

# Château Guiraud 2005

CSPC# 758864

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

65% Semillon, 35% Sauvignon Blanc

## Appellation

Sauternes

## General Info

This chateau, recently purchased by a consortium led by auto magnate Robert Peugeot, produces a distinctly restrained style of Sauternes that emphasizes the pungent, firmer quality of Sauvignon Blanc rather than the more exotic tones of Sémillon. The abundance of Sauvignon was a result of the planting strategy of an earlier owner, Paul César Rival, who managed the estate through the middle of the twentieth century. But recent vintages of the sweet wine have been especially rich, as a greater percentage of these Sauvignon grapes have been directed to the production of the estate's dry white wine: G de Guiraud.

## Vineyards

Only Semillon (65%) and Sauvignon (35%) are planted at Guiraud with a pruning "à cots" or "in fan" for the Semillons and long branches for the Sauvignons. The density of plantation is 6660 vine per ha (Root stock Riparia 33 09, 101 14,161 49). The average age of the vines is 35-40 years. The average yield is 12hl/ha. The maximum yield allowed by the appellation is 25hl/ha.

## Harvest

Harvest is only done hand picking by successive waves through the vineyard (2 to 7 selections), picking only the botrytised berries. A minimum of potential alcohol (20°) must be reached before starting the harvest.

## Vinification/

## Maturation

The fermentation is made in new oak barrels over a period of three weeks to two months. Different batches are fermented until they reach their own equilibrium which depends upon their selection. Chaptalisation, cryoextraction and any other techniques used to enrich the wine are absolutely prohibited. The aging in barrels lasts 24 months.

## Tasting Notes

Sweet wines are in unison with reds. This year, cold nights of august and glorious sun of September give a very complex vintage.

"The wine is great, complex, and exuberant. We feel very fine aromas of crystallized orange, exotic, mentholated, and few notes of ginger. The noble rot was very beautiful this vintage, the botrytis has a splendid purity. The finale taste is explosive, honeyed, with spices and so on...

## Production

8,000 cases made

## Cellaring

Drink now - 2020

## Scores/Awards

**95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2008

**91 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008

**97 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008

**Ranked #4** - Wine Spectator's Top 100 Wines of 2008

**15.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - August 18, 2009

**16.5+ points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - February 2008

**17-18+ points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2007

**4 stars** - Decanter Magazine, Bordeaux Supplement - July 2006

## Reviews

"Delivers lots of botrytis spice, with lemon tart and cooked apple. Full-bodied, with loads of cream and vanilla and an intense tropical fruit and honey aftertaste. Long and viscous, with a layered and beautiful spicy finish. Hard not to drink it now. Best after 2014. 8,000 cases made."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Typical of the huge power of Guiraud, this is one of the richest Sauternes in 2005. The wine is rich and intense, the dry edge of botrytis just dominating the sweetness. Flavors of honey, almonds and peaches give the wine extra complexity."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast



**Reviews** *"Lively and fresh – quite zesty. Very clean and brisk, not especially sweet but a well-balanced drink. Not very concentrated."*  
- JR, Jancis Robinson.com

*"A dense and concentrated nose, showing crystalline fruits and sweet, pretty, honey-coated flower petals. It has a full-on texture, creamy and nicely polished. Rather simple in style, nice notes of honey-tinged fruit, pleasant but rather low in acidity. Nevertheless, I think this will show some nice development with time. Very good, although I am less impressed than at the UGC tasting last year."*  
- CK, Wine Doctor

*"A denser concentration of aroma than some on the nose here, with a smoky nuance which is appealing, alongside some nice botrytis. Rich, flashy and unctuous, a simply fabulous texture dominates here, although it is packed with flavour too. On the negative side, the acidity is a touch low, but this still gives plenty of pleasure. A fine showing. From my tasting of 2005 Bordeaux at two years of age."*  
- CK, Wine Doctor

*"While wait to hear who the new owner will be, Xavier Planty has made another superb wine close to being five stars. It is very perfumed with lovely concentration and imposing length, fruit and elegance."*  
Decanter Magazine

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