

Château Lynch Moussas 2016

CSPC# 864616

750mlx12

12.5 % alc./vol.

Grape Variety	83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	5th Grand Cru Classé - classified in 1855
Website	https://www.lynch-moussas.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/web_lynchmoussas2016_en.pdf
General Info	The Château was founded in the 18th century by a member of the Lynch Family. We can trace the origin of the "Moussas" name back to the 16th century. In 1919 the property was purchased by the Castéja family, at that time also owner of Duhart-Milon and later was inherited by Emile Castéja. Philippe Castéja, Emile Castéja's son, has been in charge of the property and its vineyards since. Château Lynch-Moussas is a typical Pauillac exhibiting a dark colour, a fruitful bouquet, a lot of softness with ripe tannins.
Winemakers	Philippe Castéja. Denis Dubourdieu- consultant
Vintage	<p>In 2016, there were two main trends in the weather as we experienced it in Pauillac:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– a very wet winter and spring: more than half of the annual rainfall came in the first four months of the year, including a record 240 mm in January;– an extremely dry summer and autumn without any significant rainfall, resulting in a water deficit at the end of the year. <p>As a consequence of the summer drought, the grapes were numerous but remained rather small, making for density and concentration. High temperatures in August and September allowed for slow ripening and excellent maturity, so that the harvest started with the Merlot on 26 September and continued in perfect conditions until 14 October.</p> <p>In the vat house, each grape variety and each plot were, as usual, vinified separately in order to let their intrinsic character shine through. The wines, which have now been blended, offer remarkable colour, intense fruit and spice aromas and a dense texture of very rich and well-rounded tannins. Its density and substance make the 2016 vintage comparable with the finest so far this century.</p>
Vineyards	Chateau Lynch-Moussas' wine originates from the estate's 57 hectares of vineyards morcellated through the commune of Pauillac. The soil for these vineyards is typical of the Pauillac consisting mostly of gravel over a limestone subsoil. The vines are divided between Cabernet Sauvignon (72%) and Merlot (25%).
Harvest	Harvested between 3 and 19 October.
Vinification/ Maturation	15 to 20 days of fermentation in thermo regulated stainless steel tanks. Aged in French oak barrels (about 50 % of new barrels) for 18 months.
Tasting Notes	Purple color. Expressive nose with fruity (blackberry, blackcurrant), floral, exotic wood, cedar and tobacco perfumes. On the palate, this wine is fresh, fruity, lively, with very elegant, deep, and high-quality tannins. Long finish.
Serve with	Risotto with ceps, leg of lamb, beef fillet, doe stew, mutton chops.
Production	15,000 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2023 - 2024
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>89-91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 2017</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2020</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p>



Scores/Awards **88 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - January 2016
87-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017
92+ points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019
91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2019
91 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2019
93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019
91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - April 2017
93 points - Falstaff Magazine - May 2017
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2020
16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

Reviews *"A restrained style, with a sanguine note leading off for a mix of gently mulled damson plum, loganberry and red currant fruit flavors. Supple in feel, with perfumy cedar and alder notes guiding the finish. Not as vivacious as the top examples, but some folks will prefer this style. Best from 2023 through 2034. 15,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This is alluring, with a coating of warm vanilla bean over a core of gently steeped plum and blackberry fruit. Shows a light woody streak through the finish. Not as vivacious as the top wines, but solid. Score Range: 88-91"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2016 Lynch Moussas is a blend of 17% Merlot and 83% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped at 48 hectoliters per hectare between 3 and 19 October. Matured in 60% new oak and the remainder one year old, this has a concentrated bouquet that offers tobacco-infused black fruit, briary and then with aeration, veins of pencil lead. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin cloaked in plenty of black fruit, quite spicy for Lynch Moussas with a touch of orange rind developing towards the finish. I appreciate the salinity on the aftertaste here. This is excellent and may well surpass the impressive 2015 last year. Drink 2022 - 2045."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"Aromas of currants, mushrooms and dried fruit. Full body, round and lightly chewy tannins and a long, fresh finish. Nice, earthy complexity at the end. Needs two to three years to soften. Better after 2022."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This smoky wine offers a fresh black-currant flavor and attractive acidity. It is well balanced, with good synergy between fruit and the structure. While it is not a blockbuster, it is ripe, fruity, and likely to age well. Drink from 2024."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"92-94. Barrel Sample. This is one of those estates showing a new era of quality. The wine has power while keeping everything in balance. Acidity and black currant fruit are just as important as the structure. Drink after 2026."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Tasted blind. Looks quite evolved. Smells quite evolved. Not very serious but very forward and well judged. Drink 2023 - 2030."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Deeply coloured with a slightly smoky edge to the oak, this is a very good Lynch-Moussas full of Pauillac character of dark fruits and graphite. 60% new oak complements the blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Merlot, cropped to a yield of 48hl/ha. One of the best I remember at this property"
- JA, Decanter.com

"Medium-bodied, with smoke, thyme, mint and bright red fruits on the nose, the wine is medium bodied, fresh, crisp and just a tiny bit herbal in the finish, giving you a classic Pauillac profile."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Cassis, tobacco, cedar and blackberry sensations offer freshness, sweet fruits and soft tannins. The wine is medium bodied and with a few years of age it will be ready to drink."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“The nose has depth the start of the palate a powerful mix of black fruits. Lighter in the middle quite fresh with bramble and bilberry and although the tannins are firm, they feel ripe. At the back there is rich fruit, yet it finishes firm and slightly tight. 2026-38.”*

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2016 Lynch-Moussas has a clean, pure bouquet of slightly meaty black fruit, quite harmonious if not as complex as the Batailley. The palate is well balanced, with mint-infused black fruit, tobacco, and sage. I like the density of this Pauillac, which is focused and elegant yet classic on the finish. I suspect it will improve in bottle. Drink 2022-2045.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Château Lynch-Moussas is a fine Pauillac and has a pretty, classic, elegant style that’s very much in the character of the vintage. Ruby-colored, with notes of tobacco, leafy herbs, and graphite, it has fine tannins and, again, an undeniable elegance and classic style. Drink it over the coming 15-20 years. “

- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 Château Lynch-Moussas is a fine Pauillac and has a pretty, classic, elegant style that’s very much in the character of the vintage. Ruby-colored, with notes of tobacco, leafy herbs, and graphite, it has fine tannins and, again, an undeniable elegance and classic style. Drink it over the coming 15-20 years. Drink 2019-2039.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark ruby garnet, opaque core, subtle lightening of the edges, some nougat and caramel, dark berry confit, a hint of dried fruit. Juicy and sweet, delicately reminiscent of black olives, integrated tannins, good sweetness, overall, a bit wide-meshed, dark nougat in the finish, has some potential for development, finish dominated by wood.”

- Falstaff Magazine
