



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.



Saint-Joseph Blanc 2018

Saint-Joseph, 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

The Guigals believe, as do a number of top producers working in the area, that Saint-Joseph will be one of the great stories in the next few decades, reaching the renown it received several hundred years ago. Saint-Joseph Blanc is a serious wine, with weight and complexity, and is deeply reflective of its vineyard sites. The 30 mile long district of Saint-Joseph, along the Western bank of the Rhône, extends from the southern part of Condrieu, through and around the town of Tournon, to the northern boundary of Cornas. Guigal only works in the southern area, around Tournon, the true heart and origin of the appellation.

VINEYARD

Soils: Sedimentary, limestone and sandy soils, with many pebbles and alluvial deposits.
Yields: Average of 1.8 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 20 to 50 years

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 95% Marsanne, 5% Roussane
Fermentation: In stainless steel, with slow pressing allowing for the wine to stay in contact with its skins. The entire wine goes through malolactic fermentation.
Aging: Partially in stainless steel vats (50%) and partly in oak (25%) coopered by Guigal at Château d'Ampuis.
Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

2018 is shaping up to be one of the truly great vintages in the Northern Rhône valley. Following a very wet Spring, Summer was dry and hot – the warmest vintage since 2003. Harvest was quick and early, starting on the last day of August and finishing in Côte Rôtie on September 20th. Yields were slightly above average, but the fruit was uniformly ripe, with some vineyards in Côte Rôtie coming in at 150 potential alcohol. The resulting red wines are dense and concentrated, with exceptionally deep color and rich tannins, similar to 2015 but with even more intensity. The whites are rich, juicy, and succulent. The red wines are excellent candidates for long maturation.

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"The 2018 Saint Joseph Blanc has a big kiss of minerality as well as medium to full-bodied, ripe notes of quince, honeysuckle, and white flowers. It's beautifully textured, balanced, and just a smoking good white from the Northern Rhone." - JD, 9/2019