

Château Lynch Bages 2019

CSPC# 866105

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855
Website	http://www.jmcazes.com/en/chateau-lynch-bages/grand-cru-classe
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>
Winemaker	Jean Michel Cazes
Vintage	<p>After quite a mild winter, the first leaves appeared on the vines at the beginning of April. Despite a very unusual cold snap in May, which slowed cane growth for some days, flowering ensued very quickly and uniformly. Then summer settled in, and the first grapes began changing colour on July 23rd. A few much-awaited showers quickened the pace of this initial colour change and by the end of July, in just a few days, ripening was well underway. Harvest time approached in very promising conditions with the fruit presenting lovely crispness.</p> <p>On September 23rd in brilliant sunshine, the Merlot grapes were picked followed by the Cabernet Franc. In the very last days of September the “real” Medoc harvest began with the first crates of the princely Cabernet Sauvignon being picked.</p> <p>On October 9th, when the last Petit Verdot had been brought in, the secateurs were put away and tranquility returned to the vines.</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 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>
Harvest	Harvest began on 23rd September with Merlot and ended with the Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot on 9th October.
Vinification/ Maturation	Upon arrival at the cellar, the sanitary state of the grapes was perfect, with rich sugar content and exceptional polyphenols. Alcoholic fermentation was straightforward and homogeneous and average vatting time was 21 days. During the runoff from 15 to 29 October, the vats produced juice yields that were below expectations.



Vinification/ Maturation	Then came the time for malolactic fermentation, one third of which took place in vats and two thirds in barrels. It was completed in November. The first blends were carried out in December. Aged in wooden barrels for 18 months (75% new oak)
Tasting Notes	The Chateau Lynch Bages 2019 is in line with the previous wines of the property with a blend dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon. This great Bordeaux wine offers a characteristic fruity nose with fresh and spicy notes, as well as fine woody notes. The smooth and balanced palate is supported by a beautifully dense and powerful tannic structure, providing plenty of precision and fruit.
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 2025-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>96+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>95-97+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>97+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2022</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>17.5+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020</p> <p>17+ points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021</p> <p>97 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>96-98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>97-99 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>99 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>98+ points - Thomas Parker MW - March 2022</p> <p>97 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>96 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Gorgeous from the start, with lush and caressing cassis, dark plum and blackberry compote flavors that are substantial in feel although they seem to glide through, carried by a very refined structure that lets in alluring black tea, worn alder, floral and savory details along the way. Features a vibrant, authoritative bolt of iron through the finish to keep it all grounded. Best from 2025 through 2045."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A true classic from this estate, the 2019 Lynch-Bages has turned out brilliantly, unwinding in the glass with aromas of cassis and sweet blackberry fruit mingled with licorice, mint, cigar wrapper and loamy soil. Full-bodied, rich, and concentrated, it's a deep, multidimensional wine built around a chassis of rich, powdery tannins and succulent balancing acids. The last vintage produced in Lynch-Bages old winery; it will be interesting to compare this benchmark wine with subsequent vintages over the coming years. (WK) 96+."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Displaying a deep garnet-purple color, the 2019 Lynch-Bages needs a little coaxing to awaken its alluring scents of blackcurrant pastilles, warm black cherries, boysenberries, and baker's chocolate plus nuances of lilacs, forest floor, iron ore and charcoal with a spicy touch of cinnamon stick. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is jam-packed with ripe, rich black fruit layers, framed by firm, grainy tannins, and bold freshness, finishing long and earthy. It is incredibly exciting how the personality of Lynch-Bages has been gaining focus and depth over the last 10-15 years, thanks in part to what appears to be efforts to sustain the mid-palate with just a tad more ripeness while taming and refining the tannins, allowing all these beautiful nuances among what wants to be a powerful fruit core to really shine through. This 2019 is an extraordinary expression and one that I suspect may well reveal even more layers by the time it's bottled. 2025 – 2055."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2019 Lynch-Bages is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Petit Verdot. Deep garnet-purple colored, it needs a fair bit of swirling to uncover profound blackcurrant preserves, mulberries, and juicy plums scents with hints of crushed rocks, Indian spices, and fragrant earth. Medium to full-bodied, it is firm, very fine-grained with generous fruit and fantastic tension, finishing with epically long lingering exotic spices. This wine has high ambitions, and it delivers!"

- LPB, Wine Independent

"Fantastic blackberries, blackcurrants, lead pencil and violets. So Pauillac on the nose! Full-bodied with a dense, layered palate and tight yet plush tannins that give the wine layers and gravitas. Compact. Long finish. Silky. Reminds me of a modern, classic version of something like the wonderful 1985 Lynch."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A tight and very focused young red with redcurrant, tile, and blackberry undertones. Lead pencil, too. It's full-bodied with very polished, creamy tannins and lots of intense dark fruit. Compact fruit and tannins. Structured."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Barrel sample. Big, bold, and broad-shouldered. A wine that states its presence. Spicy, dark-fruit and graphite nose. Juicy and wholesome on the palate with layers of generous fruit and muscle-flexing tannin. All tight and contained. Long, dry finish. Drink 2030 – 2050."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Black almost to the rim. So dark the aroma is quite subdued but there's cassis and rocky purity. Extremely firm, thick, compact. A wall of tannins now, almost impassable, but there's a sense of balance, and a need for great patience. 14.5%. Drink 2030 – 2045."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Intense, deep, and dark aromatics - such wonderful Cabernet notes on the nose. This is incredibly impactful from the very first taste, it grips the mouth and courses with power but in a well-balanced, harmonious way. Mouthwatering fruit juice is backed by tannins that, although fill the mouth entirely, come across as quite ripe and soft with a backbone of menthol cooling freshness that goes from start to finish. A Pauillac with such an enticing dark profile, concentrated and direct but also so much to give. Still not near its potential yet."

- GH, Decanter.com

"This takes hold from the first moment and powers along, delivering a ton of black brambly fruit, liquorice, grilled cedar and Pauillac confidence. The tannins are pretty chewy, really closing in on the end of play, giving no doubt that this is going to age slowly and for many decades, but there is a creaminess to the overall structure that is already evident. Drinking Window 2029 – 2046."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Plenty of fierce Pauillac tannins here, this has grip and character, full of black chocolate and smoked earth. Needs the full ten years before the nuances will be fully revealed, but the construction and the precision are already of full display. Confident blackberry, cassis, bilberry fruits, smoked cedar, and crushed mint leaf, moving slowly but surely forward through the wall of tannins. Excellent stuff from the Lynch Bages team. 75% new oak."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Even better in the bottle than it was in barrel, clearly, the 2019 is in contention for the best vintage of Lynch Bages ever produced! And that is really saying something considering all the fabulous wines that have come from the property over the last several decades. Almost opaque in color, the wine explodes from the glass with black currants, espresso, blackberries, wet earth, tobacco leaf, forest floor, and cedar. As if that wasn't enough for your senses, your palate is coated with layers of perfectly ripe, rich, dense, dark, red fruits, touches of spice, plums, blueberries, licorice, espresso, and a tiny touch of dark chocolate on the backend. This is intense, concentrated, long and expansive, and importantly, a great candidate for long aging. Drink from 2030-2065."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"Inky in color, with purple around the edges, the nose grabs you with its showy perfume of peppery black fruits, cassis, forest floor, mushroom, cedar, and cigar wrapper. Concentrated, full-bodied and mouth-filling, the wine hits every pocket of your palate. The ripe, soft, vibrant fruits come in layers. The berries are dark black and energetic. There is a touch of dust in the endnote with more of those juicy, sweet, seemingly never-ending black fruits. This hangs with the best vintages ever produced at Lynch Bages! 96-98 Pts."
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](#)

"The wine will be aged for 18 months in 70% new French oak and has an abv of 14%. Harvest began on 23rd September with Merlot and ended with the Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot on 9th October. Very deep, saturated purple in colour. The nose is rich and brooding, full of cassis, graphite, cedar, and bitter cocoa. The palate has spectacular drive, with intense and focused cassis fruit at the core. The tannins are bold, mouthcoating and very grippy but fully ripe. They match the great density of the fruit, adding great depth. Layer upon layer of fruit and spice build to a spectacular, muscular finish that is extremely long and perfectly balanced. A true vin de garde that will be one of the longest lived in 2019. Outstanding."
- Farr Vintners

"The 2019 Lynch-Bages is a Pauillac that needs more encouragement from the glass compared to its peers, eventually revealing blackberry, pencil box and cedar scents that could only come from this appellation. Wonderfully delineated, and it seems to finally respond to aeration and gain intensity. The palate is medium-bodied and grippy, with concentrated black fruit, a liberal pinch of black pepper and an extremely persistent, almost Lafite-like finish. Jean-Charles Cazes has overseen a great Lynch-Bages of the modern era."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Lynch-Bages is intense on the nose with layers of blackberry, bilberry, cedar, pencil shavings and light mint aromas defining it as a Pauillac. Very focused and I noticed it gaining delineation with aeration. The palate is very smooth and harmonious, the acidity perfectly pitched with a gentle but insistent grip. It reminds me of the superlative 2016 in some ways, effortless on the lightly spiced finish. This has huge potential. They should build a new winery to celebrate!"
- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Lynch Bages is every bit as magnificent from bottle as it was from barrel, if not more so. What a wine! Towering and vertical in its bearing, the 2019 is a total stunner. There is plenty of Lynch Bages charm, but what distinguishes the 2019 most is its spine of tannin and energy. Time in the glass brings out sweet red cherry, plum, blood orange and pomegranate and mint. The 2019 is a great, great, great Lynch Bages. It reminds me of the epic 1989, but with the youthful grip of this vintage. A towering Pauillac, the 2019 Lynch Bages will make a great addition to any cellar."
- AG, Vinous

"The 2019 Château Lynch-Bages is stunningly good, and it's going to be interesting to compare this to the 2018 over the coming decades. Brought up in 75% new French oak, its dense purple hue is followed by an incredible bouquet of pure crème de cassis, freshly sharpened cedar pencil, spring flowers, smoke, and graphite, with an almost liqueur of rocks-like minerality. A massive, incredibly concentrated Lynch-Bages, Jean-Charles has hit a home run in the vintage, and this sensational wine has building, perfect tannins, insane purity, and a finish that won't quit. It has the purity, finesse, balance, and depth to offer pleasure not only today but to evolve for 40 to 50 years. Smart money will hide these for a good 7-8 years, but wow, what a wine. Bravo."
- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections, delicate ocher edge. Delicate touch of precious wood, black berries, a hint of mint and cassis, classic Pauillac nose. Full-bodied, juicy, ripe heart cherries, silky texture, fine tannins, convincing freshness, mineral and long-lasting, very seductive, has great potential for development."
- Falstaff Magazine

"The 2019 is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 3% each of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Saturated purple in the glass. The nose is sweet and powerful with black fruit, pencil shavings, cedar, and coffee. There is such evident power to the aroma that brings great anticipation to the palate. This power is duly delivered, with a huge core of black fruit and chewy, mouthcoating tannins - this wine will need real

patience but will doubtless be one of the longest-lived of the vintage. Set against the muscular texture come waves of peppery, ripe black fruit - cassis, kirsch, blackberry, and dark cherry. The balance is exquisite. Despite the richness of both fruit and tannin there is real energy. Layers of spice continue to build to a very long and expansive finish. Outstanding."

- Tom Parker MW

"The nose is elegant, racy and offers complexity as well as power (in finesse). It reveals notes of pulpy/juicy Boysen berry, pulpy/juicy strawberry, small notes of small pulpy/juicy blue fruits associated with small touches of crushed griotte, cornflower, lilac as well as hints of small crushed red berries, sugared mild tobacco, vanilla, nutmeg, a very discreet hint of pepper and an imperceptible hint of aromatic herbs. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers freshness, minerality, a beautiful definition, precision, a fine gourmandize, tension (in finesse), a beautiful definition of a pulpy/juicy/ripe fruit, a fine freshness, a fine acidulous frame, precision, purity, a very fine creaminess (in the background), an imperceptible almost saline hint as well as density (in the elegance). On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy blackberry, crushed strawberry, small notes of pulpy violet plum associated with fine touches of nutmeg, toasted, toasted almond, very discreet hints of camphor/hot gravels as well as subtle hints of caramelization, chocolate, and an imperceptible hint of black tea (in the background). Tannins are elegant, racy and offers a very fine softness. Good length. A very fine chew in the finish/persistence. There are fine hints of tonka bean and almond on the persistence."

- Vert de Vin
