

Blanc de Lynch Bages 2017

CSPC# 742334

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	40% Sauvignon, 41% Sémillon, 19% 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 white grapes, located on the cool soils of Saint-Sauveur, experienced contrasting weather conditions, alternating rainfall/drought and hot/cool temperatures. After a particularly dry winter, a relatively early bud break marked the beginning of the growing season. The frost episodes at the end of April affected in particular two plots of Sauvignon Blanc (out of a total of nine plots).</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>After two maturity controls carried out on 22 and 30 August, harvesting began on 5 September with a traditional first sorting of Muscadelle. The time then quickly came to harvest the Sauvignon Blanc, our main white varietal, then finally the Sémillon. Harvest took place over four days, ending before the rain began to fall in mid-September. The sanitary state, however, was exemplary, allowing us to pick the Muscadelle and Sémillon at full maturity. The rich and aromatic berries retained a remarkable freshness.</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>6 months in barrels on lees (45% new wood)</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>Blanc de Lynch-Bages 2017 is a pale-yellow colour with green hues and has a particularly expressive nose. The wine delivers lovely liveliness on the palate, offering complex aromas of peach and white fruit with exotic notes. It stands out for its freshness, characteristic of the vintage.</p>
Serve with	Goes well with appetizer course of shellfish, oysters (especially), or cheese and fruit.
Production	< 1000 cases
Cellaring	Drink now till 2023



Scores/Awards **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020
90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018
92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2019
95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020
93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018
95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020
16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017
93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018
92-94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018
15 points - Farr Vintner - April 2018
89-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018
87 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020
88-90 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018
92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2018
92-94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018

Reviews *"Peach, white ginger, jasmine and quince notes mingle in this juicy, offbeat white. Streaks of honeysuckle and orange blossom show on the finish. Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc and Muscadelle. Drink now through 2023."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"A pure, bracing style, with jicama, white peach and honeysuckle notes. Shows a long fleur de sel edge on the finish. High-pitched and lovely."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2017 Blanc de Lynch Bages, already bottled, is a blend of 41% Sémillon, 40% Sauvignon Blanc and 19% Muscadelle. It leaps from the glass with exuberant notes of white peaches, pink grapefruit and passion fruit plus hints of dried herbs, cedar and honeysuckle. Medium-bodied, elegantly played and wonderfully refreshing in the mouth, it has a quiet intensity that grows into a vibrant expression on the finish."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Lots of spiced pears and lemon rind with lemon-grass and stone undertones. Gun flint. Full body and dense, creamy texture. Phenolic. Pure with lively acidity. Really lively at the end! A blend of 41% Semillon, 40% sauvignon blanc and 19% Muscadelle. Drink or hold."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A dense and fresh white at the same time with cooked apples, lemon rind and minerals. Bright and vivid yet shows depth and seriousness. Phenolic and vivid. Hints of fresh herbs. Drink or hold."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This concentrated, dense wine follows the estate's hallmark richness. Solid and generous, it has both weight and layers of fresh acidity. *Cellar Selection* (RV)"*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"40% Sauvignon Blanc, 41% Sémillon, 19% Muscadelle (some frost in the Sauvignon Blanc – usually it's in the majority and there's usually less Muscadelle). 50% barrel-fermented but it doesn't show much. A little grapey and floral on the nose. Creamy with strong clementine flavours on the palate. Not typically Bordeaux Blanc, perhaps, but fragrant, almost exotic. Fresh and lively. Not terribly concentrated but pretty and scented and there is some depth with the lees adding a very slight grip and a light spice on the finish, more in texture than flavour. There's a range of flavours rather than intensity. (JH)"
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Utterly gorgeous freshness and zip, with intensity of flavour. It has a little more Sémillon than usual, due to frost affect the Sauvignon Blanc, which seems to mean the aromatics of the Muscadelle are a little more prominent than a classic Lynch Bages Blanc, adding a white flower honeysuckle lift. It is beautiful and works within the cascade of flavours, although I miss their more classic blend - they probably do too, to be fair. Already bottled. 45% new oak. Harvested 4 September to 8 September. Drinking Window 2019 – 2030"
- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews *“Warm creamy hints of lime and pastry. Flowers and some very ripe rhubarb aromas. Grassy grapefruit and citrus pip/pith complexity. Deep baked lime and fresh floral complexity. Very good. Needs the oak it is about to get to round out and soften. Barrel Sample: 92-94”*

- TA, timatkin.com

“Vanilla, citrus, lime and green apple create a fresh, bright, citrus-filled package. Vibrant pomelo sticks with you through the refreshing finish.”

JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“With some frost in the Sauvignon Blanc vines, the quantity is smaller than ever here at under 1000 cases. The blend is 40% Sauvignon Blanc, 41% Semillon and 19% Muscadelle. It was aged briefly in 45% new oak before bottling in March 2018. It will be available for delivery in September 2018. Bright and zesty on the nose with gooseberry and lemons. The palate is almost grapey, with a ripe yet tangy fruit profile and brisk acidity. This is mineral and fragrant, with a moreish approachability that should make this delicious, easy drinking from release.”

- Farr Vintners

“The nose has a floral fragrant fresh fruited charm the start of the palate citrus driven minty freshness. Richer in the middle and towards the back more tropical fruit in character with a fresh fruited mix giving brightness on the finish. 2020-27”

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2017 Blanc de Lynch Bages is aged for 6 months in 45% new oak on the lees. It has a tightly wound bouquet at first that opens with time. Golden Delicious mixed with pear and a touch of sea spray, though I would like a little more delineation. The palate is nicely balanced with pear and nectarine notes. It needs just a tad more tension and complexity on the finish. I can't help thinking that a partial malo would have just given another dimension here. 2019 – 2024”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 Blanc de Lynch Bages, which was slightly affected by frost, especially the Sauvignon Blanc, had been bottled the previous week. A blend of 40% Sauvignon Blanc, 41% Sémillon and 19% Muscadelle and matured in 45% new oak, it has a fresh green apple and gooseberry scented bouquet with the Sauvignon firmly in charge. The palate is well balanced with a fine thread of acidity, touches of grapefruit, melon and pineapple leading to a slightly blank but fresh finish that will need a year in bottle to develop more personality. 2019 – 2023”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 Lynch-Bages Blanc is gorgeous. It is also quite unique, as the blend includes more Sémillon than normal as a result of frost damage to some of the Sauvignon Blanc. I admit I am not usually a fan of the Blanc here, but the 2017 is terrific.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2017 Lynch Bages is beautifully done and has an upfront, charming, yet concentrated style. Crème de cassis, graphite, crushed rocks, and plenty of spice characteristics give way to a medium to full-bodied Pauillac that has beautifully ripe tannin, solid mid-palate depth, and notable purity of fruit. It's not massive but just sings for its purity, balance, and expansive texture.”

- JD, JebDunnuk.com