



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.



Côte-Rôtie Brune et Blonde 2017

Côte-Rôtie, 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 is synonymous with the Cote-Rotie area, for bringing this great wine region to prominence. The incredible Syrah from this area, co-fermented with a touch of Viognier, has tremendously balanced concentration, depth and finesse. The name of this wine is a nod to the two areas of Cote-Rotie where fruit is used, the Cote Brune and the Cote Blonde. The historical legend is that long ago a lord deeded the Cote Brune to his dark-haired daughter and the Cote Blonde to his blond daughter.

VINEYARD

Soils: Plots on steep slopes Côte Blonde are mostly siliceous and limestone soils, while the plots on the Côte Brune are rich in iron oxide

Yields: Average of 2.2-2.5 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 35 years

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 96% Syrah, 4% Viognier

Fermentation: The wine sees a traditional lengthy maceration in stainless steel, punching down twice a day for good extraction

Aging: 36 months in oak barrels, 50% new

Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

Following the classic 2016 vintage, 2017 in the Northern Rhône was a year of contrasts and challenges. After a very dry winter, spring was wet with hail and frost in some areas, reducing the crop considerably. Summer was characterized by periods of extreme drought, which continued through the fall, interrupted by some needed rain in early September. The crop in Côte Rôtie was about 20% smaller than usual. However, the fruit was clean and extremely concentrated, with rich but round tannins, producing dense wines of balance, length and long aging potential. A great result!

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Wine Spectator

"Lively, with a mix of damson plum and bitter cherry notes lined with sanguine and iron hints. An understated style, but this has range and is sneaky long, with dried savory and bay leaf details on the finish."

-JAMES MOLESWORTH 10/2020

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