



# E. GUIGAL

Above: The Guigal family spent nearly 15 years restoring Chateau 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 their story becomes. 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 silicone and limestone soils, while the plots on the Côte Brune are rich in iron oxyde  
*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 & Spirits

"This is a terrific vintage of Brune et Blonde, a blend of both estate and purchased fruit from the Côte Brune's schist soils and the Blonde's granite. The concentration gained in the warm, dry summer of 2017 is reflected in the wine's color, as dark purple as a Kalamata olive; the flavors are clenched in a fist of tannins and oak smoke. But give the wine a day to open and it turns cigar-smoky, with a cool blueberry-skin feel to the fruit, silky and refined—and it remains that way for days on end."

92 Wine Spectator

92 Jeb Dunnuck

91 Wine Advocate

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