

**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE  
REGISTRATION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION**

**NAME OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION**

Sauternes

**PRODUCT CATEGORY**

Wine

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

France

**APPLICANT**

ODG DES AOC SAUTERNES ET BARSAC

13 place de la Mairie

33270 SAUTERNES

France

Tel. +33 5 56 76 60 37 / Fax. +33 5 56 76 69 67

odg@sauternes-barsac.com

**PROTECTION IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

*Date of Protection in the European Union:* 18.9.1973

*Date of Protection in the Member State:* Decree of 30 September 1936 (published in the Official Gazette on December 11, 1936)

**PRODUCT DESCRIPTION**

- **Raw Material**

Grape varieties: Semillon B, Sauvignon B, sauvignon Gris G, Muscadelle B

- **Alcohol content :**

Average alcohol content mín. de 15% vol.

Natural alcohol content mín. de 12% vol.

- **Physical Appearance**

White wine with lot of different yellow reflections

**DESCRIPTION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA**

The area of production is located in the southwest of Bordeaux and covers five municipalities (Sauternes, Preignac, Bommès, Fargues Barsac. See map). To the east, the area is bound by the river Garonne. Soils are composed of layers of limestone, silica and gravel. The area benefits from a temperate climate with mild winters and wet springs, hot and dry summer and pleasant autumns.

In the autumn, thanks to the Ciron River, a tributary of the Garonne river, there is morning mist which allows the development of Botrytis cinerea in grapes. Under the effect of the sun, the berries are dried and darkened. During harvest, growers should select only fully botrytis infected grapes.

## **LINK WITH THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA**

The distinctive microclimate offers special conditions that have led to the development of a tiny grape fungus, *Botrytis cinerea*, responsible for the "noble rot" that confers specificity to the wines of Sauternes.

The wines come from plots or parts of plots subjected to a rigorous and precise delimitation based on objective, technical and pre-production criteria based on a proposal of a committee of independent experts.

Over time, winemakers have selected varieties that best lend themselves to botritization grapes, such as the Sémillon B (originally from Sauternes).

Moreover, in order to achieve sufficient concentration for the production of these wines severe pruning is required for each of the varieties. Often a specific mode of short pruning in this area is used.

To achieve excellence, the wines come from overripe grapes (presence of noble rot) harvested manually by successive selective harvests. Yields after ripening are very low, especially as weather conditions, variable depending on the vintages, the harvest sometimes reduces drastically.

Plant densities are high, since the production of wine per foot is very low. The fermentation is slow and often takes place in barrels. The wines undergo a long aging before bottling, necessary for its refined and improved expression.

The reputation of the wines of Sauternes soon consolidated historically around flagship 'châteaux', the most famous of which is the world famous "Château d'Yquem". The Classification of Bordeaux wines of 1855 widely acknowledged the supremacy of that name in the Gironde with granting the single "premier cru supérieur" to "Château d'Yquem" and 11 "premiers crus" and 15 "seconds crus" to Sauternes. This classification took into account the prices achieved by wines that reflect their quality, and the wines still retain their fame.

The combination of an environment remarkably suitable for grape growing, a particular microclimate and the installation of winemakers have led to the adoption of specific practices for obtaining large fortified wines appreciated by connoisseurs around the world

## **SPECIF RULES FOR LABELLING, IN CASE THESE EXIST**

[...]

## **CONTROL BODY**

*For checking compliance with the tender specifications:*

Institut National de l'Origine et de la Qualité (INAO)  
12, rue Henri Rol-Tanguy – TSA 30003  
93155 Montreuil-sous-Bois Cedex  
France

Tel. +33 1 73 30 38 99  
info@inao.gouv.fr

*To prevent fraud (quality, description tags and documents, trade):*

Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances et de l'Emploi et Ministère du Budget, des  
Comptes Publics et de la Fonction Publique  
Direction générale de la concurrence, de la consommation  
et de la répression des fraudes  
Bureau D2 Télédoc 251  
59, boulevard Vincent-Auriol  
F-75 703 Paris Cedex 13

Tel. +33-1-44972351 / Fax. +33-1-44973039  
D2@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr

*For fiscal affairs, accompanying documents and customs matters:*

Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances et de l'Emploi et Ministère du Budget, des  
Comptes Publics et de la Fonction Publique

Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects

Sous-Direction des droits indirects

Bureau F/3

11 rue des Deux Communes

F- 93558 MONTREUIL Cedex

Tel. + 33 1 57 53 44 10 / Fax. + 33 1 57 53 42 88

[dg-f3@douane.finances.gouv.fr](mailto:dg-f3@douane.finances.gouv.fr)