

Château Lynch Bages 2008

CSPC# 891908

750mlx6

13.4% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 2% 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>
Vintage	<p>As with the 2007 vintage, we laboured under a rather wet and depressing summer sky, before once again the weather improved late in the year, saving the harvest. The vintage in a nutshell: • Early but irregular budbreak • Cool and damp summer weather • Miraculous recovery</p> <p>We began picking on 30 September and finished before the first frosts on 19 October. As with 2007, warm weather in September and October saved the vintage. This year once again, we saw proof that the combination of great terroirs with interventionist viticulture gradually produces remarkable rich grapes.</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	We began picking on 30 September and finished before the first frosts on 19 October. As with 2007, warm weather in September and October saved the vintage. This year once again, we saw proof that the combination of great terroirs with interventionist viticulture gradually produces remarkable rich grapes.
Maturation	Aged in French oak barrels for 15 months (75% new wood)
Tasting Notes	Lynch-Bages 2008 displays nice aromas of cranberry, dried floral notes, and tobacco. The palate has nice energy and acidity with excellent tannin structure. A very good blend of intensity, depth, and structure.
Production	30,500 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2013-2030



Scores/Awards

- 91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2011
- 89-92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2010
- 93 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #196 - August 2011
- 91-93+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #182 - April 2009
- 92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0312 - January 2012
- 91-93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0111 - October 2010
- 91-93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0509 - April 2009
- 93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - June 2016
- 93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - December 2011
- 94 points/Cellar Selection** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - July 2011
- 93-95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2009
- 16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2009
- 92 points** - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2009
- 93 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - January 2018
- 93 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - April 2022
- 93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2020
- 93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2018
- 92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 2011
- 93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2010
- 91-93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 2009
- 92 points** - Derek Smedley MW - November 2012
- 92 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2018
- 94 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019
- 92 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2016
- 89 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021
- 88-89 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2009
- 17.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2010
- 17 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2020
- 17 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - March 2011

Reviews

"Very solid, with a super beam of dark currant, tobacco and iron pushed by charcoal, melted fig and cocoa notes. There's a nicely rounded feel, but also plenty of grip in reserve. Best from 2013 through 2018. 30,500 cases made."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Beautiful aromas of milk chocolate and crushed berries follow through to a full body, with soft, velvety tannins and a juicy finish."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A sensational effort for the vintage, this textured, opulent, superb Lynch Bages is already strutting its stuff and should easily last for 20 years. Medium to full-bodied with an opaque dense purple color, notes of flowers and cassis, a layered texture that builds incrementally in the mouth and tremendous purity and depth, it can be drunk now or cellared for two decades or more. Bravo!"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"This strong effort from Lynch Bages may turn out to be the finest wine produced here since the 2000. It is a backward, powerful, opaque purple-colored 2008 with fine acids, firm but sweet tannins, and thick, dense levels of attractive blackberry and cassis fruit intertwined with notions of underbrush, lead pencil shavings, and roasted herbs. It appears to be a denser, richer effort than some of the more lightweight Lynch Bages offerings of recent years. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2030."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted ex-château and single blind in Southwold. The Lynch Bages 2008 is very well defined on the nose with more red instead of black fruits, graphite and sous-bois intermingling with touches kirsch and cassis. This is a little showy compared to previous bottles that I have encountered. The palate is well balanced with a little hardness on the entry, understandable at this stage. Quite tight at the moment, nice freshness with a long tail on the finish, this is a fine, upstanding, conservative Pauillac. Tasted January 2012."

- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews

"Tasted at the UGC 2008 tasting in London. Juxtaposed against the Pichon-Lalande, the Lynch Bages is far more reticent on the nose with more overt graphite and sous-bois aromas inflecting the fruit. It is tightly coiled at the moment and needs a couple of years to blossom. The palate is medium-bodied with a ferrous entry, firm tannins but a little disjointed and edgy at the moment. Certainly, a little awkward now and still quite -strict- as it was in barrel. I feel that this Lynch Bages should be granted time to prove itself, so for now I will be prudent with my score. Drink 2013-2025. Tasted October 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This has a cohesive nose: blackberry, cedar, just a faint hint of thyme - good definition and focus although not quite the thrilling clarity of Pichon Baron. This is a very "correct" Lynch Bages that reminds more a little of Latour, very pure black fruit, cedar, a touch of briary, a slight tertiary notes towards the finish. Very well balanced and defined, good length, nice persistence. Excellent - unadulterated Cabernet that should drink well over two decades."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Lots of currant and lemon rind undertones. Full body, firm and silky tannins and a long and flavorful finish. Tight and linear but pretty and bright. Just opening now."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Wonderful purity of fruit here with flowers, clean fruit with strawberries and currants. Full bodied with fine tannins and floral and fruity with ultra fine tannins and elegance. Give it four to five years."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"In the powerful style of Lynch-Bages, although perhaps less exuberant than usual. Instead, the concentration comes from juicy fruit, which gives it a softer quality. Even so, it still has solid tannins, dense texture and always the promise of good aging."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"93-95 Barrel sample. Dark, balanced, but concentrated, a powerhouse of fruit and ripe spices. The tannins are in the same league, a wave of solid structure, giving support to the freshness of the final acidity."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Quite brutal smelling. Then rich and sweet and silky at first but followed by lots of acidity. A bit green and awkward. Very drying finish. Needs lots of time. Not charming at the moment... though it's certainly solid and gets better toward the end."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Black-red, plummy concentration of blackcurrants with smoky fragrance, good rich fruit on the palate, good length, depth of fruit and ripe tannins to mature well. Drink 2016-25."

- SS, Decanter.com

"More concentrated and tannic than many of the other Pauillac's in this vintage, with powerful cassis fruits, notes of liquorice and still-chewy tannins, with cigar box and menthol starting to tunnel though. It could do with another few years, and it's built to go the decades. Accomplished and enjoyable."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Inky ruby in colour, with concentrated aromatics of cigar box, graphite, tobacco leaf, undergrowth, leather. Easy to sink into, with tannins that are beginning to soften but are still holding the brambled fruit in place. Softens on the finish, but a fine, balanced, and elegant Bages. 75% new oak. Eric Boissenot consultant."

- JA, janeanson.com

- Reviews** *“Crunchy red fruits, spice box, leaf, tobacco, cassis, peppery herbs, and cranberry crowd the entrance here. There is weight, freshness, and a bite to the crisp red fruits. Very classic in style, this could use another 7-9 years in the bottle before it shows its best.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Still quite young, this is a classic, long aging vintage for Lynch Bages. The tannins are strict, the fruit is fresh, there is volume and length with a finish that's all about the bright, spicy, high pitched, peppery cassis.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Opens with cassis, tobacco, cedar, oak, earth and herbs, this full bodied, concentrated, chewy wine, ends with a big, cassis filled finish.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “2008 Lynch Bages starts with cassis, fudge earth, fennel, and forest floor aromas. Full bodied and loaded with ripe tannins and berries this is the best Lynch Bages since the outstanding 2000.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Château Lynch Bages showed deep ruby with purple tints. Jammy berries, oak, and cassis in the nose. On the palate, the wine showed good concentration, freshness, and ripe character, finishing with hints of boysenberry. Some dryness was detected in the finish. This is a better effort than their 2005. Starting in 2008, the Chateau announced they were changing the name of their second wine to Echo. The reason for the change to Echo from Haut Bages Averous was a practical one, according to Jean-Charles Cazes. When asked why the change, with a smile and a knowing look he said, “It’s much easier to pronounce”. He was right.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “The rich black fruits on the nose are backed by some fresher red and the palate is rather the same with cassis and black cherry underpinned by red cherry. The chocolate on the mid palate helps the suppleness but towards the back the tannins are still quite firm, slightly holding back the fruit on the finish. 2014-2025.”*
- Derek Smedley MW
- “The 2008 Lynch Bages has a classic pencil lead and cedar scented bouquet with impressive delineation. It just takes time to get going in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, classic in style with graphite-tinged black fruit. This is fresh and focused with impressive depth on the grippy finish. The Cazes family crafted a solid, what you might call dependable Lynch Bages that might eschew the glitz but will cruise along nicely for a couple of decades. 2018 – 2038.”*
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2008 Lynch Bages is brilliant stuff as well as a textbook Pauillac. Revealing a still youthful ruby/purple color as well as impressive notes of graphite, cedar pencil, cassis, tobacco, and obvious minerality, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, polished tannins, and a concentrated, layered texture. Jean-Charles Cazes described the vintage as late and great for Cabernet Sauvignon, and this beauty has classic Cabernet flair in spades. Powerful yet also fresh and elegant, it benefits from a decant and will continue drinking beautifully for another 20-30 years.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck
- “Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate rim lightning. Rather restrained on the nose, delicate herbal spices, blackberry confit, nougat, a hint of orange zest. Medium complexity, red berry confit, present, somewhat angular tannins, not quite harmonious yet, remains dry on the finish, leafy finish, appears over extracted.”*
- PM, Falstaff Magazine
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