

Château Guiraud 2010

CSPC# 742368

375mlx12

13.7% 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.

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. Aged 24 months.

Tasting Notes

With a great yield, we have produced a powerful wine, very aromatic, that present a perfect alcohol-sugar-acid balance and an impressive purity of botrytis. The difference with 2009 is the cold temperature we had during august & September. These days and nights cold weather permit to preserve the aromatic precursor and the acidity of the berry. That is why Château Guiraud 2010 has a spectacular balance and freshness always reinforce by 35 % of sauvignon. It presents intense aromas, hawthorn flowers, fresh fruit, with a minty note which characterizes the vintage. The feeling in mouth is magnificent, soft, but robust. The tonic feeling of the botrytis is amplified by a great freshness. Mouth aromas strengthens up the nose: the botrytis now shows them crystallized, of great precision and purity. The aftertaste is long. The sugar power never gives heaviness: It is the magic of natural sugars sublimated by botrytis.

Production

11,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2030

Scores/Awards

94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013

92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #194 - April 2011

92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013

94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011

92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011

17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2011

16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011

18.5 points/5 stars - Michel Bettane, Decanter.com - April 2011

93 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012

86-89 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011

15.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2011

Review only - Geoffrey Bender, JJBuckley Wines - February 2013

94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011 (score only)

90-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011



- Reviews** *"A thick, unctuous style, with marzipan, dried pineapple, mango and dried guava notes leading to a good bolt of toasted almond and pie crust on the finish. A muscular, well-stuffed version that will need some time to settle in. Best from 2015 through 2030."*
- JM, Wine Spectator
- "This is developing some real power, with glazed peach and pear fruit pushed by graham and honey notes. There's lots of viscosity on the finish, but with good underlying acidity. 11,000 cases made. Score range: 92-95."*
- JM, Wine Spectator
- "The 2010 Chateau Guiraud has fine purity and minerality on the nose, with touches of passion fruit and dried apricot, later quince joining the fray. The palate is very well-balanced with a lively entry of apricot, quince and a touch of hazelnut. The middle and finish demonstrate fine tension and a lot of freshness. Individual lots seemed to have more race than the final sample, and I suspect it will warrant a higher score once the final blend is in bottle."*
- NM, Wine Journal
- "Ripe lemon peel and orange. Some honey and vanilla with loads of new wood. Dense and very sweet on the palate with nice pure fruit and firm tannins from the oak that still needs time to soften. This Sauternes shows a wonderful fruit and excellent potential but needs time. Try in 2018."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "92-94 A closed up wine, although all the elements are there, promising great final balance, richness and power."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Deep gold. Something sulphidey on the nose. Sweet and sticky rather than fine. Sheer mass. Sweet and interesting but not that intense. Marmalade and a bit of bitterness. Certainly, makes an impression. Lilies; tropical flowers. Big and a bit of bruiser. RS 132g/l, TA 4.0. 13.7%."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Not especially distinctive nose – a bit low key – but there is clearly botrytis here. And then lovely precision and pear juice and delightful acidity, yet this is not scrawny nor that light. Pretty much correct."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "More lactic notes than most, more intensity of yeasty undertones, very intense, great proportions, great style, great future, showing the energy of a perfectly cultivated vineyard. Drink 2018-2040."*
- MB, Decanter.com
- "As ever, the sauvignon blanc in this wine gives it a wonderful sense of freshness, against a rich and sticky mid-palate that gives a wonderful contrasting sensation in the mouth. A very physical, three-dimensional wine. 93/100. Drink 2018-2030"*
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- "It is very lush with lots of apricot, yellow peach and orange peel. The mid palate is sumptuous the richness balanced to some extent by freshness, but the ripeness of the fruit gives a fat exotic richness on the finish."*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "This Premier Cru Sauternes has recently been bought by the Peugeot family in partnership with Xavier Planty and Stefan von Neipperg of Canon La Gaffeliere and Olivier Bernard of Domaine de Chevalier. The 2010 has a good colour with rich sweet fruit on the nose although it lacks complexity at the moment. The palate has sweet honeyed tropical style fruit and good length but lacks something in verve. "*
- Farr Vintners

Reviews *"65% Semillon, 35% sauvignon blanc. Aged in 100% new oak. Showing an eye catching vibrant gold color. This shows an inviting sexy nose of warm vanilla, ripe apricot and honey, with a spicy ginger note that jump from the glass. Full bodied, mouth-coating richness hits on entry, creating a luxurious mouthfeel that enrobes the tongue with pineapple, quince, lemon curd, and a candied ginger finish. This is broad shouldered and powerful, yet refined and elegant from the persistent acidity. Keeping true to Guiraud style, this is a wine that will prove to last 30+ years."*

- JB, JJ Buckley Wines

"Palest gold; wax, butter, some freshness and honey; sweet and unctuous on the palate but also with race; a little more elegant than the Rieussec which was surprising. Very good mouth feel. Excellent 90-92+/100 Tasted 5 April 2011 UGC"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
