

Blanc de Lynch Bages 2013

CSPC# 742334

750mlx6

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

66% Sauvignon Blanc, 12% Semillon, 22% Muscadelle
Pauillac
5th Cru Classé

<http://www.lynchbages.com/en/the-wines/blanc-de-lynch-bages>

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 Located to the west of Pauillac, our white vineyard saw a late flowering, due to its cooler, more clayey terroir. At the end of July, we noted a reasonable grape load on the vines, with homogeneous clusters that were evenly distributed over the vine stocks, especially the Muscadelle and Semillon.

Maturity checks at the end of August revealed good sanitary conditions with a moderate increase in alcoholic strength. The rains in early September forced us to pick the leaves on the second side and to carry out a sanitary removal of the immature clusters. This finally allowed us to put back the picking by around ten days.

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.

There is also a 6-hectare plot of white vines established by Jean-Michel in 1990. Lying further inland than the red vineyards, this plot comprises 53% Sauvignon Blanc (a recent increase), 32% Semillon and 15% Muscadelle (both reined in a little in recent years).

Harvest Harvesting began on 19 September 19th - 2 weeks later than usual - and ended on 26 September with the last of the Sauvignon boasting between 12.5 and 13% alcohol by volume, and a steady acidity, but only a modest yield (30 hl/ha).

**Vinification/
Maturation** After settling, the bulk of the white harvest was divided into new and one-wine barrels, whilst one third went into stainless steel vats. Gentle fermentations at low temperatures revealed fresh, striking aromas. From November onwards, ageing was optimised by the twice weekly « stirring » of the lees thanks to our new system of individual barrel rotation. The wines thus spend the winter stabilizing and being refined. After 6 months of maturing in wood (50% new), the wine was pumped over in vats for fining and put into barrels in the spring.

Tasting Notes The 2013 like all late-harvest vintages, is an excellent vintage for white wines. Blanc de Lynch-Bages couples both floral and fruity aromas, a generous mid palate and a long finish. Aromas of fresh and exotic fruits from Sauvignon Blanc, dried and candied fruits and white flowers from Sémillon and delicate woody and vanilla notes from Muscadelle come together to make this complex Lynch-Bages White. The palate balances freshness and strength with a round, ample yet elegant structure. Characteristic of fine Bordeaux whites, Lynch-Bages White is lively and explosive in its early youth and retains impressive length on the palate for the duration of its life.



Serve with	Goes well with appetizer course of shellfish, oysters (especially), or cheese and fruit.
Cellaring	Drink
Scores/Awards	<p>87-90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014</p> <p>89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2014</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2014</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2014</p> <p>90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2014</p> <p>90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2014</p> <p>92 points - Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants - April 2014</p> <p>87 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Friendly, with shortbread, toasted macadamia nut and straw notes all mingling through the light, herb-tinged finish. Score range: 87-90."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A blend of 54% Sauvignon Blanc, 28% Semillon and 18% Muscadelle raised 50% in new oak, this has a fragrant bouquet with scents of apple peel, dried apricot and a hints of white peach that is well defined. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, nicely integrated oak, which then eases off the accelerator towards the finish. Tasted April 2014."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"This is super-fresh and mineral with oyster shell and salt. Full body with dried lemons and hints of mango. Long and fresh. Crazy grapefruit. Tangy and energetic. 92 - 93/100"</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Really substantial dry white with the Sémillon component particularly obvious. Some 'mineral' quality. Well done and drinking well in July 2015. (14-Jul-2015)"</i> - JR, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"The showy perfume pops with melon, flowers, cantaloupe and grapefruit, segueing into a bright wine that's light in color and filled with fresh citrus. Drink this medium-bodied wine young. 90 Pts"</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"Lovely aromatics of apricots, fresh lime and pomelo notes. Lively acidity on this white; elegant wine with a fairly long finish. Well-made white from Lynch Bages - much better than their reds this year. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (01-Apr-2014)"</i> - JCL, asianpalate.com</p> <p><i>"They've done it again here - this rates as one of the most delicious whites from Bordeaux this year and frankly compared by price it stands out for value (always accepting that white Bordeaux is not synonymous with value in my mind). Lovely harmonious nose, fresh and full and crisp, with none of the awkward excessively green Sauvignon flavours that bedevil many of this year's whites, just sweet citrus and peel and a touch of tropical exoticism. Really nicely integrated wood spice and a very jolly fatness - great fun. 92"</i> - Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants</p>
