

# Château Suduiraut 2001

CSPC# 768401

750mlx3

14.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

*Sémillon-Sauvignon Blanc*

**Appellation**

Sauternes

**Website**

<http://www.suduiraut.com/en/>

**General Info**

The estate took the name of Suduiraut in 1580 on the marriage of Nicole d'Allard to Léonard de Suduiraut. The château was plundered and burned down during the Fronde insurrection, then rebuilt in the 17th century. It was re-named Cru du Roy in the late 18th century on being taken over by a nephew of the Suduiraut family, Jean Joseph Duroy, Baron of Noaillan. The family home then acquired a cartouche featuring the Suduiraut and Duroy coats of arms, which was to give rise to the escutcheon used by Château Suduiraut today. The property was planted with magnificent formal gardens, designed by Le Nôtre, King Louis XIV's renowned gardener. On 18 April 1855 the estate was classed as a Premier Cru during the official wine classification programme in the Gironde winegrowing area. AXA Millésimes acquired Suduiraut in 1992 with the aim of preserving and perpetuating the estate's remarkable tradition of vineyard management and winemaking. Inspired by the great Suduiraut wines of the past, the new management has enabled this great vineyard to fulfil its full potential in recent years.

Classed as a Premier Cru in 1855, it is made from grapes selected from the finest *terroirs* of the property. This wine is hand crafted at every stage of its elaboration and reveals remarkable finesse and complexity and a golden colour reminiscent of the sun that made it possible. With age the bright gold evolves to a dark amber colour.

**Vineyards**

This superb *terroir*, bathed in sunlight and embraced by autumnal mists generously supplied by the Ciron and Garonne rivers, benefits from ideal conditions for the development of noble rot.

The vineyard's 92 hectares are on a sandy, gravelly soil whose stones capture the heat of the sun, helping the grapes to ripen more quickly. It is this unique *terroir* that gives the wine its outstanding opulence.

This thin soil which retains very little water leads to low yields. It concentrates the grapes' qualities and forces the vine to draw its nourishment from deep in the earth. The wine's relationship with the *terroir* is even stronger because of this, and it expresses itself with strongly marked minerality.

It is this match of opposites, opulence and minerality, that transforms the tasting experience into a revelation for the senses.

**Vinification/  
Maturation**

In the cellar the long and intricate pressing process extracts the richest juice before it is vinified and slowly matured in oak barrels, where the precious liquid will remain for 18 to 24 months. Total control of fermentation, barrel by barrel, ensures that the aromas produced by the raisin, botrytised grapes are preserved intact.

In years when the harvest has not reached the required quality, no Grand Vin will be bottled.

**Tasting Notes**

The golden yellow colour with its hints of green betrays the youth of the wine. The tight nose gradually opens up to reveal an intense bouquet of outstanding finesse with aromas of melon, mango, candied lemon, hints of white flowers and mint. It is both concentrated and very long on the palate, offering the promise of new sensations. Although it still has to come around fully, it gives an impression of complexity, strength, and elegance. The finish is crisp and fresh with hints of sultanas and mineral touches. All the work undertaken since the takeover of the estate in 1992, backed by an even more rigorous selection, finds its just reward in this magnificent bottle. A vintage to be marked with a red letter and a magnificent expression of the *terroir*.

**Production**

6,665 cases made

**Cellaring**

Drink 2010-2040



**Scores/Awards** **98 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - September 15, 2004  
**#9, Top 100 List** - Wine Spectator 2004  
**95-100 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2002  
**98 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #153 - June 2004  
**93-96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003  
**90-93 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #140 - April 2002 (score only)  
**95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2011  
**96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2009  
**94-96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - June 2006  
**92 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2014  
**93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012  
**95 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - July/Aug 2004  
**18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com – March 2012  
**18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011  
**18 points** - Decanter.com - March 20, 2002  
**18.5 points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - January 2013  
**18.5 points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - May 2010  
**17.5-18+ points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - June 2006  
**17.5 points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - May 2004  
**88 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - no review  
**97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 17, 2013  
**96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 1, 2012  
**94 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 17, 2014  
**94 points** - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - November 2012  
**98 points** - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)  
**17 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**19 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**Reviews** *"Gorgeous aromas of honey, passion fruit, mango and candied lemon rind. Full-bodied and ultra-concentrated, yet balanced and refined. It lasts for minutes on the palate. This has just about everything in the right place. Stunning. Best after 2009. 6,665 cases made."*  
 - JS, Wine Spectator

*"Pure botrytis, with floral, spice and honey character. Very sweet yet fruity, with honey, dried pineapple and apple. Full-bodied and lively, with a long finish. Powerful. This is the essence of Sauternes. Score range: 95-100"*  
 - JS, Wine Spectator

*"A prodigious effort, possibly the finest Suduiraut since 1959, the medium gold-colored 2001 offers notes of creme brulee, caramelized citrus, Grand Marnier, honeysuckle, and other exotic fruits as well as a pleasant touch of oak. With terrific acidity, a voluptuous/unctuous palate, and sweet, powerful flavors buttressed by crisp acidity, it is a phenomenal Sauternes. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2040"*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"One of the most remarkable wines made at this estate over the last 30 years, the 2001 reveals notes of white flowers intermixed with honeyed peaches and tropical fruits (pineapples) along with a sweet, unctuous texture. There is tremendous freshness and definition (because of good acidity) in this seamless, full-throttle, massively endowed 2001. It appears to be a legend in the making. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2030."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at the Chateau Suduiraut vertical in London and subsequently at the Chateau with consistent notes. Hello...one can already see thick tears on the glass. The bouquet is powerful and focused: a lot of botrytis evident here. It soars from the glass with scents of lemon curd, lanolin, dried ginger and pressed flowers, the oak perhaps a little obvious at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with a caressing, honeyed texture, very fine acidity, just a touch of ginger inflecting the botrytis-laden finish, with just the right amount of residual sugar. This is just superb. Tasted February 2011."*  
 - NM, Wine Journal

## Reviews

*"One of the outstanding wines from an exceptional Sauternes vintage, the quality to price ratio is just ridiculous! The nose soars like angels from the glass with touches of honey, honeycomb, apricot and a touch of lanolin/walnut. Wonderful definition. The palate is beautifully balanced with a very good level of botrytis. Viscous and minerally towards the finish – this is sheer class. Bravo! Drink now-2040. Tasted March 2009."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted on several occasions and definitely one of my favourite vintage, auguring a succession of superb wines under Christian Seely. Last tasted at the vertical in Jun-06. A lucid greeny gold colour. A stunning nose, very minerally, white flowers, reserved and focused, almost like a super-ripe Meursault. This has an understated palate, builds on the palate with notes of clear honey, lemon, lime, minerals. Brilliant poise and focus, in my opinion trumping the 2003 and 2005. Very fresh and brimming with vitality and sophistication. Wonderful, long-term Suduiraut. Tasted June 2006."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"A wonderful and fascinating wine with a tangy sweet and sour character. Full and very sweet"*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Medium yellow-gold. Flamboyantly ripe, complex nose combines pineapple, apricot, toffee, clove and vanilla. Hugely sweet and rich, with deep, powerful flavors of honey, marzipan and toffee. A major mouthful of wine, with great lingering sweetness. Today, this makes the Rieussec seem almost polite by comparison."*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Big and rich and massive. Waxy. Slightly burnt character with gorgeously rich, slightly decadent notes that somehow inspired the tasting note (perfectly spelt) antimacassar. Go figure, as they say. Very long. 18/20 points."*

*"Certainly the 2001 Sauternes are stupendous and are just starting to be broachable. Suduiraut is wonderfully dependable. Very rich yet tangy with flavours of almonds and citrus zest. There's a lot going on here - real depth of flavour. It's sad in a way that it has not appreciated in price the way it deserves to. 18/20 points."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Terrific fruit concentration and freshness on the nose, while the palate is full of glorious candied fruit flavours. A complex and harmonious wine, classic Sauternes. Ready 2009 onwards. "*  
- Decanter.com

*"From a half bottle. There is some very subtle volatility which thankfully dissipates. I've had this before with 2001 Suduiraut; although the last bottle in 2010 was clean, the one previous in 2006 was quite pungent, although it did blow off to some extent if I recall correctly. Happily, here the great concentration of botrytis some comes to dominate, all heady and perfumed, with intense aromas of oranges and apricot and some creamy almond tones too. The palate is confident, just as seductive as the nose, textured, with great grip and precisely defined fruit. No shortage of concentration as the nose suggested, honey on toast with a sprinkling of citrus freshness, backed up by lots of tangible extract. This has an amazing presence in the mouth and is incredibly long. Another superb wine from a great vintage."*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor

*"From a half bottle. A gentle golden hue in the glass. The nose is aromatic and enticing, with clear elements of botrytis, also with oranges, apricots, vanilla, touches of gently spiced wood. There is certainly none of the volatility I noted when I last tasted this wine, although I note that this was more than three years ago now (how time flies!). The palate has a pure style, lifted and creamy, rich but defined, with almost ethereal fruit in combination with gentle but burgeoning botrytis flavour which builds greatly towards the end of the mouth. Beautiful, pure, rich and very long, this is the best showing for this wine so far and exceeds my expectations from previous tastings. Brilliant."*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor

**Reviews**

*“From a half bottle. A very appealing burnished gold hue here. The nose is dominated, for the first few hours at least, by a pungent volatile acidity, which reminds me more of Beaucastel 1995, tasted back in 2004, than any other Sauternes I have ever tasted. As this blows off - the next day in truth - it reveals some appealing botrytis character with mealy, honeyed aromas. Lovely attack on the palate, very pent up and frustrated at the moment, with plenty of texture. There is acidity there (something I noted as a concern last time) but it is simply swamped by texture, fruit and a rather brutal extract. This is a wine with stunning potential, and once past this adolescent phase this should be an absolute delight to drink. Very good indeed, but with excellent potential.”*

- CK, *The Wine Doctor*

*“This is really dense and compact on the nose, with powerful botrytis on the nose, alongside plenty of sweet fruit. A full, fat and rich palate. Certainly, a ripe vintage, with acidity nudging towards the low side. A wonderful, plush texture though. This will develop well, and the reputation of 2001 as a great vintage remains unchallenged, but I am a little concerned by the acidity here. Needs between at least six and ten years before drinking.”*

- CK, *The Wine Doctor*

*“Intense, ripe, pure, sweet, fat, juicy, rich and fresh, with the perfect level of acidity to give the right amount of lift to the multiple layers of ripe and over ripe apricots, orange, pineapple, vanilla and nuts coated with honey. This is even better than it was a year ago. I love young Sauternes and this special wine is just getting going. It's going to be much better in the years to come. “*

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

*“Thick, rich, sensuous layers of honey coated; tropical fruit grab your attention. Flowers, citrus oil, honey, vanilla custard, orange, apricot and honey coated; spicy, tropical fruit are the hall marks of this wine. This delicious, fresh, sweet Bordeaux wine is already drinking well and should continue to develop and improve for decades.”*

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

*“An unctuous, rich, generous, sweet wine that has a deep golden colour from concentrated botrytis. An intense, sweet wine that will keep for many decades. Tasted in Hong Kong, China. Maturity: Drink.”*

- JCL, *asianpalate.com*

*“Crystalline fruits, apricots and subtle herbs on the nose. The palate is explosively rich and bold with lots of character and great acid balance. Plenty of botrytis here – a sensationally good wine. Very good/excellent 94/100”*

- JG, *Wineanorak.com*

---