

Château Coutet 2016

CSPC# 813901

375mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	75% Semillon, 23% Sauvignon, 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.
Winemaker	Laurier Girardot
Vintage	We experienced an exceptional climate, a prerequisite to elaborating a great wine. Spring was very humid yet gave the flower a sufficient lull to develop in good conditions. Summer was surprisingly dry with a little rain over several days mid-August, which favored a good ripening of the grapes. The Botrytis Cinerea settled on golden, ripe grapes at the arrival of fogs during the last week of September. A gradual and homogeneous maturation was observed, marked by the development of a very pure Botrytis.
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> .
Harvest	With a large team of pickers (90 people), small daily quantities were picked that gave notable juices. We completed eight passages from September 30th to November 8th. The phenomenal climatic conditions at the beginning of November rewarded the technical team's patience. From September 30th to November 8th, 2016
Maturation	100% barrel fermented, 50% new French oak. Aged 18 month in French oak barrels
Tasting Notes	The Chateau Coutet vines' deep roots extract elements from its terroir to give the grapes freshness, richness and strength. For this reason, the estate carries the name "Coutet," derived from the Gascon's word for knife, to signify the fresh, lively and crisp palate that is the wine's signature style. In its youth, the wines display generous notes of white flowers, citrus fruits, honey and vanilla. Ginger and pineapple are very typical aromas in a young Château Coutet. Time brings out deeper, warmer notes in which spices combine with exotic nectars and candied fruits, such as gingerbread mingled with marmalade. Age also enhances the harmony of its roasted Botrytis character and its distinct aromas to give Chateau Coutet a delicate and unique bouquet that is unsurpassed.
Serve with	Chateau Coutet can be served with seafood dishes, especially shellfish, lobster, crab and oysters on the half shell. Foie gras is a perfect pairing with its natural sweet, salty and savory characteristics. Chateau Coutet can also be paired with roasted chicken, veal and pork dishes that are either spicy, or prepared with a touch of sweetness. Spicy Asian cuisine, raw fish, like sushi or sashimi, and cheese, both hard and soft also make great pairings with Chateau Coutet.



**Cellaring
Production
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2018-2038
5,333 cases made.

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019
92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017
94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018
91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017
95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019
89-90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017
17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018
16.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017
96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017
95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017
15+ points - Farr Vintner - February 2017
88-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017
89-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017
97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019

Reviews

"Unctuous in feel, with marzipan, candied orange peel and praline notes leading the way for a juicy display of mango, peach and papaya flavors. The rich finish has a nice toasty hint. Best from 2023 through 2038. 5,333 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Plump, with a mouthful of tangerine, peach and clementine notes laced with a ginger thread. A twinge of bitter orange adds cut on the finish. Score range: 92-95"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Pale lemon colored, the 2016 Coutet reveals gorgeous quince paste, candied ginger and key lime pie scents with touches of lemon marmalade and peach compote. Full-bodied, rich and seriously seductive, it has a lively line cutting through the sweet, dense layers and epically long finish."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 Coutet has an intriguing bouquet, more exotic than I have noticed in the past, scents of tangerine and dried pineapple, not quite the mineral drive that I expect from Coutet. The palate is serviced back to normal: a very fine line of acidity, great delineation, taut and focused with a brisk and precise finish. I just hope that the aromatics get their house in order during the barrel maturation so that it matches the palate. At the moment, I will be prudent with my score."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The vibrant, tropical fruit-coulis character draws you into this concentrated and elegant Barsac. Then the crisp acidity and a wave of lemon and mineral character comes through, driving the finish out in the direction of the horizon. Drink or hold."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Tight and linear with blueberry and currant character. Medium body, firm tannins and a bright finish."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This wine is dense, mingling spicy nutmeg along with superb ripe honey and marmalade flavors. With its balanced acidity and opulence, it is going to be a great wine. (RV)"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Complex, savoury nose and really round, intense, satin-textured fruit with a dramatically spicy undertow. Very clean although a second tasting sample pressed on me seemed oakier and more raw than the first."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"RS 153 g/l, TA 3.8 g/l. Correct but somewhat restrained nose, particularly in comparison with Clos Haut-Peyraguey. Just a little dull. Not the juiciest. Not the sweetest. Very youthful."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

- Reviews** *"Oh, that's lovely. Ginger and sumac spice, and a gorgeous richness with the perfect balance of minerality. Rich but pure botrytis character and gently curling smoky notes leap out of the glass. Amazing persistency, easily one of the best wines in the tasting. This is excellent; succulent and mouthwatering."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Pineapple, candied orange rind, vanilla, and apricots with sweet, honey and floral notes create the nose. The wine is lush, sweet and fresh, with a tropical fruit and decadent, honey coated finish."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Coutet's wines are refined, restrained and refreshing in the richest of vintages, so in a year like 2016, they are even more so. This is a focused, taut, beautifully balanced Barsac with subtle reduction, citrus and grapefruit notes and a dusting of vanilla spice."*
- "Coutet is one of the leading Chateaux in the Barsac sub-district of Sauternes. Ripe, honeyed and botrytis on the nose this year, there is an herbal edge to the fruit at this young stage. Rich and powerful in its fruit character, this unfinished wine is very smoky at this young stage and has not yet integrated fully into the clearly considerable fruit concentration. Should resolve with time in barrel and bottle."*
- Farr Vintners
- "The nose is quite light the palate richer with apricot and white peach. The sweet fruit is backed by freshness lighter at the back the finish lacks a bit of complexity, depth and richness. 2025-38"*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "The 2016 Coutet is bold, immediate and delicious. Ripe pear, tangerine, spice, mint and dried flowers build into the soft, caressing finish. This is an especially discreet, understated style with less overt sweetness than is found in many other wines."*
- AG, Vinous
- "One of the top sweet wines in this report is the 2016 Château Coutet, which has the vintage's plush, opulent style as well as thrilling purity and good acids. Pineapple, white flowers, sugared peach, and honeyed notes all emerge from this full-bodied, layered, balanced Barsac that's already impossible to resist yet will evolve gracefully 2+ decades."*
- Jeb Dunnuck
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