



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.



Hermitage Blanc 2018

Hermitage, 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

Hermitage is one of France's most spectacular and famous appellations, but Hermitage Blanc is one of the least-known yet most intriguing wines of the Rhône Valley. Composed primarily of Marsanne (95%) and small amounts of Roussanne (5%), it is relatively rare, accounting for only a small percentage of the production of the 309 acre Hermitage AOC.

VINEYARD

Soils: Planted on illustrious plots of the Hermitage appellation, Beaumes, Murets, Dionières and Pierrelles, with granite limestone, clay loam and sandy gravel topsoils on the famous granite mother rock.

Yields: Average of 2.3 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 35 years

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 95% Marsanne, 5% Roussanne

Fermentation: Temperature controlled fermentation, between 60-65 degrees Fahrenheit

Aging: 24 months in second year oak barrels

Alcohol: 14%

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, and Guigal harvested the white Hermitage on September 12th. Yields were slightly above average, but the fruit was uniformly ripe, and the structure of the Hermitage was perfect for the extended élevage Guigal prefers. The resulting Hermitage Blanc is dense and concentrated, with exceptional length and excellent acidity – perhaps the greatest vintage for this wine since the 1990.

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JEB DUNNUCK

"Plenty of quince, crushed stone, and white flower notes emerge from the 2018 Hermitage Blanc, a rich, medium to full-bodied white Hermitage. It has a kiss of toasty, nutty notes, but otherwise has completely absorbed its time spent in barrel. Beautifully done, this textured, layered white is going to evolve for two decades or more." – JEB DUNNUCK, 11/2020

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