

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.



# Ermitage Ex Voto Blanc 2016

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

Ermitage Ex-Voto represents the fulfillment of a longtime dream of Marcel Guigal's to own vineyard land on the hill of Hermitage. Through the purchase of the de Vallouit and J. L. Grippat domaines in 2000, Guigal acquired four exceptional vineyard parcels on this legendary site. The 2001 vintage was the first release of this estate-bottled Hermitage red and white. The quality of the intense old-vine fruit is quite special, but given the Guigal's already strong work in Hermitage, they decided to only release an Ex-Voto red or white when the wine is utterly exceptional and clearly superior to their appellation bottlings.

#### VINEYARD

*Soils:* The white comes from two parcels, les Murets (90%), a parcel with alluvial and rocky topoils, and L'Hermite (10%),with a loess and sandy limestone topsoil. *Yields:* 39 HI/hectare.

#### WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: Marsanne 90%, Roussanne 10%

*Fermentation:* Grape are hand harvested before undergoing a vinification exclusively in new oak barrels, with 100% of the wine undergoing malolactic fermentation

*Aging:* 30 months in new French oak. The wine is bottled without fining or filtration, creating a wine that represents the pinnacle of the appellation, with exceptional concentration and great potential longevity. *Alcohol:* 14.5%

#### VINTAGE

Following the spectacular 2015 vintage in the Northern Rhone, the 2016 is another excellent vintage, though the path was not nearly as straightforward as in 2015. The spring was cool and wet and the vintage looked very late and complicated. Hot weather in July and no rain until September meant that vines were stressed from the other direction. The late September rain and good weather through October, resulted in wines of rich concentration with a lot of freshness, and an uncommon openness.



## JEB DUNNUCK

"While no red Ex Voto was made in 2016, the 2016 Hermitage Ex Voto Blanc is brilliant, offering classic, powerful notes of Asian spices, toasted bread, acacia flowers, and crushed rocks as well as tons of quince and stone fruit notes. This beauty is full-bodied, multi-dimensional, and already impossible to resist. It's going to evolve for 20-25 years or more." - J.D. 12/2019



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