

CHÂTEAU RIEUSSEC

LES DOMAINES BARONS DE ROTHSCHILD (LAFITE)

Sauternes, France



Château Rieussec Grand Cru Classé Sauternes 2008

THE VINEYARD

Classified as First Growth in 1855, Château Rieussec is located in Fargues (near Château d'Yquem). Rieussec is one of the biggest estates of Sauternes with 92 hectares of vines, situated on the "communes" of Sauternes and Fargues, high above the Garonne River, in a small area where the cold Autumn dawns help form the famous mist. It is this mist which many believe plays a major role in the development of botrytis cinerea (noble rot).

In the 18th century, the Rieussec estate belonged to the Carmes de Langon monks. Sold as a "national inheritance" after the Revolution, Rieussec experienced several changes of owners before being acquired by Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite) in 1984. Since then, meticulous plot selection and important innovative methods have been used in the cellars to enhance quality.

HARVEST & AGEING

During winter, the presence of frost was very beneficial for the vines. However, during spring, some freeze was still registering. This was harmful for the young buds and unfavorably affected the grape growing. The viticultural period was quite difficult because of a constant alternation between sun and rain. Stable weather conditions weren't until the beginning of September. The harvest took place rather late and the 4 or 5 pickings lasted from the 29th of September to the 14th of November. Alcoholic fermentation was carried out 100 % in barrels. Ageing lasted for 26 months in barrels produced from the Domaines' Cooperage.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

We have a rich, smooth and liqueur-like wine which finishes on fruity and light notes. Aromas are still discreet, with subtle wooden notes.

Grape Varieties: Sémillon 86%, Sauvignon 12%, Muscadelle 2%

Yields: 12 hl/ha

Finished Alcohol: 13.5 % vol

Residual Sugar: 125.1 g/l

