

Château Guiraud 2011

CSPC#742368

375mlx12

13.7% alc./vol.

CSPC#758866

750mlx12

13.7% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

65% Semillon, 35% Sauvignon Blanc

Appellation

Sauternes

Website

<http://chateauguiraud.fr/en/>

General Info

This chateau, recently purchased by a consortium led by auto magnate Robert Peugeot, produces a distinctly restrained style of Sauternes that emphasizes the pungent, firmer quality of Sauvignon Blanc rather than the more exotic tones of Sémillon. The abundance of Sauvignon was a result of the planting strategy of an earlier owner, Paul César Rival, who managed the estate through the middle of the twentieth century. But recent vintages of the sweet wine have been especially rich, as a greater percentage of these Sauvignon grapes have been directed to the production of the estate's dry white wine: G de Guiraud.

Vineyards

Only Semillon (65%) and Sauvignon (35%) are planted at Guiraud with a pruning "à cots" or "in fan" for the Semillons and long branches for the Sauvignons. The density of plantation is 6660 vine per ha (Root stock Riparia 33 09, 101 14,161 49). The average age of the vines is 35-40 years. The average yield is 12hl/ha. The maximum yield allowed by the appellation is 25hl/ha.

Harvest

Harvest is only done hand picking by successive waves through the vineyard (2 to 7 selections), picking only the botrytised berries. A minimum of potential alcohol (20°) must be reached before starting the harvest.

Maturation

The fermentation is made in new oak barrels over a period of three weeks to two months. Different batches are fermented until they reach their own equilibrium which depends upon their selection. Chaptalisation, cryoextraction and any other techniques used to enrich the wine are absolutely prohibited. Aged 24 months.

Tasting Notes

A dry white from Château Guiraud. Lovely fruit purity on the nose here, scented tangerine zest, with honeysuckle flower petals and perfumed chalk. The palate is soft, broad, quite gentle, perhaps not in possession of the attack of acidity and definition I was hoping for though. It feels gentle, perfumed, easy-going, with a rather feminine, chalky edge to the fruit. Attractive though, and I think we have to take account of the price here, which is very favourable.

Production

11,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2030

Scores/Awards

#12 - Wine Spectator's Top 100 wines of 2014

97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014

96-99 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

88-90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2014

95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2012

94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012

17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012

18 points - Decanter.com - April 2012

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

93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 12, 2014

95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012 (score only)

93-95+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012

91-93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012

17.5 points - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)

17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

18.5 points - Gault & Millau - April 2012 (score only)



- Reviews** *"A large-scale version, with seamlessly layered notes of almond cream, apricot, ginger, mango, piecrust, papaya and toasted hazelnut. The long, spice-infused finish shows ample depth, echoing with an enticing tarte Tatin note. Best from 2016 through 2035. 7,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator
- "Ripe and unctuous, but with a deliciously racy orange streak running through the core of creamed pear, fig and green plum flavors. Super creamy on the finish and very long, with honeysuckle and almond notes echoing on and on. A stunner in the making. Score range: 96-99"*
- JM, Wine Spectator
- "The 2011 Guiraud is missing some of the vivacity and fruit intensity displayed by some of its peers this year, and its bouquet is quite resinous and missing the fruit concentration of others in this vintage. The palate shows more promise, with very fine tension and crisp acidity, although it is not quite matched by the finish, which feels slightly attenuated. I was hoping for more from Guiraud, which has produced some excellent wines in recent years, although both samples were consistent."*
- NM, Wine Journal
- "This wine has exceptional clarity, balance and freshness, with lots of spicy botrytis character. Full body, medium-sweet and a crisp finish. It's racy and refined. What's impressive is the intensity of noble rot that makes the wine feel almost dry. This is the greatest wine ever made here. Made from organic grapes. Try in 2017, but already delicious to drink."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "94-96. Barrel Sample. An intense wine that is rich, rounded, dense and solid. Along with its weighty, ripe fruit, there are suggestions of acidity. Layered with botrytis flavors."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "RS 140 g/l, TA 3.8 g/l. Not terribly open on the nose though you can find ripe lemon and apricot plus an oily minerality. Rich, powerful apricot fruit, bitter orange and marked freshness to counterbalance. Zesty in a rich framework, slight pear-grain grip. Pure, lots of power, incredibly viscous. Mouthwatering finish."*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Elegant, refined style, typical of Guiraud. Silky sweetness with finely woven flavours and long finish. Combines finesse with depth. Delicate yet intense, the wine possesses breeding and immense drinkability."*
- Decanter.com
- "Quite a luxurious feel here, real satiny texture, good density of fruit, feel Semillon wins out, although fresh backbone of sauvignon. Great persistency."*
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- "Filled with spicy, candied orange, nuts, honey, pineapple, apricot and vanilla, the wine lacks a bit of the intensity found in the top wines of the vintage. Yet, it still delivers a tasty, sweet, tropical, orange, honeyed finish with good freshness."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Brilliant pale gold; lots of honey and orange; pretty unctuous; thick; full and thick on the palate; this is the best Guiraud I've had in a while; big and thick; lots of creamy mouthfeel. Very powerful and very sweet. 93-95+"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Elegant, refined style, typical of Guiraud. Silky sweetness with finely woven flavours and long finish. Combines finesse with depth. Delicate yet intense, the wine possesses breeding and immense drinkability."*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- "Since being sold a few years ago to a consortium of quality-minded Bordeaux producers and the Peugeot family this famous old Sauternes property has made steady progress. This year it has excelled itself with a wine of unusual elegance, in slight contrast to the slightly richer style it is more known for. The bouquet displays an abundance of stone-fruit aromas with hints of coconut and citrus peel. The palate has wonderful purity and finesse with a long finish of piercing precision."*
- SS, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants
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