but this 2010 won't begin to hit its stride until age 20. 2027 – 2067.”*  
 - WK, Wine Advocate

*“The 2010 Lynch Bages is an absolutely brilliant wine, and somewhat reminiscent at this stage in its development of the profound 1989. Jean-Charles Cazes, who took over for his father a number of years ago, has produced a magnificent wine with the classic creme de cassis note intermixed with smoke, graphite and spring flowers. It is a massive Lynch Bages, full-bodied and very 1989-ish, with notable power, loads of tannin, and extraordinary concentration and precision. This is not a Lynch Bages to drink in its exuberant youth, but one to hold on to for 5-6 years and drink over the following three decades. Drink 2018-2048.”*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*"The 2010 blew me away on each occasion I tasted it during my two-week sojourn in Bordeaux. Tannic and concentrated, this huge Pauillac boasts an inky/purple color as well as impressive notes of creme de cassis, smoke, graphite, and spring flowers. This dense, seriously endowed, monstrous Lynch Bages is reminiscent of some of the wines made at this estate in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. It will require 4-5 years of cellaring and should be drinkable for 3-4 decades."*

RP, Wine Advocate

*"Over the last three vintages, Lynch Bages has returned with a vengeance after somewhat listless performances following their brilliant duo of 1989 and 1990. Much of the credit for this must go to Jean-Charles Cazes who has taken over for his father, Jean-Michel, one of the greatest ambassadors Bordeaux has ever had. The 2010 blew me away on each occasion I tasted it during my two-week sojourn in Bordeaux. Tannic and concentrated, this huge Pauillac boasts an inky/purple color as well as impressive notes of creme de cassis, smoke, graphite, and spring flowers. This dense, seriously endowed, monstrous Lynch Bages is reminiscent of some of the wines made at this estate in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. It will require 4-5 years of cellaring and should be drinkable for 3-4 decades."*

RP, Wine Advocate

*"Deep garnet colored, the 2010 Lynch Bages comes sailing out of the glass with notes of redcurrant jelly, black cherry compote and cassis plus wafts of smoked meats, tar, cigar box and dried roses. Full-bodied, the palate is stacked with red and black fruit layers, framed by ripe, firm, fine-grained tannins and fantastic freshness, finishing very long. 2020-2044."*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted blind at the Southwold Bordeaux 2010 tasting. The Château Lynch Bages appears to be going from strength to strength in this vintage. The 2010 has a glorious bouquet with intense blackberry and boysenberry fruit laced with minerals and cedar - beautifully defined and "symmetrical". The palate is medium-bodied with fine definition and a real sense of edginess and tension. Lovely focus and poise, superbly judged acidity and wonderful mineralité on the finish. Superb."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London and later at the chateau. The Lynch Bages 2010 has gone back into its shell since I tasted it out of barrel. It has very fine precision and comes across as understated and poised, although I hope it develops more vigour and fruit penetration. The palate is dense and focused, with light graphite notes infusing the black fruit and a keen thread of acidity lending it fine tension towards the finish. It just needs a little more attack, but that should develop with time. Tasted November 2012."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at the chateau and at the UGC, the Lynch Bages 2010 is a blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot raised in 70% new oak. The nose is a little reticent at first, but builds nicely with aeration with blackberry, cassis, cedar, mint and just a touch of honey. Very good delineation. The palate is full-bodied with a firm, almost vice-like grip but with more than adequate fruit to back it up: blackcurrant, cedar, graphite, and a touch of tobacco. Very tannic yet fresh towards the finish that will need a decade to reach its drinking plateau. Excellent. Drink 2020- Tasted April 2011."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"A wine with great beauty and finesse. Such elegance and ethereal quality for this estate. Full body, with ultra-fine tannins and a juicy delicious finish. Long and beautiful. This is the best Lynch in a long, long time. I love the precision here. Try in 2018."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"What incredible precision and clarity here. Currants, mineral, mint, and lead pencil. Full body, with super refined tannins and a long, long finish. I am loving this young wine. It just builds on the palate. Goes so long. 79 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 18 percent Merlot, 2 percent Cabernet Franc, and 1 percent Petit Verdot."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

## Reviews

*"This sumptuous wine is driven by perfectly ripe fruit as well as dense, dusty, and dry tannins. Great swathes of blackberry sweep across the palate, followed by juicy acidity. Such a combination will make this impressive wine a delight to drink in 10 years and beyond."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Drink 2016-2022. 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 good concentration of Cabernet fruits, rich and earthy, vibrant, vigorous flavours and packed with energy, a wine that once again justifies this château's reputation. Drink 2020-40."*

- SS, Decanter.com

*"Deep inky purple in colour, this is a majestic Pauillac to be savoured by Bordeaux lovers. Again, we are far from it being ready to drink and the tannins continue to be dominant, although not hiding the layers of rich earthy loam, slate, pencil lead and concentrated cassis that lie underneath. It's impressive and built, muscular, taut and architectural. An excellent reflection of what 2010 brought to the wines in this corner of the Médoc. It's not the most enticing for drinking today; give it another few years to soften and open further, or really allow it to have a good four to five hours in a carafe. But there is no mistaking the future of this wine."*

- Decanter.com

*"Similarly, Cabernet Sauvignon-driven, like Grand-Puy-Lacoste, but with more depth and power. Exudes dark, ripe blackberry and cassis with distinct iodine freshness. While the 70% new oak is fully integrated, it will be even better in 10 years (the 2000 vintage is perfect today). The length is amazing. A regal wine requiring a regal dish. Try with beef Wellington."*

- PK, Decanter.com

*"Deep, brooding damson in colour, a waft of crushed mint and pencil lead from the first moment, combined with liquorice, smoked earth, turmeric, cloves, orange peel and cassis fruit. This is an excellent wine that is subdued rather than generous but is built to last. 70% new oak."*

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

*"Just an infant in its development, the wine is all about its potential. Powerful, full-bodied, concentrated and quite bright, fresh, and tannic, the wine is not in a fun place to drink. The fruit is bright, lifted, fresh and firm, and there is a lot of it. But the structure and tannins are so front and center today that it demands at least a decade of aging before becoming civilized. For classic Pauillac fans, this is going to be worth the wait. But patience is warranted."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Dark ruby in color, blackberry, mint, cedar, smoke, jam, and earthy scents took some effort to find, as the wine is beginning to close down. Powerful, full bodied, tannic, dense, the wine is packed with fresh, crisp, spicy cassis berries. The wine is long, deep, fresh, and polished, with a lot of tannin and structure to the wine. Consumers will need to exercise patience, as this will demand at least 10 or more years before it's fun to drink."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"2010 Lynch Bages is a deep, powerful, tannic, concentrated wine with a dark, ruby color. Creme de cassis, blackberry jam, flowers and earthy scents fill the perfume. In the mouth, this big, full bodied, powerful, rich, intense, tannic wine will require 15-20 years before becoming civilized and revealing all its charms. From a blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Franc this Bordeaux wine makes a good contrast in style to the more opulent 2009 Lynch Bages."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Visually, the wine sports a deep ruby color. It's big, fat and concentrated, sweet ripe, blackberries and cassis. This is a masculine, powerful, structured vintage for Lynch Bages. The tannins are ripe, but this wine will require serious aging before becoming civilized. The wine ends with a blast of ripe, chewy cabernet fruit. Yields were close to 10% less across the board than in 2009 at 50 hectoliters per hectare."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

## Reviews

*"Tasted Blind at the Southwold Group Ten Years On tasting. This was the third highest scoring wine of the whole tasting. Deep purple in colour with an evocative and rich nose of cassis, graphite, and sweet spices. Rich and ripe but supremely refined and driven. The palate is incredibly intense and very pure in black fruit, with blackcurrants, bramble, and a little dark cherry. Layers of spice build through the mid palate in tandem with mouthcoating and rich tannins. A wine of great depth and precision, this is still incredibly youthful, but all the elements are in perfect harmony. The power is tightly wound through the structure, which just softens on the finish to reveal further complexity with violets, incense, and cedar. Incredibly long and starting to reveal its underlying potential, this is a Vin de Garde that could be the greatest Lynch Bages ever made. Hold for another 8 years before opening, as this will reward patience and has an extremely long drinking window ahead. Outstanding."*  
- Farr Vintners

*"70% of the crop was used for the Grand Vin. An inky black colour, certainly the darkest wine that we can remember seeing here. It is opaque right to the rim. A very promising nose packed full of freshly crushed black cherries, cassis, and black pepper. Massively concentrated on the palate with stunning density of black fruit, enormous structure, and depth. This goes on and on and is a huge, black beauty. A long term classic Pauillac that this year is of super-second quality. For us this is probably the greatest young Lynch Bages that we have ever tasted. We bumped into Daniel Llose who started making wine here in the mid 1970's. He says that no previous vintage of Lynch Bages has had this much power and balance. Absolutely stunning."*  
- Farr Vintners

*"There is a lovely mix of black fruits on the nose deep and powerful. The richness of flavour gives depth on the mid palate layers of black fruits enriched by dark chocolate. Structured tannins support and bilberry towards the back refreshes the finish."*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2010 Lynch-Bages has a stunning bouquet with pixelated black fruit, crushed stone and graphite aromas that soar from the glass. This is just amazingly focused. The palate is medium-bodied with concentrated black fruit curiously tinged with cough candy, which here I find just a bit out of place. The acidity is extremely well judged and there is immense persistence on the finish."*  
- NM, Vinous

*"Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges, herbal spices with a hint of chocolate, dark wild berry confit, smoky nuances, delicate vegetal notes. Fresh cherries, extract-sweet texture, slightly more pronounced acid structure, resulting in more prominent tannins, a bit leaner overall, but quite enjoyable to drink."*  
- PM, Falstaff

*"The nose is beautifully built, elegant, racy and offers a beautiful power (full of delicacy), a multi-layer side, deepness, density, a beautiful finesse of the grain as well as complexity. This wine should be decanted and needs patience during tasting. It reveals notes of quite ripe wild strawberry, bright wild blackberry and small notes of quite ripe raspberry associated with small touches of Sichuan pepper, small blue fruits, lily, cornflower as well as hints of incense, sweet spices, toasted, nutmeg, a very discreet hint of clove, underwood, an imperceptible saline hint, and mild tobacco. The palate is elegant, delicate, juicy, fresh, beautifully powerful (full of controlled), very finely tight, racy and offers density, deepness, a multi-layer side, structure, and a beautiful finesse of the fat. On the palate this wine expresses notes of bright wild blackberry, ripe wild raspberry and small notes of small wild fruits associated with a touch of fresh plum, violet, lily as well as hints of mild tobacco, clove, and an imperceptible hint of underwood. Tannins are racy. Good length and persistence. A very discreet firmness on the persistence. A beautiful wine!"*  
- Vert de Vin

*"Intense hue with crimson nuances. Profound, focused nose with upfront fruit. Full attack with tightly-wound, refined tannins. Sensation of suppleness nicely enhanced by good freshness. A harmonious, well-integrated 2010."*  
- Gilbert & Gaillard