



KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

CHÂTEAU DUCASSE CHÂTEAU ROUMIEU-LACOSTE CHÂTEAU GRAVILLE-LACOSTE

Country: France

Region: Bordeaux

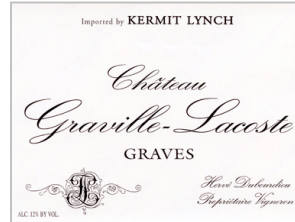
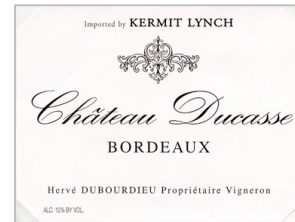
Appellation(s): Bordeaux, Graves,
Sauternes

Producer: Hervé Dubourdiou

Founded: 1890

Farming: Lutte Raisonnée (since 2000)

Website: under construction



Hervé Dubourdiou's easy charm and modest disposition are complemented by his focus and ferocious perfectionism. He prefers to keep to himself, spending most of his time with his family in his modest, tasteful home, surrounded by his vineyards in the Sauternes and Graves appellations. Roûmieu-Lacoste, situated in Haut Barsac, originates from his mother's side of the family, dating back to 1890. He also owns Château Gravelle-Lacoste and Château Ducasse, where he grows grapes for his Graves Blanc and Bordeaux Blanc, respectively. In the words of Dixon Brooke, "Hervé is as meticulous a person as I have encountered in France's vineyards and wineries. Everything is kept in absolutely perfect condition, and the wines showcase the results of this care – impeccable." Hervé is incredibly hard on himself. Despite the pedigree and complexity of the *terroir* and the quality of the wines, he has never been quite satisfied to rest on his laurels, always striving to outdo himself. This is most evident in his grape-sorting process for the Sauternes. Since botrytis is paramount to making great Sauternes, he employs the best harvesters available, paying them double the average wage to discern between the "noble rot," necessary to concentrate the sugars for Sauternes, and deleterious rot. Hervé is so fastidious that he will get rid of a whole basket of fruit if a single grape with the harmful rot makes it in with healthy ones to be absolutely sure to avoid even the slightest contamination. Another thing that we love about Hervé is that he would rather entrust the selling to us than be away from his vines, so he lets us buy the lion's share of his production. This is an important factor in keeping wine of this quality at so low a price.

Roûmieu-Lacoste is in the *climat* of Haut Barsac, an area famous (and in fact more renowned historically than the Sauternes appellation as a whole) for its particularly robust, powerfully styled *moelleux* with pronounced acidity. The vineyards are just across the road from First Growth Château Climens on a similar soil: calcareous clay on fissured rock, peppered with red iron, white limestone, and grey flint gravel. The Gravelle-Lacoste property produces a Graves *Blanc*, known primarily for its stony soil composition and fresh minerality. This wine and the Bordeaux *Blanc* of Château Ducasse are very different from others from their appellations: Hervé blends a high proportion of Sémillon (60%) and a splash of Muscadelle (5%) with Sauvignon Blanc (35%), creating a rich, full, aromatic mid-palate to complement the clean finish. These are the perfect go-to whites that pair well with anything from fish to poultry, picnic fare to Indian curries.



KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

CHÂTEAU DUCASSE
CHÂTEAU ROUMIEU-LACOSTE
CHÂTEAU GRAVILLE-LACOSTE (continued)

<u>Wine</u>	<u>Blend</u>	<u>Vine Age</u>	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Vineyard Area*</u>
Bordeaux <i>Blanc</i>	60% Sémillon, 5% Muscadelle, 35% Sauvignon Blanc	45-48 yrs	Clay & Limestone on fissured rock	13 ha
Graves <i>Blanc</i>	75% Sémillon, 20% Sauvignon Blanc 5% Muscadelle	45-48 yrs	Clay & Limestone on fissured rock	13 ha
Sauternes	100% Botrytized Sémillon	45-48 yrs	Clay & Limestone on fissured rock	6 ha
Sauternes “Cuvée Léon”	100% Botrytized Sémillon	45-48 yrs	Clay & Limestone on fissured rock	
Sauternes “Cuvée André”	100% Botrytized Sémillon	> 48 yrs	Clay & Limestone on fissured rock	

* “ha”=hectares; one hectare equals roughly two and a half acres

VITICULTURE / VINIFICATION

Château Ducasse Bordeaux *Blanc* :

- Harvested in September
- Vinification and aging in stainless steel *cuvés*
- Total production: 8,500 cases
- Bottled unfiltered

Château Gravelle-Lacoste Graves *Blanc* :

- Cooler microclimate for the appellation
- Harvested in September
- Vinification and aging in stainless steel *cuvés*
- Total production: 8,667 cases
- Bottled unfiltered

Château Roumieu-Lacoste Sauternes:

- Harvested in October
- Fermented in stainless steel
- Aged in 225-L barrels from Bordelaise oak (70% new oak, 30% 1-year-old oak) for 12 months
- 156 g/L residual sugar