

THE GREAT WINE SEMINAR 1999

CHÂTEAU LYNCH-BAGES

Presented by Jean-Michel Cazes

Blanc de Lynch-Bages 1996, AOC Bordeaux *+**

Yellow gold to the eye. The aroma is youthfully intense with pronounced lemon and lanolin. The taste is very clean, fresh and alive with good substance. Very firmly etched by the high acidity of '96. Barrel fermented in 30% new oak. A mix of approximately 45% each Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon and 10% Muscadelle.

Blanc de Lynch-Bages 1995 *+**

Darker yellow gold. One year older but more evolved: slightly oily and nutty. The palate is moderately rich and round, with balancing acidity. An oily tone on the lengthening finish.

Lynch-Bages 1995 **(+)**

Moderately dense dark red with purple. Very young and fresh nose revealing ripe, still primary black currant and plum. Fresh, firm, very clean attack. Excellent definition and equilibrium. Youthful fruit marks the aftertaste. Very promising and classically styled Pauillac. 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot aged in 70% new barrels.

Lynch-Bages 1994 ***

Moderately dense blackish red. Soft, relatively open aroma of dark fruits and integrated oak. The palate is open, round and supple. A soft and forward wine, easy to like, for the near- and medium-term.

Lynch-Bages 1990 **(+)**

Dense dark garnet-ruby. Concentrated and very classy nose with a classic lead pencil accent. In the mouth, there is excellent concentration with an appealing texture. Harmonious and fine. The wine is developing a lovely, long and complex finish. Emile Peynaud aptly described this L-B as "sphérique" (spherical).

Lynch-Bages 1989 *****

Dense very dark garnet. Exceptional fruit ripeness and generosity are immediately noticeable with budding complexity. The palate is ripe, very fat and mouth-coating. This is a particularly ample and warm, if not opulent, wine for this property. Exciting and seductive. JM Cazes considers the '89 "the vintage of the decade" at L-B.

Lynch-Bages 1988 ****

Dense dark garnet. Concentrated black fruit nose, spicy and still undeveloped. Very good concentration and definition. The mirror image of the '89: less expansive and giving, far more tightly structured. Lasting dry aftertaste with a point of acidity along with lead pencil and tobacco. Very classic.

Lynch-Bages 1982 *****

Dense garnet with touch of tawny at rim. Very concentrated nose with exceptional richness. Developing attractive elements of maturity: leather, tobacco, dried spices. Very rich, "sweet" taste, complex and very long. Beautiful nuances of leather, chocolate, tobacco and spice. A deeply satisfying, sensual wine that reflects a superb vintage.

Lynch-Bages 1975 ****

Moderately dense tawny garnet. Distinctly roasted aromatics with a background of meat and leather. Rich, concentrated palate. Noteworthy evolution with leathery and roasted flavors in the aftertaste, finishing with a note of acidity.

Lynch-Bages 1970 *+**

Darker color than the '75, with a tawny rim. Shows concentration and development in the aroma, which exhibits leather and a volatile lift. This seems to lack some flesh and overall balance on the palate, and is not in the league of the best wines of 1970. Still a very good wine, but further positive evolution seems unlikely. JM Cazes says this is the first modern vintage with both quality and quantity.

Lynch-Bages 1966 ***

Dense tawny with garnet. Open, maturing nose – a bit “cooked.” Chunky, evolving taste profile. Rich, full and warm with a dry note at the end. Drink now.

Lynch-Bages 1962 *+**

Tawny red. Lovely, well-evolved nose offering inviting tobacco and coffee overtones. The taste shows an attractive spiciness with a tobacco accent. This appears to be at its peak and may well dry out with further keeping.

Lynch-Bages 1961 ****

Dark tawny brick. A nose revealing subdued richness with more intensity than the '62. Aromas of tobacco and cedar. Fully mature taste that still has some of its original richness. Long, smooth finish with a whiff of oxidation.

Lynch-Bages 1957 *+**

Pale browning color. Warm nose, fully mature, with tobacco and cedar. The palate is still solid and generous. Warm and satisfying but not an elegant vintage. A bit rough at the end of the lasting finish. JM Cazes says this vintage did not go through malo.