

# CHÂTEAU COUTET

## BARSAC



Château Coutet, an English fortress built in the thirteenth century, this citadel became a wine producing estate in 1643. Traced back to 1643, Château Coutet is one of the oldest and most distinguished vineyards in France's Sauternes wine region. In 1787, former U.S. President Thomas Jefferson, then ambassador to France, celebrated Château Coutet as the best Sauternes from Barsac.

In 1855, in preparation of the Exposition Universelle de Paris, the Emperor Napoleon the III requested that the Bordeaux wine merchants classify the greatest Bordeaux estates according to their reputation. This was accomplished by interpreting the Chateaux prices and quantities traded. This classification not only identified to all the quality of the wines, but also and more important, the exceptional terroirs within each appellation. Château Coutet received its Premier Grand Cru classification as one of only two Barsac properties represented in this particular highly distinguished tier, joined by only seven other Sauternes. Overtime, several estates were divided. Thus, today's First Growths consist of nine properties.

In 1977, the estate was sold to Marcel Baly, an Alsatian who fell instantly in love with the estate during the course of a vacation stop. With a bit of encouragement, Marcel, a true entrepreneur, could not turn down the challenge of transforming himself into a winemaker, even after a lifetime spent in the logistics and hospitality industries. Although Château Coutet was intended to be a retirement project, Marcel realized that

leading a first classified growth with over 300 years of history was too great a responsibility. Today, Philippe and Dominique Baly continue their father's program, accompanied by the family's third generation, represented by Marcel's grand-daughter, Aline Baly, Dominique's daughter. Today, as the oldest and largest Barsac estate, Château Coutet stays true to its tradition of distinction and quality.



*"The more you know about wine, the more you'll want to know about us."*

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