

CHÂTEAU DE NALYS

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



Saintes Pierres de Nalys 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

Translated as "holy stones", a play on the soils and history of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, the second white wine to Château de Nalys has a character all its own, with a strongly different varietal and plot composition, and like its red Saintes Pierres counterpart, a fermentation, and aging geared towards emphasizing freshness. The hallmark seamlessness of Guigal's white wines is especially evident in this wine, which is unlike any Châteauneuf white we have experienced in its grace and lift. The beautifully balanced freshness and fleshiness, prominent floral and citrus notes, a complete wine. Guigal is today the single most important producer by value and volume of white wine in the Rhône, 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: 34% Nalys, with fine, red sandstone and sandy clay, with some limestone and soft sandstone; 3% La Crau, featuring the famous galets, large round pebbles derived from the Rhône river; 63% Bois Sénéchal, with slightly smaller galets and sandier, less structured soils than La Crau.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 36% Clairette, 29% Bourboulenc, 25% Grenache Blanc, 7% Roussanne, 3% Picardan

Fermentation: Pressing and clarification of must before vinification in 80% stainless steel, 20% wood

Aging: 8 months with 20% 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 Pierre) 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.

WINE ENTHUSIAST

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"Matured for just eight months and geared back in oak influences, this fresh, fruit-focused white is a youthful, mouthwatering expression of Châteauneuf-du-Pape blanc. A full-bodied blend of five classic white grapes, it highlights a crisp backdrop of tart yellow pear and grapefruit flavors juxtaposed by rich swathes of buttercream, hazelnut and cinnamon. Complex yet accessible immediately, the wine should drink well through 2030." -A.I., 7/2021