

Blanc de Lynch Bages 2016

CSPC# 742334

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	52% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Semillon, 18% Muscadelle
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	5th Cru Classé
Website	http://www.lynchbages.com/en/the-wines/blanc-de-lynch-bages
General Info	<p>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.</p>
Winemakers	Jerome Le Roux, Daniel Llose
Vintage	<p>The weather conditions for the 2016 vintage – wet during crop growth and summery during ripening – were favourable for the quality of the white grapes located in the cool soils of Saint-Sauveur. At the end of August, all parameters were just right for ensuring the future success of dry white wines, especially in the Médoc. Successive water stress phases, combined with high temperatures, concentrated the juice and eliminated the sometimes-herbaceous properties of the Sauvignon Blanc.</p>
Vineyards	<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>
Harvest	<p>Three maturity controls were carried out on 31 August, 7 then 12 September, and the grape shears cut the first Muscadelle grapes in brilliant sunshine at the first light of dawn on Tuesday 13 September. Quite rapidly, we also began harvesting the Sauvignon Blanc, our main white grape varietal, and finished with the Sémillon. After a break, we resumed picking on Monday 19 September, and ended the next day. In total, it took five mornings of picking and about 50 pickers to complete the harvest.</p>
Vinification/ Maturation	<p>New barrels media, having a feature to allow individual rotation thereof, are installed to optimize the aging on lees. This system has the advantage of putting the lees in suspension by simple rotation airtight situation. Oxidation is limited and preserved aromatic freshness throughout the breeding.</p> <p>70% aged in 43% new oak barrels, 30% aged in stainless steel tanks.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>The Blanc de Lynch-Bages 2016, with its pale robe and green hues, is radiant in both the nose and mouth. It combines with finesse notes of citrus and exotic fruits with subtle spicy notes (vanilla, etc.). On the palate, the fresh attack increases in magnitude thanks to great Sémillon grapes. Its finish offers a remarkable aromatic persistence.</p>
Serve with	Goes well with appetizer course of shellfish, oysters (especially), or cheese and fruit.
Cellaring	Drink now till 2028



Scores/Awards **90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018
87-90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017
91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018
88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 28, 2017
95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2017
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 6, 2017
94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 29, 2017
16+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2017
88-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017
89 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019
88 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017
91 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2019

Reviews *"Delivers piercing purity, featuring lime pith, quinine, white peach and fennel notes streaming through on a tight balance beam, with mouthwatering fleur de sel details echoing on the finish. Will develop a touch but appealing at this current stage. This has knit nicely since the barrel tasting. Drink now through 2022."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Open, with modest lime, thyme and white asparagus notes. Quick finish. Score range: 87-90"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2016 Blanc de Lynch-Bages delivers notions of ripe apples, spiced pears and lemon pie with touches of lime zest and crushed rocks. Medium-bodied with super intensity in the mouth, it has a seriously zesty palate and a long refreshing finish."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 Blanc de Lynch Bages had been bottled the week before I tasted it. A blend of 52% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Sémillon and 18% Muscadelle. It has a straightforward bouquet with citrus lemon, grapefruit and touch of yellow flowers. The palate is well balanced with crisp acidity, taut and linear with pink grapefruit and touches of quince, a nice touch of sour lemon lending some tension towards the finish. Drink over the next three or four years."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"This is really excellent with sliced apples, lemon rind, minerals and stones. Medium to full body, vivid and energetic acidity and a long and powerful, almost mineral finish. Wow."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"52% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Sémillon, 18% Muscadelle. Picked mainly after the rains of 13 September. 45% new oak. Pungent with a slightly rich palate entry and then masses of crispness. Really quite tight on the end. Racy and lots of tension, with none of the flab of some dry whites in 2016."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"This offers more proof that the whites in the Médoc have resisted the heat of August. The pH here is 3.01, and certainly the impression in the glass is of beautiful freshness with a creamy mid-palate of white peaches, honeysuckle and gentle citrus sorbet. Fermented at a low temperature in a combination of stainless steel, one-year old barrels and 45% new oak with a very light toast, this is very delicate and extremely pretty. A blend of 52% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Semillon and 18% Muscadelle. (JA)
- JA, Decanter.com

"It's easy to forget how good this white wine can be, especially in a year when Lynch-Bages' reds are so spectacular. But this is delicious: zesty, stony and saline, with subtle oak and lees and crunchy acidity. The hint of flinty, struck match adds further complexity. 2017-22"
- TA, timatkin.com

Reviews *“Crisp, fresh, citrus, flowers, lime and green apple notes, with a round, sweet, appealing, crunchy, yellow citrus finish are what you'll find here.”*
JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“A small quantity (under 1000 cases) of white wine is made at Lynch Bages. Aged in 50% new oak for a few months with bottling in late Spring 2017 and delivery in the Autumn. 52% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Semillon and 18% Muscadelle this year, with 45% new oak for 6 months. 20,000 bottles will be produced. Spicy and zingy with lemon fruits on the nose. The palate has a fresh, grapey character and a clean stone fruit and zesty citrus finish. As always this is vibrant, juicy and spicy with lovely approachability.”

- Farr Vintners

“Crisp and crunchy the palate starts with racy freshness. The crispness is underpinned by slightly sweeter tropical fruits lighter at the back with a firm mineral finish. 2019-30”

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2016 Blanc de Lynch Bages has a delightful brioche-scented bouquet with subtle lime flower aromas and hints of frangipane. The palate is well balanced with a fine thread of acidity. A touch of toffee apple and lychee emerges toward the nicely composed finish. Very fine. Drink 2020-2028”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Lynch-Bages Blanc is a tasty, crisp white to drink now and over the next year or so, while the citrus peel and floral notes retain their brightness. All things considered, the Blanc shows good freshness for the year, with the extra kick of tropical, exotic fruit that the Muscadelle brings to the blend. The composition is 52% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Sémillon and 18% Muscadelle.”

- AG, Vinous

“The light gold-colored 2016 Blanc de Lynch Bages has a classic, honeyed minerality and white grapefruit perfume that's followed by a clean, medium-bodied, vibrant white that's already drinking beautifully. Drink 2019-2027.”

- JB, JebDunnuk.com
