

Château Lynch Bages 2009

CSPC# 749583

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

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| Grape Variety | 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot |
| Appellation | Pauillac |
| 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> |
| Vintage | <p>Things are looking extremely auspicious for the 2009 vintage: good rainfall levels, plenty of sunshine, cool nights alternating with warm days, a superb September, and lovely fine weather during harvest. The maturity and sanitary state of the grapes were perfect, and the wines are rich and concentrated but well balanced. These all point to a vintage at least equal to or even better than that of 2005, perhaps even approaching the great vintages of the 40s...</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>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| Harvest | Monday, September 28, 2009 - Monday, October 12, 2009 |
| Maturation | Aged in French oak barrels for 15 months (70% new wood) |
| Tasting Notes | <p>Very powerful and well-balanced. The colour is deep and the nose reflects the sunny growing season with remarkable ripeness and overtones of blackcurrant and black fruit. The wine starts out unctuous and straightforward on the palate with impressively concentrated, elegant tannin accompanied by plenty of body.</p> <p>2009 Lynch-Bages has a rich and opulent flavour enhanced by fresh acidity that contributes to perfect balance and an incredibly long aftertaste.</p> |
| Production | 31,500 cases made |
| Cellaring | Drink 2015-2035 |



Scores/Awards **96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012
96-99 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
98 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012
94-96+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #196 - August 2011
94-96+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188 - April 2010
95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010
97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - Web Only 2012
96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010
93 (+?) points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July 2012
90-93 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010
18 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2011
16.5-17.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010
18 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010
92 points/17 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010

Reviews *"Tight and backward, this has dense, almost chewy layers of fig, currant and plum cake behind a very solid wall of cedar, roasted vanilla and charcoal notes. There's serious grip on the finish, with an iron edge that won't quit. Best from 2015 through 2035. 31,500 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The nose shows amazing aromas of mint, spices and currant, with underlying licorice and tar. Full-bodied, with amazing fruit and a long, long finish. Powerful. Blockbuster, but balanced. So structured. Lynch has not made a wine like this since perhaps 1989 or 1982. Better than Wine of the Year 1985 Lynch. Score range: 96-99"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Performing even better from bottle than it did from barrel, this appears to be the finest Lynch Bages since the 2000, 1990 and 1989. According to the chateau, the 2009 has the highest level of polyphenols ever measured as well as high alcohol (nearly 13.5%). A blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest largely Merlot with touches of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, it is an expressive, voluptuously textured effort with unctuousity and powerful, juicy, succulent blackberry and black currant flavors, low acids, a layered, massive mouthfeel, but no sense of heaviness or fatigue. This exquisite Lynch Bages should drink well for 30+ years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The black/purple-tinged 2009 exhibits a glorious perfume of graphite, black currants, and subtle smoke, powerful, thick, unctuously textured flavors, huge yet sweet tannins, fabulous purity, and a finish that lasts 40-45 seconds. Five to eight years of patience will be required, but this is a 30-40-year wine from this popular estate run by the affable and highly respected Cazes family."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The highest levels of polyphenols ever measured at Lynch Bages (20% higher than any prior vintage) are found in the 2009, which achieved 13.4% natural alcohol, and a normal pH of 3.64. Composed of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, it is the greatest Lynch Bages since the outstanding duo of 1989 and 1990. The black/purple-tinged 2009 exhibits a glorious perfume of graphite, black currants, and subtle smoke, powerful, thick, unctuously textured flavors, huge yet sweet tannins, fabulous purity, and a finish that lasts 40-45 seconds. Five to eight years of patience will be required, but this is a 30-40-year wine from this popular estate run by the affable and highly respected Cazes family. (Tasted three times.)"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru and then in Hong Kong. The Lynch Bages 2009 is quite backwards on the nose, taking time to open up with blackberry, cedar and graphite developing, but remaining tightly coiled. The palate is medium bodied with a supple entry, more approachable than I was anticipating with supple, silky tannins. Good acidity, although I would like to see more structure on the finish. Very fine and classical, with an unerring sense of symmetry. Tasted November 2011."
- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews

"Tasted at the chateau and UGC. A blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, raised in 70% new oak. Merlot was cropped from the 28th to 30th September and the Cabernet Sauvignon was picked from the 6th to the 12th October. The nose soars from the glass, pure blackberry, briary, pencil lead and a touch of tobacco. Very fine definition: reminiscent of the 2006 but with a little more horsepower. The palate is full-bodied with very well integrated new oak that really sings with the concentrated black fruit and does not disguise the minerality in this wine. Tons of freshness, that acidity really driving the wine to the finish and then the persistency is superb. Still very linear, with a strictness that is seductive. Tasted March 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Wow. Intense aromas of blackberries, currants and blueberries, follow through to a full body, with wonderful fruit and ultra-fine tannins. Fabulous Lynch. One of the top buys of the vintage. Best since 1989. I think that 2010 is probably better. Try in 2020."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A dense, immense, solidly powerful wine. The ripest fruit overflows, paralleling the dark, solid tannins. As so often, Lynch-Bages is a blockbuster, dark and concentrated, with immense aging potential."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"95-97 Barrel sample. Concentrated and dense, the fruit here is powered by blackberry and cranberry tannins, as well as by the spicy wood. The wine is solid and firm, obviously powerful"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright ruby-red. Very pure, perfumed aromas of blackberry and licorice. Dense, generous and deep if youthfully tightly wound, with sweet black fruit flavors nicely framed by sound acidity. Finishes with serious tannic clout and complex saline and peppery notes. An extremely backward and very impressive Lynch Bages for serious cellaring."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"(a blend of 76% cabernet sauvignon, 18% merlot, 4% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot; 13.4% alcohol; pH 3.64; 93 IPT) Inky purple. Sexy, forward aromas of red cherry, cassis, minerals and violet; very Pauillac. Then rich and lush, with impressive volume to its ripe, creamy strawberry, cedar and chocolate flavors. As full and sweet as this is, it can seem almost chunky at first, but thanks to harmonious acids, which nicely extend the flavors on the back, it does not leave any impression of excess weight. In fact, this finishes rather easygoing, even though serious tannins are present to provide adequate backbone and aging potential. A classic example of an '09 Bordeaux that will be ready to drink far sooner than usual but should also hold up well for another 20 years after that."

- ID, International Wine Cellar

"A bit reminiscent of the obvious oak on the same producer's BBR Graves on the nose but with lovely fresh, supple fruit on the palate and an appetising dry finish. Lively, not quite as opulent as you might expect."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Dense purple red, concentrated Cabernet cassis plus rich spiciness, big volume on the palate, expressive elegance over the natural vigour, lifted and long."

- SS, Decanter.com

"An exotic, spiced nose, showing some barrel influence of course but there is undeniably a wealth of ripe fruit here, with rich, deep, savoury and complex nuances. The palate is beautiful and truly very convincing. There is an elegant substance and flesh, and yet a lifted delicacy to it all, with the fine-boned presence of tannin together with fresh acidity. The finish is savoury, long and intricate. A very convincing vintage for Lynch-Bages, and one of the best showings at two years of age that I can recall in recent years. Delicious style and superb potential. From a tasting of 2009 Bordeaux at two years of age. 18/20 (October 2011)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

Reviews *“A deep and glossy appearance, with a crimson-blue rim. Very dark fruit on the nose, dark berries, and forest fruits, all with a sweet and slightly gritty character. On the palate a very sweet depth of fruit to match, creamed forest berries, velvety tannins, with lots of grip and spice. The acidity takes a backseat here, and overall it seems very open and approachable now. All the same, very good. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 16.5-17.5+/20 (March 2010)”*
- CK, *The Wine Doctor*

“Showing a lovely intense color with a fruity, fresh, ripe and slightly discreet nose, this wine performs wide on entry, and then develops mellow and full. It evolves powerful and tasty, with flavors and a fine tannic coating. This 2009 Lynch Bages finishes over an exceedingly fine and complex expression of classic weaving. Alcohol content: 13.4% - pH: 3,64 - IPT: 93 - A blend of 76 % cabernet sauvignon, 18 % merlot, 4 % cabernet franc and 2 % petit verdot. 92”
- J-MQ

“Deeply coloured, aromatic and impressive, this is a powerful wine, with lots of extraction, firm tannins and plenty of new oak. The wine finishes a little dry (which is why it doesn't get 94 points or more), but it has masses of fruit, so I expect it to come together in barrel and bottle. 15+ years”
- TA, timatkin.com
