



CHATEAU LYONNAT

LUSSAC S'EMILION

Château Lyonnat 2015

Lussac Saint-Émilion

ESTATE

Situated just northeast of the commune of Lussac, Château Lyonnat is the largest and most highly regarded property in the appellation Lussac-Saint-Émilion. Wine has been produced at Château Lyonnat for centuries, and this property has an absolutely exceptional vineyard of 78 acres planted on clay-limestone soils, always resulting in wines of elegance and refinement.

WINE

Lyonnat's sandy clay and limestone soils favor Merlot, which here gives a wine of great elegance and perfume. The wines always show healthy color with an intense nose of marinated plums, black cherries and complex, secondary aromas. Medium to full bodied, with depth, structure, well-integrated oak and a pronounced minerality, Lyonnat combines elegance with concentration and power in a wine that offers immediate pleasure as well as the promise of significant improvement with time in the cellar.

VINEYARD

Soils: The vineyard is favored with a southern exposure and soils rich in porous limestone, similar to that which informs the best vineyards on the Saint-Émilion plateau. Average vine age is 35 years, and there are several plots dating back to 1906. The vines are pruned short to keep yields below 45 hl/ha, and the grapes are 100% hand-harvested.

Grape Varieties: 90% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

WINEMAKING

Hubert de Bouard of Château L'Angelus is the consultant here.

Fermentation: At harvest, the grapes are sorted to eliminate any undesirable berries, fully destemmed and crushed into temperature controlled vats. Natural yeasts initiate fermentation, which generally lasts 10 days. A long maceration of typically three weeks follows, extracting rich color, flavors and tannins. Fining is with egg whites and because the wine is racked clear, there is only a light filtration.

Aging: The wine is racked into new oak barrels (Demptos, Seguin Moreau) for malolactic fermentation and aged in total for 18 months

VINTAGE

The 2015 vintage was as close to perfect as one could ask, with mild summer weather and just enough September rain to invigorate the vines and push the grapes to complete ripeness. 2015 Château Lyonnat is rich and balanced, with fully ripe tannins and plush vanillin notes from the oak aging. Delicious now, this wine will age into a fragrant and creamy richness with 5-7 years in the cellar.



92-93

JAMES SUCKLING

"Full body, with chocolate, walnut and spice character. Round and lightly chewy tannins. Fresh finish."