

## Château Lynch Bages 2015

CSPC# 756474

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

CSPC# 832565

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

### Appellation

Pauillac

### Classification

Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855

### Website

<https://www.lynchbages.com/en/grand-cru-classe>

### 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

With 2015 Pauillac, the wines were shaped by the terroir and the harvest dates each estate chose. The harvest dates were imperative with 2015 Pauillac, due to some of the weather extremes experienced during the growing season. The terroir that worked to produce the best 2015 Pauillac was the deep gravelly soils which helped retain the much-needed moisture during the dry season, (and much of the vintage was dry), especially the warm, sunny, and even hot temperatures coupled with drought conditions that took place between mid-June until late July. To ameliorate that dry period, much of August was very rainy.

### 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 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.

### Harvest

After five weeks of summery weather, harvesting began on 24 September with the Merlot plants over two consecutive days, followed by the old Merlots along with the young Cabernet Sauvignon. Following this initial phase, we decided on a break of 3 or 4 days to make the most of the exceptional weather to fine-tune the ripeness of the old Cabernets. Harvesting was then restarted on Monday 6 October, with only 3 teams this year, that is 180 harvesters to allow them time to pick with precision. Harvesting finished on 11 October after 12 days instead of the 13 initially envisaged. During harvest, all the indicators of a great wine were present: Generous sugar levels enveloping abundant tannins, an intense colour and all nicely balanced by a lovely acidity.



<b>Maturation</b>	Aged in French oak barrels for 18 months (75% new wood)
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>Daring, innovative and with a reputation for often being the last to harvest, Jean-Charles Cazes defined the style of Lynch-Bages in the 1930's. The wine's distinctive character has earned it a place amongst Pauillac's greatest. It combines structure, finesse, and elegance, offering generous aromas in its youth and developing deeper complexities with bottle age.</p> <p>This Pauillac 5 cru classé is very expressive on black fruits such as blackcurrants with a delicate empyreumatic note due to its current ageing. The attack is frank on the palate. On the mid-palate, this wine is broad and strong; its tannic structure has fine, silky grains and perfectly extracted tannins. The finish is really long and closes on strong black fruit aromas. It is a fine Lynch-Bages with a great potential.</p>
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2019-2037
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>94 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p><b>92+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>96 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2016</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p><b>17+ points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p><b>91-94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p><b>18+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Gault &amp; Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This has an ample core of plum, fig and blackberry compote flavors, underlined liberally with graphite and smoldering tobacco notes. Fleshy and focused, with ample grip through the juniper- and tar-accented finish. Well-built. Best from 2023 through 2038.</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is packed with juicy currant, black cherry and blackberry fruit carried by warm stone and graphite notes. Offers lovely, sweet spice hints through the finish, which is fleshy and integrated. Really sappy and intense, yet the smooth structure lets it all glide through beautifully. Score range: 92-95"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2015 Lynch Bages offers up crushed black berries, black cherries and dried herbs with an earthy undercurrent. The medium-bodied palate is firm and taut with lively fruit and a chewy finish."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

## Reviews

*"The 2015 Lynch Bages is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot matured in 75% new oak. It has a really beautiful bouquet that builds on the promise that it showed out of barrel: blackberry, raspberry, graphite and a touch of violet—clean, precise and quite powerful, but it is the purity that really convinces you that this is a serious Lynch Bages. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, a gentle grip in the mouth and a keen thread of acidity. I find this to be an elegant Lynch Bages, not as ambitious or as profound as the nascent 2016, yet very feminine and stylish with a silky-smooth finish that is irresistible. Excellent. Anticipated maturity: 2022 - 2045."*

- NM, Wine Advocate

*"The 2015 Lynch Bages is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that was picked from 23 September until 2 October, matured in 75% new oak. There is an overwhelming sense of purity on the nose: perfumed, almost floral blackberry, wild strawberry, graphite, and cedar scents, unmistakably Pauillac in style. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, a keen citrus thread that impart tension and ample freshness. Tasting this as the first wine of the day, it instantly refreshes the mouth and leaves it tingling with energy after it has departed. This is an excellent, top-grade Lynch Bages that deserves 8-10 years in bottle and then will offer three decades of pleasure, maybe more."*

- NM, Wine Advocate

*"Brambly and attractive ripe blackberries and red-plum aromas with some floral accents, too. The palate has a very plush, polished, and regal shape as tannins frame up a core of ripe black fruit. Succulent, impressive finish. Best from 2022."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Very classic style Lynch with pretty ripe fruit and tannin balanced. Full body, firm, and chewy tannins yet polished and refined. Alcohol and fruit balance are lower than other top years and give this wine freshness and energy."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This vintage was ideal for the rich style that this estate has made its own. This wine is full bodied and ripe with black-currant and dark berry fruits. The tannins fall into the cushioned wine with ease and richness. Of course, the wine should be aged, so wait until 2026."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"94–96. Barrel Sample. This wine is sumptuous, ripe, and generously fruity. It has a black core of dry plum skin and spice. The richness is topped by acidity, forming a contrast with the tannic core."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Very dark, very sweet – seems simpler than the Ch Pichon Baron tasted immediately before. Maybe this shows how much they need a new chai? Fine and dense but there is a slight green note to this. "*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Two thirds of the crop. 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. Much deeper crimson. Minerals and spice - a very winning combo - on the nose. But bone dry on the end after some pretty dry tannins. Very solid but needs time. Drier than many vintages. Still pretty tight."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"This is a beautiful dark, rich purple colour, still with vivid en primeur edging. The nose is closed right now, and the tannins lend a certain austerity. After a few minutes, the loganberry and blackberry notes come through, along with liquorice and fresh mint leaf. Although the tannins remain insistent, the light begins to filter in. This is an excellent Lynch-Bages which displays the solid masculine frame that has become more apparent over the past few years. It's clearly going to age extremely well. 75% new oak."*

- JA, Decanter.com

## Reviews

*“Superb nose of black fruits showing exuberant ripeness. It’s very robust on the palate, a hallmark of Lynch-Bages, but a hint of silkiness and freshness remains. This has a good future ahead.”*

- SS, Decanter.com

*“Year in, year out, the Cazes make one of the most reliable classed growths, a wine that’s generally good value as well as a pleasure to drink. This intense, well-structured Pauillac is firm and quite oaky, but with plenty of dark berry fruit and acidity for balance. Drink: 2022-35.”*

- TA, timatkin.com

*“Another 2015 that has really stepped up in quality after the aging, this is a winner! Full bodied, concentrated, long, fresh, and vibrant, with a crunch and sweetness to the cassis and blackberry fruits, everything is tied together nicely with its accents of cedar, tobacco, and forest nuances. Like all the top vintages of Lynch Bages, this will require at least a decade of age before it really starts to show its all.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Hitting the top of my range, or even higher will be easy for this wine. Full bodied, concentrated, tannic, fresh and deep, with a lot of character, the wine will require at least a decade to come around.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The nose is quick to present tobacco, moist forest floor, smoke and vanilla. With a deep ruby color, this wine is fresh with a core of cassis, black cherry, earth, and a dollop of olive tapenade. The tannins are crisp and clean, leaving you with a gust of sweet cassis in the finish. Produced from 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, this wine is aging in 75% new, French oak barrels, reaching 13.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Deep and saturated look; colour tight to the edge; opaque centre; sweet ripe blackcurrant fruit; nicely layered and attractive; very nicely composed aromatics; cool blackcurrant fruit on the palate; plenty of flesh here; layered and intense; excellent balance. This is pretty cool stuff. Very impressive. [70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, 13.5% alc, 75% new oak]. Drink 2024-2035. Tasted 5/4/16 UGCB. 95-97”*

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

*“Lynch Bages is one of the most popular and reliable Châteaux of Bordeaux. Release prices of this archetypal Pauillac are usually modest compared to those that consumers are happy to pay for mature vintages. This much-loved Chateau, owned by the Cazes family for nearly a century, consistently makes one of our most demanded and biggest selling wines. Jean-Michel Cazes' son, Jean-Charles, is now in charge here and recent vintages have been amongst the best ever. The 2015 is made from 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Maturation in 75% new oak and 25% second year barrels. Jean-Charles is very happy with his 2015 and, whilst he agrees that this could resemble the great 1985 made here, he points out that the yield is 20% less than it was then and a third of the crop is now relegated to the second label - Echo de Lynch. A classic young Lynch Bages of true "Super-Second" quality. Deep purple colour. Pure, ripe blackcurrants and smoky barbecue on the nose show pure Cabernet fruit and toasted French oak. Hints of damson and coffee add a layer of intrigue to the aromatic profile. The palate is dense and expansive with initially pure cassis blooming into succulent black cherry, liquorice, nutmeg, and smoky new oak. The tannins are bold and firm but ripe and refined, giving a smooth, solid structure to hold the fruit. The finish is very long, and pure with cassis and a sheen of sweet vanilla and slight char. Long and complex.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“Concentrated black fruits the nose has depth the palate a rich mix of cassis and black cherry. There is mid sweetness with dark chocolate and liquorice behind the fruit the tannins are fine giving support. Impact on the back palate depth yet the finish has freshness purity and length.”*

- Derek Smedley MW

*“Attractive aromatics of cedar, violets and cassis. The palate is sumptuous, generous, and layered with dark berry flavors. Tannins are generous and well handled. A wonderful Lynch Bages with a fairly long finish.”*

- JCL, asianpalate.com

**Reviews** *“One of the finest Pauillac’s of 2015, Lynch-Bages is rich, racy and voluptuous. A rush of dark red and purplish stone fruit, mint, new leather, spice, and blood orange give the 2015 a very decidedly exotic character that is impossible to miss. Raspberry jam, mocha, new leather, and expressive floral notes appear with time in the glass, rounding things out nicely. Even though the 2015 is quite forward and open at this stage, the wine has plenty of stuffing as well as the underlying structure to support many years of exceptional drinking. This is a stellar showing for Lynch-Bages. 2025 – 2055.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“A total knock-out, the 2015 Lynch Bages is racy, sumptuous and super-expressive. Raspberry jam, mocha, dark spices, and leather flesh out as the 2015 shows off its broad, ample frame and inviting personality. The 2015 is a decidedly dark, flamboyant Lynch Bages with enough depth to drink well for several decades. Although a bit atypical, the 2015 Lynch Bages is nevertheless quite attractive.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The inky colored 2015 Château Lynch-Bages is a seriously impressive Pauillac that’s up with the crème de la crème of the appellation in 2015. Notes of ripe blackcurrants, caramelized cherries, tobacco leaf and a kiss of lead pencil all emerge from this textbook Pauillac that has medium to full-bodied richness, notable concentration, and building structure. Made from 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that saw 75% new barrels, it needs 5-7 years of cellaring and will be one of the longer-lived wines from the Médoc. 2023 – 2053”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The nose on this wine is amazing with dense, sweet oak and impressive Cabernet intensity. The palate is structured, full, dense, and very long. This is a serious Lynch-Bages with a singular message of forthright intent and I think it will live for an eternity. Not a massive wine in terms of its frame, this is, however, extremely concentrated, and pure and there is the wondrous 2015 spiciness in evidence, too.”*  
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

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