

Château Lynch Bages 2021

CSPC# 756474

750mlx6

13.14% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc
Appellation Pauillac
Classification Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855
Website <http://www.jmcazes.com/en/chateau-lynch-bages/grand-cru-classe>
Analysis Acidity: 3.8 g/l of H2SO4 pH: 3.72 TPI: 90
Sustainability Our approach to viticulture is sustainable in every respect: geolocated fertilisation, controlled weeding between the plots to regulate the vigour of the plant, prolonged resting of the soils by flowering fallow lands, and the use of environmentally friendly products is always encouraged.

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 The meteorological context in 2021 was complicated at times, marked by cool temperatures and a slight water deficit, resulting in a vintage that brought the expression of great “terroirs” to the front. The climatic conditions at the end of September allowed the Cabernets to reach perfect maturity, of a particular high quality. Alcohol by volume is moderate and back to classic levels, between 12.5 and 13.5% vol.

The wines offer a beautiful colour and have a good extractable anthocyanin content, despite the low temperature variations observed over the summer.

The ripening conditions and moderate water stress bring a powerful freshness and beautiful aromatic complexity, with very marked notes of fresh red fruits.

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 varietals, 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 Yield: 35 hl/ha. Harvest September 27 through to October 9.

Winemaking Malolactic fermentation took place in the new malolactic fermentation cellar, one third in vats and two thirds in barrels. At the end of November, we began our first blends. 18 months in French oak barrels (75% new wood).



Tasting Notes	2021 Lynch-Bages is smooth, elegant, well-balanced with a nice length and mellowed tannins. Plenty of fruit and liquorice to finish.
Serve with	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	24,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2026-2050
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - December 2023</p> <p>93+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Zekun Shuai, JamesSuckling.com - December 2023</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022</p> <p>17.5+ points - Tom Parker, JancisRobinson.com - November 2023</p> <p>95 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - November 2023</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Displays a nice mix of almost caressing black cherry and black currant paste flavors, with warm cast iron, sweet tobacco, and chestnut notes, showing just a nip of the vintage's austerity. Rock solid for the vintage, this offers a lively, savory edge that adds cut and energy. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2026 through 2040. 24,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Lynch-Bages is one of the vintage's bigger, broader-shouldered wines, offering up aromas of crème de cassis, plums, and spices, framed by a generous application of creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, dense, and chunky, with a velvety attack that segues into a layered core of fruit framed by generously extracted tannins, it concludes with a long, lusty finish. Fully 40 hectares of this estate is now cultivated organically, principally those parcels that adjoin the houses of Pauillac. As is almost invariably the case with this estate, it will repay a bit of patience."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The second vintage vinified in the Caze family's new winery, the 2021 Lynch-Bages unwinds in the glass with aromas of minty cassis, sweet berries, loamy soil, black truffle, and cigar wrapper, framed by nicely integrated new oak. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and muscular, it's a serious, layered, powerful, youthfully structured wine that will come together beautifully with maturation in barrel."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Lovely depth to the nose of this young Bordeaux with black currant, ink and walnut aromas that follow through to a medium to full body with a solid core of polished and integrated tannins. This will drink beautifully in 2026 and onwards."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is really cool to smell, with lead pencil shavings, iron filings and oyster shells. Blackcurrants, too. Full to medium body with layers of firm tannins, but a dusty and powdery texture, too. Lovely finish."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

Reviews *“The structure of this wine is the thing—with both power and density, it has weight and the richness associated with this property but in a lighter style proper to the vintage.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc. Deep ruby. Black fruit, liquorice, and a touch of black pepper on the nose – this is a brooding wine for the vintage. Chewy, mouth-coating tannins dominate the palate, this is a big, bold, and atypical wine for the vintage. Richer structure and more density than most. This is laced with the property’s individual character and is impressive. The acid profile of the vintage remains, but this is a very good effort. One that can be laid down in this vintage.

Drink 2029 – 2049.”

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

“Sweet blackcurrant fruit on the nose, softly jammy and expressive. You can really feel the ripeness here, grapes got full maturity, and this is plush, mouth filling and plump with chewy tannins - more opulent and perfumed than others also with more power and body. Tannins are mouth filling, and you get the stone minerality and the Cabernet freshness that really takes over giving this a sense of tension and grip. A really characterful and expressive Pauillac where the tannins and acidity perfectly compliment each other with the muscular and concentrated fruit also giving a multi-faceted dimension.”

- GH, Decanter.com

“Has the austerity that you want of a great Left Bank wine at the beginning of its life, with cool vintage savoury raspberry leaf, capsicum and peony. Tons of slate-textured tannins, not hugely concentrated which makes it an outlier of recent Lynch Bages vintages, but it's exceptionally well balanced, and has excellent appellation character, with cassis and blackberry fruits. A high tannin index of 90IPT. Harvest September 27 through to October 9. One of the best in Pauillac, finishing up with chewy tannins. 75% new oak.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“This is impressive, reduction on the first nose but it clears to show gentle smoked oak, bitter cocoa beans and liquorice, giving balance the fresh acidities that stud the blackberry and raspberry fruits. This is powerful, with a structure that feels similar to the 2014 or the 2008 - a little subdued and austere, but with ageing potential. A high tannin index of 90IPT. Harvest September 27 Lynch through to October 9. One of the best in Pauillac, finishing up with chewy tannins.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“Smoke, cedar, cigar box, cassis, spearmint, and spice nuances set the perfume where it needs to be. The palate, with its layers of vibrant, sweet, fresh, energetic, chewy fruits leaves a lasting impression. There is concentration, depth of flavor, chewiness, and length here that would make this a serious wine in a top vintage. But, with 2021, this is a tremendous success that exceeds the vintage. The wine blends 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc. The yields were low at 34 hectoliters per hectare. Drink from 2027-2050.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep and dark in color, the wine is packed with crème de cassis, tobacco leaf, currants, cigar box and forest floor. On the palate, the wine is fresh, bright, chewy, and crisp, with firm tannins. Classic in style, with an energetic, bright, savory-tinted finish, give it some time in the cellar before opening a bottle. 13.14% ABV. The yields were low at 34 hectoliters per hectare. Drink from 2027-2050.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2021 Lynch-Bages has a wonderful bouquet with intense blackberry and bilberry fruit, retaining the estuarine element I remarked upon from barrel. The oak here is seamlessly integrated and gains complexity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins, very supple and focused, a little more peppery toward the finish with impressive grip and depth in context of the vintage. This is a superb achievement in a tricky season. Chapeau, Jean-Charles Cazes.”

- NM, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2021 Lynch-Bages, picked at 34hL/ha and matured in 75% new oak for a planned 18 months, has an outstanding bouquet, beautifully defined and sensual, a mixture of black and blueberry fruit, very fragrant. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannins, good body and density, quite precise with a tensile finish. This fans out nicely on the finish. A very classy Lynch-Bages with echoes of Jean-Michel Cazes' classics from the late 80s."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2021 Lynch-Bages is rather sombre today. Black fruit, mocha, liquorice and chocolate are all amplified in this decidedly muscular wine from a cool year. This is a distinctly cool-climate Lynch-Bages built on power, with less of its usual flash. Drink 2031 – 2061."

- AG, Vinous

"One of the most concentrated wines in the vintage, the inky hued 2021 Château Lynch-Bages is based on 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, raised in 75% new oak. It offers ample smoked black fruits, graphite, leather, and an undeniable sense of minerality. It has the firmer tannins of the vintage yet brings beautiful mid-palate depth, has medium-bodied richness, perfectly integrated oak, and terrific overall balance. This is one of the few 2021s where the cellar is going to really be required, which shouldn't surprise any long-term fans of this château. Hide bottles for 5-7 years and enjoy over the following two decades. The 2021 hit 13.14% alcohol, has a pH of 3.72, and a massive IPT (the amount of tannins) of 90."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"The Grand Vin 2021 Château Lynch-Bages ratchets up everything, offering a rich, powerful, almost full-bodied style as well as gorgeous notes of blackcurrants, smoked tobacco, spice, and hints of cassis. It might be the biggest, richest wine in the vintage and has a great mid-palate, impressive density, building tannins, and a great, great finish."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"This is an astonishing wine given it shows ostentatious, richly-layered Cabernet fruit, and yet it only registers 13.1% alcohol. It feels more like a 14.5%, such is the succulent texture and lusty depth of fruit. In addition, there is plushness balanced by invigorating spiciness, and the overall experience is indulgent and downright delicious. Somewhat of an anomaly in a vintage of rather tender and ethereal wines, it is to be congratulated on maintaining its identity despite Mother Nature's challenges. 18.5+."

- Matthew Jukes

"Deep dark ruby core, core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the rim. Aromas of sweet spicy oak, a touch of dark nougat, black morello cherries and nuances of liquorice. Complex, juicy, fine cassis support bold tannins on the palate with an impressive length and fresh finish. Secured of substantial ageing potential."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is fresh, elegant, precise, delicate and reveals a nice purity of fruit, a fine controlled concentration. We find notes of pulpy boysenberry, juicy blackcurrant and more slightly fleshy/pulpy cherry combined with fine touches of violet, graphite, pulpy berries as well as discreet hints of nutmeg, sweet spices and a subtle touch of vanilla. The palate is fruity and offers freshness, a nice minerality, an acidic backbone, good definition, an airy balance, a little stretch, and a certain purity of fruit. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy blackberry, fleshy/crushed blackcurrant and more slightly pulpy red berries combined with hints of fleshy strawberry, chocolate, toastiness, a discreet hint of toasted hazelnut, a subtle hint of mocha, smoke, and a subtle hint of salinity. The tannins are elegant and racy."

- Vert de Vin
