

Château Coutet 2013

CSPC# 780151

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

75% Semillon, 23% Sauvignon and 2% Muscadelle

Appellation

Sauternes-Barsac

Classification

First Growth. Premier Cru Classe in 1855.

Website

<http://www.chateaucoutet.com/>

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.

Vintage

The year 2013 was marked by a spring that alternated between freshness and humidity until the beginning of July, slightly delaying bud burst. Overall conditions improved over the course of July and the arrival of a heat wave in August allowed the vineyard to catch up some of the delay. A couple rain showers during the first days of September were followed by a very hot period. This kick started a quick Botrytis cinerea attack on September 20th that led to the first picking through the vineyard. The berries ripened, concentrating the sugar levels and developing the aromas of noble rot.

These climatic conditions led to a small harvest, whose quality is undeniably present.

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*.

Harvest

The first try began on September 26th, due to favorable weather giving beautiful concentration levels (22% of potential alcohol). These conditions allowed a second passage between October 2nd and 9th. After the presence of seasonal rains, a third try took place from October 15th to 20th. The harvest concluded with a fourth and final try under the sun until October 24.

Maturation

100% barrel fermented, 50% new French oak. Aged 18 month in French oak barrels

Tasting Notes

Straw color (still in barrel), the nose has lovely aromatic notes of tropical fruit, such as lychee, mango, and pineapple, followed by aromas of quince, toasted almonds and acacia flowers. The palate is round and smooth with a good balance between freshness and fullness. This wine distinguishes itself by a good density and remarkable finesse.

The finish is long, with its vivacity and its power. Overall, this vintage is marked by its elegance.

Cellaring

Drink 2018-2038

Production

2833 cases made

Scores/Awards

96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2016

94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014

93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #214 - August 2014

90-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - April 2014

96 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2016



Scores/Awards **94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2014
91-94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2014
17.5 (91) points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, Decanter.com - April 11, 2014
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 1, 2016
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 22, 2014
91-93 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2014
93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
17.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2014
91-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2014
91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2014
93 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
93-95 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2014 (score only)
16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
18 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2014

Reviews *"Unctuous and ripe, with mouth filling almond cream, ginger, heather honey and apricot flavors, this will need time to unwind fully, but when it does, expect more pineapple, maple and singed orange notes, as this has some depth and power in reserve, with more than enough cut for balance. A beauty in the making. Best from 2018 through 2038. 2,833 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Powerful, with intense apricot, tangerine and pineapple notes forming the core, all wrapped with toasted almond, shortbread and sweetened butter notes. Has loads in reserve, with serious cut still to fully show itself. Score range:"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2013 Coutet has one of the most complex aromatics you will find this year - a smorgasbord of citrus fruit, lime zest, orange blossom and white peach that is beautifully interwoven with compelling minerality. The palate is extremely well-balanced, very intense and linear right from the start, with wonderful tension toward the finish that exhibits just a hint of spice. In other words, this is everything you expect from a great Coutet."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Wow. This is superb with great botrytis character from white pepper to dried mushrooms. Dried fruits such as apple and lemons. Full body, very sweet yet tight and racy. Needs three or four years to open."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Extremely sleek and balanced with dried-apple, pear, honey and caramel character. Full body with integrated fruit, acid and sweetness. Lively and balanced."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Extremely sleek and balanced with dried-apple, pear, honey and caramel character. Full body with integrated fruit, acid and sweetness. Lively and balanced."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"94-96. Barrel Sample. Complex and ripe, this has an opulent, full character that is balanced by fresh acidity. It's a very fine wine, on the tight edge between crispness and richness."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Pale gold. Lively, pure fruit cocktail aromas complicated by honey and spice. Dense, pure and very intense, with electric acidity giving terrific lift to the botrytis-rich flavors of banana flambé, ginger and ripe mango. The finish is remarkably clean and long, with chewy tannins. A very impressive Coutet, though it strikes me, in perfect 2013 style, as much less massive and rich than usual. (ID)"
- ID, International Wine Cellar

Reviews *“Sweet and luscious with wonderful floral notes and intense flavours that range from dried tropical fruits to sweet spices. Fairly long finish.”*
- JCL, Decanter.com

“Outstanding in every sense of the word, the wine kicks off with spicy, overripe apricots, pineapple, candied orange vanilla bean, roasted nut and honey on the nose. Rich, dense and with ample depth, the wine is sweet, lush and vibrant, with enough acidity to keep everything in check.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Packed and stacked with layers of honeyed tropical fruits, vanilla, honey, nuts, apricots and pineapple, this will be another winner in the long line of successes for Aline Baily and Coutet. 94-96 Pts”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Pale gold; some fresh grapefruit tones; little reticent aromatically; full palate with attractive waxy tones; round on the finish. Attractive effort if a little subdued on the day. Expect this to uncoil. Tasted UGCB 1/4/14. Drink 2018-2030. 91-93”
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“One of the finest wines of Barsac - and indeed of the whole Sauternes region. Coutet is produced under the control of the wine-making team of First Growth Mouton Rothschild. A rich and intense nose of marmalade, peach and apricot. The palate is viscous and full bodied with a massive intensity of honeyed fruit and sweet vanilla spice. Complexity and savoury notes from botrytis give another dimension to this wine. The wine is beautifully balanced by acidity that cuts through the sweetness. A long, intense finish makes this one of the best Sauternes tasted this year and could prove good value given the high quality.”
- Farr Vintners

“Lush rich ripe the nose has depth and sweetness and the palate is sumptuous and fleshy. There is a lovely mix of flavours candied peel, ripe apricot and Christmas cake yet the underlying freshness helps to balances. The finish has depth sweetness and power.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“Very sweet and luscious with wonderful dried flower sweetness and flavours that range from dried tropical fruits to sweet spices. There is a delicacy in this vintage that is attractive. Fairly long finish. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (01-Apr-2014)”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2013 Coutet is built on freshness, energy and tension. White flowers, mint, lychee and lime emerge gracefully from a very pretty, effortless Sauternes endowed with terrific energy and focus.”
- AG, Vinous
