



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.



Saint-Joseph 2017

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 Guigal family lives and works just 45 minutes north of Saint-Joseph, but it was circumstance in 1999 that brought them to several extraordinary sites in Saint-Joseph they eventually purchased. They are not only converts, but among the most vocal advocates about the extraordinary depth and complexity that wines from the great sites of Saint-Joseph can display. The wines can share some of the same smoldering black fruit and spice character as their neighbors across the river in Hermitage, but they are less brooding, more composed when young, and in general wines of finesse rather than power.

VINEYARD

Soils: The best vineyards are planted on granite outcroppings of the Massif Central, intermixed with some limestone and sand. Fruit is sourced from exceptional Estate vineyards in the key Saint Joseph sectors of Mauve, Tournon, and Sarras, including vineyards from Domaines J. L. Grippat and de Vallouit (mostly bottled as selections parcelaires). Additional fruit and wine sourced from vineyards south of Sarras.

Yields: Average of 1.8 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 20 to 50 years

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 100% Syrah

Fermentation: In stainless steel, left to rise to high temperature

Aging: 24 months in second use barrels, all coopered by Guigal at Chateau d'Ampuis.

Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

Following the classic 2016 vintage, 2017 in the Northern Rhône was a vintage 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 fruit was clean and extremely concentrated, producing forward, fruity wines of balance, length and depth. A great result!

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92

"Opaque ruby. Ripe black and blue fruits, olive, black pepper and a peony note on the highly perfumed nose. Palate-caressing blackberry, cherry and spicecake flavors display fine detail and deepen as the wine slowly opens up. The spicy, persistent finish features broad, even tannins that fold quickly into the wine's sappy, clinging dark fruit." - JOSH RAYNOLDS, 4/2020

92

Jeb Dunnuck

91

Wine Spectator