



E. GUIGAL

Above: The Guigal family spent nearly 15 years restoring Château d'Ampuis, the iconic 11th century property perched on the banks of the Rhône river. For generations, the building has remained a symbol of the region and of the world-renowned vineyards which surround it.



E. Guigal Côtes du Rhône Blanc 2018

Rhône Valley, France

ESTATE

The more you learn about the Guigal family, the more astounding becomes their story. Their wines are the benchmarks for every Rhône appellation, and over the last thirty years they have become arguably the most lauded producer in the world. Year after year the Guigal family produces wines of exceptional quality that in all classes offer exceptional value.

WINE

Guigal's Côtes du Rhône Blanc both sets and steps outside the standard for the appellation and showcases one of the great secrets of the Guigal family: their specialization in the great white Rhône varieties. While only 2% of the Rhône's production is white, a full 25% of Guigal's production is white. This wine, based on Viognier, is both fresh and rich, with complex aromas and flavors of honeysuckle, pear, and kiwi, and a deep mineral streak. It is a beautiful, seamless wine that represents unbelievable value.

VINEYARD

Soils: Plantings that go into this wine are on varied soils, primarily sedimentary, limestone and granite.
Farming: Guigal produces an almost completely distinct Côtes du Rhône Blanc due to their Northern Rhône mindset. Wines under this general appellation are dominated by Southern Rhône grapes such as Clairette, Grenache Blanc, and Bourboulenc. Since 1991, the Guigals have searched for and encouraged plantings of Viognier for their Côtes du Rhône Blanc, as they believe it adds critical freshness and aromatics to the other varieties.

WINEMAKING

Varieties: 60% Viognier, 15% Roussanne, 10% Marsanne, 8% Clairette, 5% Bourboulenc, 2% Grenache Blanc
Fermentation: Handled at low temperatures and then fermented 100% in stainless steel.
Aging: 9 months in stainless steel
Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

The 2018 vintage in the Rhône was marked by wet weather through the end of June followed by a relatively hot and dry summer and fall. Quantities in the north were exceptional, while in the south crop levels were impacted by the excessive heat and also mildew. All told, 2018 is an excellent vintage of great ripeness, concentration and structure, suffering only from a markedly smaller crop in the south.

JEB DUNNUCK

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"The quality of this cuvée has soared over the past decade, and the 2018 Côtes du Rhône Blanc is another terrific vintage. Tasting like a mini Condrieu with its floral, orange blossom, and honeysuckle aromas and flavors, it's medium-bodied, fresh, and lively on the palate, with an attractive mix of richness and freshness." - JD, 12/2019