

CHÂTEAU DE NALYS

The terroirs of Nalys realize a dream spanning three generations to join this leading prestigious and historic appellation.



Châteauneuf-du-Pape Grand Vin Blanc 2019

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France

ESTATE

Since their very first vintage bottled under the Guigal name, in 1946, the Guigal family has produced a Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The terroirs of Nalys realize a dream spanning three generations to join this leading prestigious and historic appellation. A property of 125 contiguous acres, Nalys is comprised of three spectacular plots within three of the best vineyards in the appellation: the famous "La Crau", Le Grand Pierre, and "Bois Sénéchal". Already listed in regional land registers at the end of the 16th century, Château de Nalys is one of the oldest properties in the appellation, and begins a new chapter in the hands of Guigal.

WINE

Guigal's mastery of growing and producing white wine varieties in the Rhone Valley is exemplified in this wine of immense breadth and power, elegance and expression. Intensely aromatic nose of white flowers, citrus and a touch of vanilla, on the palate the presence is undeniably penetrating, with a deep minerality joining the notes above. Guigal is today the single most important producer by value and volume of white wine in the Rhone, with 25% of their production dedicated to whites. Nalys is 18% planted to whites, very high for the area, and in fact at one point it is believed the estate made the majority of the entire appellation's white wine production.

VINEYARD

Produced from three exceptional terroirs: 36% Nalys, with fine, red sandstone and sandy clay, with some limestone and soft sandstone; 27% La Crau, featuring the famous galets, large round pebbles derived from the Rhone river; 37% Bois Senechal, with slightly smaller galets and sandier, less structured soils than La Crau.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 43% Roussanne, 33% Grenache Blanc, 15% Clairette, 6% Bourboulenc, 3% Piquepoul
Fermentation: Vinification 70% in wood and 30% in stainless steel. around 4 weeks
Aging: 8 months with 70% continuing in wood (barrels, demi-muids)
Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

2019 was another warm and dry vintage in the southern Rhône, marked by insistent drought and repeated heat waves during the season. With little disease pressure or frost, the crop was of normal size, but reduced during the growing season by a lack of water. The grapes were concentrated, rich in sugar, and relatively low in acidity. Harvest at Château de Nalys started in August, and the higher elevation of many of the vineyards (esp Piedlong and Grand Piere) helped retain acidity. The crop was clean and ripe, with great concentration and aromatic expression. Both the Grand Vin and Saintes Pierres show exceptional density and richness, with aromas and flavors of ripe figs, yellow plums and honeysuckle. The Grand Vin offers greater weight and complexity, with firmer acidity. Both wines will be forward and accessible on release and will give the greatest pleasure within their first 10 years.

WINE ENTHUSIAST

Cellar Selection

"Blending is the historic trademark of Châteauneuf-du-Pape and this iconic white highlights the diversity of the region's white grape varieties as well as terroir. While similar in makeup to its sister bottling, the Saintes Pierres, it's a richer, more decadent sip packed with ripe pineapple and yellow-apple flavors swathed in honeycomb, orange blossom and vanilla cream. Matured 70% in oak barrels, it's luscious and spicy but also an elegant, balanced wine that should improve through 2035 and hold longer still." -A.I., 7/2021

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Decanter

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Wine Advocate

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Wine Spectator

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James Suckling