

CHÂTEAU GUIRAUD

Sauternes

Bordeaux

This venerable “premier cru classé” Sauternes acquired new owners in 1983, and since then has become one of the properties spearheading what can only be called “the great Sauternes revival of the late 20th century”.

It is no secret to the world’s wine lovers the extent to which great Sauternes depends on the caprice of nature – the appearance of noble botrytis at the proper juncture of ripeness – as well as on a unique terroir. What is perhaps less well appreciated is the extent to which enormous influx of capital is also a requirement for great Sauternes. The labor cost of multiple pickings by a trained crew, at times over more than a month are staggering. And the yield is inevitably tiny. Then there are the same costly new barrels that would go into the production of Mouton or Latour.

The best Sauternes wines that began appearing in the late eighties clearly showed both the beneficence of nature and the fruits of investment. Here were wines with a purity, textural allure and polish only possible through scrupulous pickings and new oak vinification, along with a sheer concentration insured by strict pruning and even stricter picking.

Nineteen eighty-eight represented the breakthrough vintage for Château Guiraud. As Robert Parker wrote, it was “this estate’s finest effort to date. Extraordinarily rich, concentrated and oaky, this wine is full-bodied and fabulously long, but ever so precise and clear. Spectacularly concentrated and potentially long-lived, Guiraud is another dazzling star of the vintage.” The pattern was set that continues with the enormously successful Guirauds of 1996-98.

A small amount of dry wine, labeled “G” is composed of 70% Sauvignon, 30% Semillon, fermented in previously used barriques and aged 6 months sur lie.



Château Guiraud Sauternes

Varieties: *Semillon, Sauvignon (45%) and Muscadelle (5%), although the actual blend of the finished Sauternes often favors Semillon to an even greater degree.*

Total acreage: *100. 33 of these are planted with Sauvignon and utilized in the dry “G”.*

Average production: *8.000 cs.*

Vinificatory details: *Individual lots by picking, block and/or variety a vinified in small, primarily new barrels.*

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Château Guiraud “G”

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