



# 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.



## Gigondas 2018

Gigondas, 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's Gigondas is an incredible introduction to serious Southern Rhône reds, and a show-stopper at the price. In the hands of Guigal, the rich ripe fruit and savory character of the wine bursts with sheer pleasure, yet the wine displays terrific refinement, complexity, length and ability to age.

### VINEYARD

*Soils:* The dry, stony slopes are mostly comprised of ancient alluvia, red clay, and gravel; the combination uniquely produces substantial wines that are deep in color, with flavors of ripe summer fruits and savory herbs.  
*Yields:* Average of 1.68 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 40 years

### WINEMAKING

*Grape Varieties:* 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre  
*Fermentation:* The wine sees a traditional lengthy maceration in stainless steel, punching down twice a day for good extraction  
*Aging:* 2 years in oak foudres (50% new)  
*Alcohol:* 15%

### VINTAGE

2018 was a difficult vintage in the Southern Rhône, with a wet, windless spring leading to rampant mildew in the lower-lying vineyards. The rest of the growing season was hot and dry, however, with little rain, and the seriously-reduced crop (50% below normal) ripened early. Harvest began in late-August and finished in mid-September. The higher altitude of the Gigondas vineyards meant that the appellation was spared some of the disease-pressure of other areas, and the Gigondas produced some of the best wines of the entire Southern Rhône vintage. Guigal's 2018 Gigondas is deep, rich, and heady, with aromas of ripe plums, cherries, and garrigue. On the palate the wine is all black fruits, spices and chocolate, and its exceptional concentration is balanced by lively, ripe acidity.

*Robert Parker*  
WINE ADVOCATE

93

92

Jeb Dunnuck

"Intricate notes of garrigue, raspberries and pomegranate, much like previous vintages. Full-bodied and plush, with a long, silky finish, it should be another winner." - J.C., 12/2019