



# 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.

## Hermitage Blanc 2018

Hermitage, 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

Hermitage is one of France's most spectacular and famous appellations, but Hermitage Blanc is one of the least-known yet most intriguing wines of the Rhône Valley. Composed primarily of Marsanne (95%) and small amounts of Roussanne (5%), it is relatively rare, accounting for only a small percentage of the production of the 309 acre Hermitage AOC.

### VINEYARD

*Soils:* Planted on illustrious plots of the Hermitage appellation, Beaumes, Murets, Dionières and Pierrelles, with granite limestone, clay loam and sandy gravel topsoils on the famous granite mother rock.  
*Yields:* Average of 2.3 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 35 years

### WINEMAKING

*Grape Varieties:* 95% Marsanne, 5% Roussanne  
*Fermentation:* Temperature controlled fermentation, between 60-65 degrees Fahrenheit  
*Aging:* 24 months in second year oak barrels  
*Alcohol:* 14%

### VINTAGE

2018 is shaping up to be one of the truly great vintages in the Northern Rhône valley. Following a very wet Spring, Summer was dry and hot – the warmest vintage since 2003. Harvest was quick and early, starting on the last day of August and finishing in Côte Rôtie on September 20th. The red and white Hermitage vineyards were harvested over two days – September 12 and 13. Yields were slightly above average, but the fruit was uniformly ripe, with some vineyards coming in at 15 potential. The whites are rich with adequate acidity and excellent aromatics.



*Robert Parker*  
WINE ADVOCATE

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*The 2018 Hermitage Blanc seems even more concentrated than the impressive 2017. Flamed citrus zest marks the nose, while the full-bodied wine is round and rich, finishing with plenty of power and length." - J.C. 12/2019*

94 Jeb Dunnuck

93 James Suckling