

# Château Les Ormes de Pez 2014

CSPC# 749580

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

**Appellation**

St. Estèphe

**Classification**

Cru Bourgeois Exceptional

**Website**

<http://www.jmcazes.com/en/chateau-ormes-de-pez/aoc-saint-estephe>

**General Info**

The origins of Château Ormes de Pez, date back to the eighteenth century. Château Les Ormes de Pez is one of St-Estèphe's leading Cru Bourgeois properties. It was bought by Jean-Charles Cazes in 1936 and is now owned and run by Jean-Michel Cazes. The latter owns Lynch-Bages Situated on the edge of the hamlet of Pez in the northern part of the Saint-Estèphe commune, the property takes its names from a beautiful copse of great elm trees long since disappeared. The vineyard and winemaking techniques combine the best of tradition and modernity to give birth to harmonious wines of spicy and voluptuous character, true expressions of the terroir in their appellation.

**Vintage**

The season leading into the 2014 harvest started well with a relatively early budburst. On 19 May, the vineyard had to contend with one of this vintage's typical hailstorms, incurring the loss of 30% of the yield. The most stringent measures were needed to protect the vineyard. But thanks to the exceptional weather conditions in September and October, the ripening of the grapes was able to get under way in conditions that were favourable for the organoleptic and analytical qualities of the berries. This unexpected sunny spell arrived late and was particularly beneficial for the Cabernet Sauvignon. In the end, the predominantly clayey gravel soils at Saint-Estèphe resisted the dry conditions very well, yielding very concentrated berries.

**Vineyards**

The vineyards are located in two plots north and south of the village of St Estèphe, on the sand and gravel that is typical of the commune. There are 33 hectares in all, with 70% of the vines Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc and 20% Merlot. They have an average age between 25 and 30 years, and are planted at a density of 9000 vines/ha.

**Harvest**

The Merlot harvesting started on 29 September for four days, followed by two days (2 and 3 October) of picking the Cabernet Franc and Cabernet-Sauvignon plants. The old Cabernet-Sauvignons were harvested from 6 to 10 October and the Petit Verdot was picked on 7 October, between two Cabernet plots. Picking therefore finished on 10 October, after 11 days of harvesting instead of the 13 days initially envisaged.

**Vinification/  
Maturation**

The harvested fruit is destemmed and then vinification of de-stemmed grapes takes place in a restored stable, extensively renovated in the 1993, using stainless steel and temperature control. Malolactic occurs in vat, and the wine then sees fifteen months in second-hand barrels from Lynch-Bages, with several rackings. Barrels aren't alone in their travels between Lynch-Bages and Ormes de Pez, the Lynch Bages winemaking team, led by Daniel Llose, also looks after Les Ormes de Pez. There is no second wine. French oak barrels for 16 months (45% new wood)

**Tasting Notes**

With a lovely dark red colour, the nose is rich in fruity aromas and the smooth, structured palate displays perfect balance.

**Production**

18,500 cases made

**Cellaring**

Drink 2012-2022

**Scores/Awards**

**90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017  
**90-93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015  
**89 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017  
**90-92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015  
**93 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017  
**92-93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015  
**91 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017



**Scores/Awards** **92-94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015  
**16.5+ points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015  
**16.50 (88) points** - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - June 2015  
**90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017  
**89-91 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015  
**90-92+ points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015  
**93 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015  
**15.5 points** - Farr Vintner - March 2015  
**85-89 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015  
**87 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015  
**92 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017  
**90-93 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015  
**16 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**16 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**16 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)  
**15.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)

**Reviews** *"Lively, with a mix of pomegranate, blood orange and bitter cherry notes, flecked with savory and backed by a pebbly finish. Features latent depth and should unwind with moderate cellaring. Best from 2019 through 2025."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Bright and pure, with a lovely beam of cassis, cherry and lilac notes racing through the focused finish. Good drive. Score range: 90-93"*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"The 2014 Les Ormes de Pez was backward and surly on the nose, touches of gravel and graphite, but the fruit felt a little suppressed at the moment. The palate is medium bodied with grippy tannin. It felt a little pinched, but the finish shows vivacity and focus with graphite-infused black fruit. It just cuts away swiftly on the finish. This is one of the few 2014s that I felt did not match up to its showing in barrel, then again, it often does repay several years down in the cellar."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"The Château Ormes des Pez 2014 is a blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot picked from 24 September with the young merlot and finishing around 12 October. It was cropped at 32 hectoliters per hectare. Small red cherries and kirsch form the bouquet, quite forward and perfumed with touches of lavender emerging with continued aeration. The palate is medium-bodied, the tannins succulent for Les Ormes de Pez and imparting a fleshier and more approachable texture. This is nicely balanced with a touch of graphite on the finish lending it an almost Pauillac-like personality. Don't under-estimate this Saint Estèphe."*  
-NM, Wine Advocate

*"Earthy and savory, this starts rich and mellow then slowly turns in the stern direction. A lot of personality and character, and power for long ageing. Try in 2020."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is really fabulous with weight and length. Fine and chewy tannins. Goes on for a minute or two. Tiny production due to hailstorms in May and June."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"The wine has the firm tannins of the appellation, moderated by the black-currant fruitiness of the vintage. Spice and the dry structure will allow it to age well. With the same winemaking team as Château Lynch-Bages in Pauillac, it will age well. Drink from 2022"*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"92-94. Barrel Sample. Ripe and structured, this has a fine combination of smoky tannins and rich black-fruit notes that mingle harmoniously. It is a balanced wine that will age well, but also be approachable at a younger age."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

- Reviews** *"A hint of sweet oak on the nose. Then admirable energy but a bit drying on the finish. A real go getter of a wine. Lots of tannins tucked in here but no excess acidity. A palate-dryer at the moment though. Drink 2024-2040"*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Fine dense colour and floral, slightly leathery nose. Good length of fruit and will show well in the medium term. Always a good St-Estèphe."*  
- SS, Decanter.com
- "From a château that performed extremely well in 2014, just like its stablemate Lynch-Bages, this is marked by the high, record-equaling percentage of Merlot, softening its rougher edges. Aromatic, textured and sweetly oaked, it gained concentration from the low yields of 32 hectoliters per hectare."*  
- TA, timatkin.com
- "Fresh red cherries, spice, earth and herbs are all wrapped up in nicely, in this medium bodied forward effort. There are some firm, ripe tannins that will help the wine age and evolve."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Cassis and earthy notes blend perfectly with the spicy, red fruits, bringing a shiny freshness to the finish. The wine was made from a blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep and saturated colour; deep at central purple at edge; stone fruits, wet rock, black cherry; cassis notes; nicely ripe fruit; depth and texture on the palate; voluptuous fruit here; some jam, cream and ink; oak too. Excellent effort. [47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. 45% new oak]. Drink 2020-2030. Tasted UGC 2 April 2015. 90-92+"*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Owned and made by the Cazes family of Lynch Bages, this is a consistently good wine and deserving of Cru Classé status. 32hl/ha in 2014. Deep ruby colour, with a nose of exotic spices and plums, layered with a little creamy vanilla. Plump, soft and round on the palate with soft tannins and red fruits given freshness from the acidity. Very attractive and moreish with no hard edges."*  
- Farr Vintners
- "Smoky fresh fragrant there is a lot happening on the nose and the start of the palate has bramble and bilberry freshness. Ripe in the middle, the sweet fruit supported by fine tannins with at the back a firmer fresher feel, the finish bright. 2024-34"*  
- Derek Smedley MW
- "Lively and fresh with dark berries and a hint of tobacco. Juicy and delicious with firm, ripe tannins and good length. A bit astringent on the finish but the wine has lifted fruit with good length. Much better vintage than the 2013. Enjoy in about 3 to 4 years."*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- "The 2014 Ormes de Pez is dark, powerful and quite intense. Plum, black cherry, smoke, grilled herbs and gravel give the wine its virile personality. Broad and ample in construction, the 2014 is also incredibly young and shuts down quickly in the glass, which is probably a good sign of its structure and potential to age. It is best cellared for at least a few years. This is a strong showing from the Cazes family. The blend is 47 % Cabernet Sauvignon."*  
- AG, Vinous
- "A dark, sumptuous beauty, the 2014 Ormes de Pez offers up a compelling mélange of purplish and black fruit, smoke, grilled herbs and graphite, with quite a bit of density. Rich and voluptuous, the 2014 is a gorgeous Ormes de Pez that will drink well relatively early. Best of all, the 2014 may very well turn out to be one of the sleepers of this vintage. The blend is 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot"*  
- AG, Vinous