

Château Coutet 2010

CSPC# 749547

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

75% Semillon, 23% Sauvignon and 2% Muscadelle

Appellation

Sauternes-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 *tries* reaching double figures in some vintages, although the average number during is six. Only 50% of the harvest finds its way into the *grand vin*.

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

Château Coutet's 2010 vintage offers a beautiful concentration of aromas with notes of dried mango and apricots, as well as peach glaze, honey and citrus marmalade. These flavors are then followed by touches of orange blossom and fig. The wine shows a great complexity; it is rich and dense while at the same time offering an impressive freshness. It has a superb balance between the power of sweetness and its minerality. The finish is full, powerful and persistent. This is a wine that is already starting to express itself, however time will only enhance its aromatic palette. This vintage has a very long aging potential.

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2030

Scores/Awards

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

93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011

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

93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011

91-94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - August 2011

17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - November 2012

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

19 points - Michel Bettane, Decanter.com - April 2011

92-93 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012

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

89 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011 (score only)

92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 8, 2013

88-90 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011

Review only - Geoffrey Binder, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011

Review only - Lay & Wheeler Wine Merchants - April 2011

Reviews

"Offers a bright inner core of honeysuckle, pineapple, star fruit and white peach flavors, coated for now with heather honey, marzipan and mango notes. Fresh and racy through the finish, this is an elegant beauty, showing terrific cut and precision. Best from 2015 through 2030."

- JM, Wine Spectator



- Reviews** *“Really ripe and fleshy, offering delicious glazed peach, apricot and honey notes, with lots of orange blossom and fig and a very rich finish. Starting to take shape now too. Impressive. Score range: 93-96”*
- JS, Wine Spectator
- “The 2010 Chateau Coutet has 154-gms/litre residual sugar, one of the highest in Sauternes/Barsac. It is endowed with a delightful bouquet of freshly sliced mango, Tropicana and a touch of honey, with good definition and minerality. The palate is medium bodied with very impressive balance and poise, and is slightly viscous in the mouth, with almond, lemon curd and a touch of orange peel. The finish is composed and long. The 2010 Coutet is very impressive for the vintage, although I suggest not quite reaching the stellar heights of the magnificent 2009.”*
- NM, Wine Journal
- “93-95 Powerfully rich wine, very concentrated, rich, with a great balance between acidity and honey and apricot flavors. Finely rich.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Bright medium golden-yellow. Knockout nose offers pure, intense aromas of crystallized ginger, honey, vanilla and lemon custard, with a delicate spicy botrytis character tying all the elements altogether. Then deep, rich and dense, but with lively acidity framing and lifting the rich tropical fruit flavors. Finishes with a lovely touch of sexy botrytis and a lingering peppery nuance. A superb wine that should make a great follow-up to the outstanding 2009.”*
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- “RS 154 g/l. Marmalade aromas and butter too. Thick but smooth with a light ginger beer note. 17.5/20 points.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Smudgy and interesting, already, on the nose. Lots of richness and smoothness. Really. This approaches the idea of a classic vintage with its density and concentration. Long. Very fine.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Perfect balance, lots of class, super-refined texture, great length, great wine: purity and power!”*
- MB, Decanter.com
- “A charming delicate yellow gold, some spring flowers on the nose. Like this, a lovely freshness to it, some really delicate strands of flavour, good length and like the pretty, delicacy here, masking some clear power underneath. 92-93/100. Drink 2018-2030”*
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- “Pale gold with hint of green; full bodied nose; powerful; botrytis and honey; palate fresh and strong with good acid; feels really fresh. Wonderful. 94-96+/100 Tasted 5 April 2011 UGC”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “75% Semillon, 23% sauvignon blanc, 2% Muscadelle. Aged in 100% new oak. A vibrant straw, touching on gold, color with flecks of green. This is very clean and well-delineated aromatically, with lots of high-toned tropical fruit, rounded nicely with baking spices and ginger. This has an incredibly lively feel on the palate and shows excellent length and assertive acidity. Notes of white cherry and Meyer lemon show first, followed by candied orange peel and marmalade spiced notes. Linear on entry, this broadens exquisitely, creating a mouth-coating sensation in which the richness is cut by persistent acidity. This is the signature of Coutet. Expected lifespan is 30+ years.”*
- JL, JJ Buckley Wines
- “Beautiful pale straw colour and gold highlights shimmering with flashes of green. A marvelous floral burst comes right off the glass, with white flower and hints of passion fruit. On the palate, plenty of richness and elegance, with honey and great acidity balancing all the components in this splendid wine.”*
- Lay & Wheeler Wine Merchants
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