

# Château Lynsolence 2020

CSPC# 888352

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

100% Merlot

**Appellation**

Saint-Emilion

**Classification**

Grand Cru Classé

**Website**

<https://www.denis-barraud.com/>

**Sustainability**

The domain is certified HVE - High Environmental Value (from 1/10/2019) (certification issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries)

**General Info**

Lynsolence takes its name from the daughter of the owner, Denis Barraud. The wine made its debut with the 1998 vintage. However, the estate has a much longer track record in the Right Bank. In fact, the vineyard was first cultivated at the end of the 1800s by Pierre-Henri Descrambe.

Denis Barraud has been managing Lynsolence since 1971. While the Barraud family owns 36 hectares of vines located in Saint Emilion, Lynsolence is produced from a selection of the best parcels of vines, which total only 2.5 hectares.

Sadly, at far too young of an age, after a long illness, Denis Barraud passed away, on February 3, 2023. He was a nice man and an enthusiastic owner who will be missed.

**Winemakers**

Franck Descudé and Denis Barraud

**Vintage**

2020 was a highly contrasted vintage that got off to a difficult start. The year began with an exceptionally rainy winter followed by a very mild spring. In this context, protecting the vines against mildew and managing the soil was a real struggle.

The first miracle appeared in mid-May, with dry and warm conditions during one of the earliest flowerings we have seen, two weeks ahead of schedule. The second miracle was on 19 June when the rain stopped, and the weather turned dry and cool until the beginning of the grape colour-change in mid-July. It is at this point in time that summer settled in for good, with some spells of heat through to mid-August when thunderstorms provided some relief and allowed the Merlot grapes to swell. The later-ripening Cabernets remained the size of blueberries until harvest, and the Merlots will ripen slowly until mid-September. The result was a vintage harvested about ten days early, mostly in sunny conditions. Both the Merlot and Cabernet were tannic, colourful and perfectly balanced. The grapes quickly expressed an intense aromatic expression in the vats.

**Vineyards**

The small, 2.5-hectare, Right Bank vineyard of Lynsolence is planted with 100% old vine, Merlot. The vineyards are situated in two areas in St. Emilion. They have vines that are placed not from Chateau Monbousquet where the terroir is gravel and sand with deposits of iron.

However, their best terroir is further east, near Valandraud, with gravel, rock, clay, and alluvial sands with crasse de fer. The vines are old, with an average age of close to 55 years. The vines are planted to a vine density of 5,600 vines per hectare. Yields are purposely kept low, ranging from 19 to 25 hectoliters per hectare.

**Harvest**

Picking is done manually and is finished in half a day, preferably in the afternoon.

**Winemaking**

When the harvest arrives at the winery, they pass onto a table where we meticulously screen out any possible botrytised grapes, any leaves or leaf stalks. To produce the wine of Lynsolence, following a cold soak for between 6 to 10 days, vinification takes place in a combination of temperature-controlled, 50-hectoliter oak vats and 400-liter, French, oak barrels. Malolactic fermentation is conducted in new, French oak barrels.

The wine of Lynsolence is aged in 100% new, French, oak barrels for an average of 18 months before bottling. Intense on the nose, black cherries, small wild black berries, fine oriental spices, with hints of liquorice and a touch of mauve flowers. The mouth is concentrated, powerful, with a dense flesh, also very velvety, coating the tannins, enhanced by expressive fruits. The finish is long, intense, velvety, and very aromatic with a freshness behind the richness of the wine.

**Tasting Notes**

**Serve with**

Lynsolence is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Lynsolence is also good when matched with Asian dishes, and hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.

**Cellaring**

Drink 2025-2047



**Scores/Awards** **93-95+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021  
**94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023  
**94-95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021  
**89 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com (score only) - May 2021  
**94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023  
**93-95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021  
**89 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021  
**90-92 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous (score only) - April 2021  
**96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023  
**93-95 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021  
**92+ points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023  
**91-93+ points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021  
**93 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2023  
**90 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - May 2021  
**94 points** - Yves Beck - March 2023  
**93-94 points** - Yves Beck - June 2021  
**92-94 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021  
**Gold Medal** - Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits - March 2023

**Reviews** *"The 2020 Lysolence is 100% Merlot, aging for 18 months in French oak barriques, 100% new. Deep purple-black in color, it charges out of the glass with energetic scents of fresh blackberries, crushed black cherries and ripe, juicy black plums, plus nuances of cedar chest, lilacs, and licorice with a touch of dusty soil. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is jam-packed with taut black fruits, framed by firm, finely grained tannins, and fantastic tension, finishing long, and layered. The alcohol is 14.5% this year."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Aromas of ripe plums, chocolate, black spices with hints of tar. Medium to full bodied with a meaty structure. It's chewy and nicely textured with chalky tannins and dark fruit aromas. Persistent and velvety finish. Drink from 2026."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A beautiful young wine with a beautiful ripe and fruity substance with aromas of blueberry, raspberry, and a mineral touch. Fineness and polishing of the texture of the tannins are impressive."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Produced from 100% old vine Merlot, from vines more than 50 years of age is what makes this special. Deep in color, with black cherry liqueur, licorice, chocolate, and flower notes are found in the perfume. On the palate, the wine is lush, supple, and deep, with silky, polished tannins and a blast of chocolate covered black cherries, plums, and a touch of salt in the long finish. Give it a year or two in the cellar for the oak to become better integrated and it should drink well for up to two decades. It was a sad day when this was tasted as earlier that afternoon, I learned that the passionate owner, Denis Barraud, one of the nicest people in St. Emilion had just passed away. 2020 is his final vintage where he saw it all the way through. Drink from 2024-2042."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Deeply colored, the wine offers up its bouquet of flowers, licorice, chocolate-covered plums, and cherries with ease. Lusciously-textured, with good concentration, silky tannins, freshness, and elegance to its array of fruits, the seductive finish is created by layers of sweet, juicy, vibrant cherries with a touch of exotic spices."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"100% merlot old vines, Lysolence 2020 is even better than it was en primeur. Dense, deep, and explosive, with remarkable energy, the 2020 is a rockstar. Aromas of crème de cassis, minerality, lavender, spice and menthol are all bright in the glass. This powerful and deep Saint-Émilion is a winner. Stunning. Tasted twice. Drink 2027-2045."*  
- AG, Vinous

*"Pure Merlot from 55-year-old vines, Lysolence 2020 is fabulous. Very dark, mineral, and beautifully complex, it impresses with its balance and pure beauty. Aromas of creme de cassis, graphite, lavender, spice, and bittersweet chocolate give the 2020 plenty of intensity and texture. The balance between tension and richness*

**Reviews** *is really successful. Denis Barraud obviously made the most of the vintage; his 2020 is truly a star. Tasted three times."*

- AG, Vinous

*"Flagship cuvée of Denis Barraud, the Lynsolence 2020 comes from a small plot of 2.5 hectares of gravelly soils on clay-limestone located on the low plains of Saint-Emilion. As always, it's only Merlot (from 55-year-old vines) with malolactic fermentation in barrels and an aging of 18 months in 100% new French oak barrels. Deep purple in color, with generous undertones of black raspberry, cassis, graphite, camphor, and spicy oak in the background, it is medium to full-bodied, concentrated, dense and velvety on the palate. It's not for those allergic to wood, but it will show a much more classic profile after 3-4 years of aging in bottle and evolve until 2035."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"100% Merlot aged in new oak, the 2020 Lynsolence is of as good a standard as many previous vintages. Offering a lovely cassis and black cherry nose along with chalky minerality and elegant oak, it shows medium to full-bodied richness on the palate, straight and concentrated texture, impressive mid-palate density and a lovely finish. Its oak woodiness is solid, but it is integrated and discreet. This is an elegant Saint-Emilion that will keep for 15 years or more."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Black and intense color. Very aromatic nose: fresh, ripe, pure, and subtle fruitiness. It gains shades of ink from the swirling of the glass and evokes the left bank. Juicy and meticulous on the palate, very aromatic in the middle, the wine evolves fat, towards a long, tasty finish and above all the most fragrant seen in this cru. It's long, very good and without a tannic angle. Beautiful work done by Denis Barraud who unfortunately passed away in February 2023."*

- JMQ

*"Deep dark ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, bright narrow rim. Ripe plum and blackberries, a hint of cassis, candied orange zest. Juicy, pronounced fruit, a touch of fig and nougat, ripe tannins, mineral and well-balanced, nice freshness. Good ageing potential."*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*"The nose is fruity, and it offers intensity, a certain concentration well mastered, fine grain as well as a certain power. It reveals the notes of wild cassis, small black currants, violet associated with pepper, wild strawberry, cardamon, sour cherry, cornflower, licorice, a discreet hint of caramelization. The mouth is fruity, and it offers juiciness, freshness, a good definition as well as minerality, tension, power/concentration well mastered, discreetly tight. The wine expresses the notes of bright/tangy black currant, sour cherry associated with raspberry and cherries, cardamon, roast, a fine hint of grill, cacao as well as a subtle hint of black tea. The tannins are well structured, racy, and finely firmed. A subtle chew at the end of the palate/persistence."*

- Vert de Vin

*"Lynsolence begins by displaying her breeding, in an intense way. This is exactly where you have to persevere in the analysis and approach of this wine, because behind this imposing introduction, there is a complex wine with many facets. Thus, it reveals aromas of cassis and blackberries followed by nuances of licorice sticks, red roots, and pepper. On the palate, the wine immediately underlines a great harmony. Its tannins are compact, even a little tight and in symbiosis with the freshness of the acid structure. A wine with a lingering finish that once again highlights Denis Barraud's talent for making great wines. 2026-2040."*

- Yves Beck

*"Purplish purple. As usual, Lynsolence's bouquet is very inviting. It is distinguished by notes of cocoa beans, liquorice, and blackcurrant. On the palate the wine is creamy and well supported by its acid structure. The latter gives it liveliness while the tannins take care of the density. A sapid and inviting wine. 2027-2040."*

- Yves Beck