

Château Coutet 2009

CSPC# 749547

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	75% Semillon, 23% Sauvignon and 2% Muscadelle
Appellation	Barsac
General Info	1er Cru Classé in 1855. Coutet is one of the widest and oldest estates in Sauternes. It was built at the end of the 13th Century, time from which remains a square tower. The estate was taken over in 1977 by Marcel Baly and his sons, Philippe and Dominique.
Vineyards	This is a large vineyard, the largest in Barsac in fact; the entire estate amounts to 42 hectares, of which 38.5 hectares are committed to the vine; the estate is bisected only by a narrow road which runs up through Coutet, past Doisy-Daëne, and ultimately on to Climens on the distant rise. The vines are 75% Semillon and 23% Sauvignon Blanc, the remaining 2% Muscadelle, and there is an ongoing program of replanting in order to replace older stock, maintaining an average age within the vineyard of 35 years. They are planted on the usual Bordeaux rootstocks Riparia-Gloire and 420A with a density of 7500 vines per hectare. As is typical of the Barsac vineyards the soils underfoot are a mix of gravel and the classic red clay of the appellation over a limestone bedrock rich in starfish and shellfish fossils, laid down when this was an ancient seabed. The yields are typically 9 hl/ha, the remarkably low figure the result of botrytis-induced dehydration of the fruit, with the number of <i>tries</i> reaching double figures in some vintages, although the average number during is six. Only 50% of the harvest finds its way into the <i>grand vin</i> .
Maturation	Vinification takes place in oak barrels, before 18 months' extended oak ageing. The wines are aromatically complex and recent vintages have seen added concentration.
Tasting Notes	The first tasting impresses upon us an intense expression of the wine, its depth and its complexity, with fresh and exotic flavors, lots of citrus, quince and apricot. The sensation of coolness is enhanced by the brightness of the fruit. The sweetness is present with hints of roundness and opulence.
Production	5,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2014-2034
Scores/Awards	95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012 95-98 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010 96-98 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010 96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010 92-94 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010 17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - November 2011 16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010 19 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2011 18.5-19.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010 18 points/5 stars - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2010 89 points/16.25 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010 93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010
Reviews	<i>"Very lightly toasty, this is more floral for now, with lively honeysuckle and pineapple notes up front, giving way to richer hints of warm brioche, fig, glazed pear and lemon shortbread that should emerge more with time. The long, lacy finish has the poise and balance for long-term cellaring. Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc and Muscadelle. Best from 2014 through 2034. 5,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator <i>"Lemon custard, with honey and apple pie aromas. Full-bodied, with wonderful intensity and a spicy dried lemon and mineral finish. Very powerful, with lots of botrytis. Could be the Sauternes of the year. Score range: 95-98"</i> - JS, Wine Spectator



Reviews

"The Coutet 2009 is a sensational effort from Philippe Baly and his team. It has a fragrant nose of honey, vervain tea, pineapple, frangipane and apple-blossom, well defined if needing a little more vigour at the moment. The palate is vibrant on the entry, informed by touches of apricot and orange peel, very focused and tensile towards the long, sensuous, viscous finish. It has the same minerality exuded by Doisy-Daene and reminds me of a stellar '62 tasted just a few weeks previously. A magnificent Coutet."

- NM, Wine Journal

"96-98 Barrel sample. A wine that shows intense spice, with ginger and grated nutmeg. This lies over the top of the ripest yellow fruits, added to mango, sweet pears and a fresh, final character. Complex wine with an immense future."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright, deep golden yellow. Delicate smoky nuances complicate aromas of ripe citrus fruits, brown sugar and vanilla on the floral, perfumed nose. Enters very rich and creamy, showing very good balance to its pineapple jam, star fruit, white peach and citrus flavors. Finishes long, creamy-rich and smooth, with strong botrytis character and a lingering flinty note. One of the top '09 Sauternes I tasted, and one of the best young Coutet's ever. This should age exceptionally well."

- ID, International Wine Cellar

"Very rich and ripe. Very sweet and pear juice and much bigger than the Climens. Lower acid. Long."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Rather simple, floral, barley-sugar aromas. Sweet? Certainly. Interesting? A bit more debatable. Hot finish."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"A lovely freshness on the nose, with just a little hint of baked apple sweetness but above all a honeyed, beeswax-tinged vigour to it. The palate has all the delicious weight of the vintage, perhaps slightly more restrained than some, or at least it feels that way, balanced by a citrusy acidity and lovely touches of grip. There is a lovely harmony here, elegant and fresh at the same time. Overall, this is delicious, and promises greatness if given the appropriate time in the cellar. From my tasting of 2009 Sauternes at two years of age. 19/20 (Oct 2011)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Residual sugar 146 g/l. Fabulously vibrant on the nose, lifted and rather direct, much more so than many of the wines from neighbouring Sauternes, with an ethereal and crystalline character, plus nuances of star fruit and plum. Balanced texture, fresh and direct, with lots of composed substance. Intense purity and great elegance here, and also a seam of botrytis. Freshness too. Excellent. Surely one of the greatest examples of Coutet ever? From my 2009 Bordeaux en primeur assessment. 18.5-19.5+/20 (March 2010)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Large and rich with the intense and complete character of the vintage, super quality in the finish, perhaps broader than subtle, great future."

- JL, Decanter.com

"Showing a yellow green color, this wine offers a slightly jammy nose of botrytis and flower. On entry, it performs rich, marked by a sweet character, developing over some flavors of vanilla and a medium melting profile. A bit sweet on finish. Alcohol level: 14% - residual sugar: 146 grams. 89"

- J-MQ

"The oak is a teeny bit too intrusive at the moment here, adding a slight bitterness on the palate, but the freshness and sheer verve of the wine beneath is exceptional. Not as sweet as some Sauternes (at 146 grams of residual sugar), this white benefits from the high proportion of Sauvignon Blanc, whose acidity adds backbone to the peach and honey flavours. 10+ years."

- TA, timatkin.com
