

# Château Lynch Bages 2017

CSPC# 756474

750mlx6

13.2% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Pauillac
<b>Classification</b>	Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.jmcazes.com/en/chateau-lynch-bages/grand-cru-classe">http://www.jmcazes.com/en/chateau-lynch-bages/grand-cru-classe</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<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>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Jean Michel Cazes
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>While the 2017 vintage began with a very dry winter, temperatures were very mixed, with a very cool January and a rather mild February. Thus, bud break began around March 20th for the earliest Merlots. By mid-April phenological stages were on average ten days ahead of 2016, similar to the vintage of 2014.</p> <p>The last two weeks of April saw two episodes of heavy morning frost in the Bordeaux vineyard. However, thanks to the proximity of the Estuary, our red grapes were not affected and produced satisfactory yields.</p> <p>The first flowers appeared ten days earlier than the average dates recorded over the past twenty years, and flowering and fruit set occurred in very favourable conditions. Early summer saw high temperatures while water stress became apparent, notably on the gravelly soils. However, this phenomenon was attenuated with the return of rain at the end of June.</p> <p>The summer of 2017 particularly dry, relatively sunny but quite cool despite sporadic peaks in temperature, confirmed that the vintage would continue its early development through to harvest. Indeed, harvest took place between 18 September and 5 October, one week earlier than in 2016.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<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 varieties, 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>
<b>Harvest</b>	Took place between 18 September and 5 October



**Maturation** Running off took place after an average 20 days of vatting, from 18 October to 2 November, and the distinctive signs of a great vintage began to become apparent: full maturity of all varietals, particularly noticeable in terms of seed and skin tannins; no vegetal flavours (herbaceous notes, green pepper, etc.) thanks to summer heat peaks that limited pyrazines; small berries, mainly in the Cabernet, which increased the marc/juice ratio in the vat and made the wine richer, in terms of both structure and aroma; a very marked acidity, thanks to cool nights in September and early October and a perfect sanitary state.

Like for previous vintages, one third of malolactic fermentation took place in vats and two thirds in barrels. Fermentation was quite quick, by the end of November it had ended for all the estate's batches and we were able to begin blending.

Aged in French oak barrels for 18 months (75% new wood)

**Tasting Notes** The 2017 vintage with its deep garnet red colour and purplish-blue hues reflects the ripeness of the grape varieties in the blend. It offers a pleasant nose and a wonderful freshness, characteristic of the vintage. The attack is supple, rich, with a good volume. It expresses an aromatic palette of black and red fruit (blackcurrant, morello cherry, etc.) with spicy notes. Its perfectly smooth tannins strengthen its aromatic persistence.

**Serve with** Chateau Lynch Bages is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes

**Cellaring** Drink 2024-2040

**Scores/Awards** **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020  
**92-95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018  
**94 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020  
**91-93 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018  
**95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020  
**95-96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018  
**95 points/Cellar Selection** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020  
**94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018  
**17 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018  
**95 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018  
**95 points** - Decanter.com - April 2018  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018  
**95-97 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018  
**17+ points** - Farr Vintner - April 2018  
**90-94 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018  
**92 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020  
**91-93 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018  
**94 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020  
**92-95 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018  
**95 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020  
**92-94 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018  
**18+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018

**Reviews** *"This leans toward the austere side of Pauillac, with a slightly bracing iron and chalk frame around a core of red and black currant fruit, liberally laced with savory and cedar notes. Exhibits ample length and cut, showing really pure and beautifully defined currant flavors. Best from 2024 through 2040."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"There's really good flesh here for the vintage, with cassis, plum and blackberry compote flavors that are a step ahead of the pack in concentration. Light charcoal and iron notes score the finish, which is racy and fresh. Textbook Pauillac"*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Lynch Bages sashays out of the glass with flamboyant scents of baked blackcurrants, blackberry preserves and mulberries plus touches of lavender, dark chocolate, star anise and unsmoked cigars. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has bags of class and finesse with firm, finely-grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and fragrant."*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*"The 2017 Lynch Bages is a barrel sample blended of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Very deep purple black in color, it leaps from the glass with energetic crushed black cherries, black plums and blackcurrants scents plus underlying notions of baking spices, underbrush, unsmoked cigars and fragrant earth. Medium-bodied, the palate offers a well-sustained mid-palate and firm frame of grainy tannins with loads of freshness and minerality on the long finish."*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"This is a focused and tight Lynch with beautiful blackcurrants, slate, graphite and lead pencil. Medium to full body. Very fine tannins and brightness. Linear line of tannins that runs nicely through the wine. A blend of 70% cabernet sauvignon, 24% merlot, 4% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is an excellent Lynch that starts off slowly and then drives at the end with dark fruit and hints of hazelnuts. Strong and focused tannins. A beautiful young wine."*

- 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. The wine promises well, ready to drink from 2024."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"94–96. Barrel Sample. This dense wine is setting out to be fine and rich. It has power and density along with ripe blackberry flavors. Its concentration and dark tannins suggest a long life ahead. Drink from 2024"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Deepest crimson. Lovely classic aroma of cassis and graphite with an attractive dusty/mineral overlay. Deep and still elegant, with refined dark fruit, super-fine tannins and a long harmonious finish. Shapely and elegant. Drink 2027-2040"*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"They've had their foot on the extraction pedal here, but the extremely dark fruit has great finesse. It is broad-shouldered and savoury-edged, and each time I tasted this wine it seemed a little richer and more complete, over-delivering for the year. This is going to age extremely well. 2% Petit Verdot makes up the blend. 75% new oak. (JA)"*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Another wine that is packed with Pauillac signature; one where you feel the tightness and the bristle of the tannins. They have done a great job of carefully extracting the tannins while maintaining a fresh menthol current running through the backbone of the wine. The fruit lacks a little plushness and concentration compared to the 2016 or 2018, but this is impressive. It's a year where names count, and Lynch Bages is claiming its place at the table."*

- Decanter.com

*"Dark in color, the wine jumps with fresh, cassis aromatics tinged by tobacco, earth, smoke and a touch of vanilla. Crunchy, crisp and showing sweetness and peppery tannins, this full bodied, concentrated wine will need at least a decade before it hits its stride. This is a very strong vintage for Lynch Bages and could become much better as it softens and develops. Produced from 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, reaching 13.2% alcohol with a pH of 3.72. The Grand Vin was made from 65% of the harvest."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Super saturated inky colour. Very deep and concentrated fruit aromas, with some floral violet and cocoa. Complex and inviting. Rich in the mouth with cool mint, spicy tannins, graphite and cassis fruit. A touch of sweet fruit to offset, good acidity. Well balanced. Barrel Sample: 95-97"*

- TA, timatkin.com

## Reviews

*“This impressively dark-coloured classic Pauillac was made from 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot with élevage in 75% new oak. Jean-Charles tells us that he is convinced that this is above the quality level of the 2014 and very close to the 2015. Deep ruby in the glass, with a dense and brooding nose of cassis, cedar and lead pencil. The palate is powerful and chalky, with ripe tannins enveloping a dense core of black fruit. Through the mid palate the backbone of tannin builds in tandem with the fruit, with blackcurrant, and blackberry surging through to the finish. Notes of cigar box, star anise and clove offer a savoury foil to the fruit of enduring, impressive length. Another success in 2017.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“Brooding rich black fruit, the nose has depth richness the palate an opulent fleshy sweetness. Black cherry is backed by bilberry sweetness yet freshness the back palate and finish have intensity rich black fruits. 2027-40”*

- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2017 Lynch-Bages is aged for 18 months in 75% new French oak. It has a very pure bouquet with blackberry, bilberry, freshly picked wild mint and a touch of iodine. It feels very primal compared to its peers and certainly requires plenty of bottle age. The palate is sweet and generous on the entry thanks to the supple tannin. Moderate acidity, quite opulent for Lynch-Bages but that is reined in towards the finish. I would have liked a little more complexity and delineation overall, but it should drink well for 15 to 20 years.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2017 Lynch Bages was picked from 18 September with the young Merlot vines and finishing on 30 September. It was cropped at around 50hl/ha. It is aged in 75% new oak for 18 months. It offers good intensity on the nose, not as precise or as mineral-driven as the 2016 last year, with cedar and pencil shaving infusing the black fruit. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, very refined, a touch of white pepper and cedar with impressive depth on the finish. This will be an approachable Lynch Bages, probably pre-destined to be overshadowed by the magnificent (if nascent) 2016 but it will certainly give 20 to 25 years of drinking pleasure. Tasted four times with consistent notes. 2022 – 2042”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2017 Lynch-Bages is such a pretty and engaging wine; as always, it is a wine of pure and total seduction. Lush, open-knit and very pretty with ripe red and purplish fruit. There is a slight bit of edginess in the tannin that needs to be resolved, but cellaring should take care of that. 2025 - 2047.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2017 Lynch-Bages is a wine of impeccable balance and class. Deep, fleshy and inviting, the 2017 should be ready to deliver pleasure with minimal cellaring. All of the Lynch-Bages signatures come through in a very pretty, deceptively medium-bodied wine loaded with personality. Lynch-Bages is never a huge wine, but like most of his colleagues, proprietor Jean-Michel Cazes opted for especially delicate extractions.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2017 Chateau Lynch-Bages sports an inky color as well as a powerful, full-bodied style. Rocking blackcurrants, chocolate, smoked tobacco, and obvious minerality all emerge from this beautiful, concentrated wine that has building tannins, the more elegant, silky style of the vintage, a great mid-palate, and a blockbuster finish. It's going to hit the ground running in about 5-7 years and cruise 20 years or more in cool cellars”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“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. Barrel Sample: 92-94”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“A stunning nose which combines density and also exuberance, this is a lovely if full wine with bold richness and also length and complexity. The detail is superb and there is impressive control on the finish, too. Superb.”*

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

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