

# CHÂTEAU DE NALYS

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## Saintes Pierres de Nalys Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2018 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 red wine to Château de Nalys is an altogether different animal. Differing varietal and plot selections, fermentation, and aging result in a wine that is rich and ample, yet offers immense direct and approachable pleasure; a wine of red fruits, supple structure and brightness. In comparison to the Grand Vin, this wine relies both on varieties and plots that bring freshness, and a vinification entirely in stainless steel and foudres that also emphasizes that freshness.

### 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 Rhone river; 63% Bois Senechal, with slightly smaller galets and sandier, less structured soils than La Crau.

### WINEMAKING

Variety: 69% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 5% Cinsault, 4% Muscardin, 1% Counoise, 1% Mourvèdre

Fermentation: Manual harvest and sorting, followed by temperature controlled vinification between 28-30°C (82-86°F). Fermentation takes around 4 weeks.

Aging: 18 months in stainless steel and foudres (10% new)

Alcohol: 15%

### VINTAGE

Following the drought-affected 2017 vintage, 2018 continued the same pattern, with only modest spring rainfall before a relatively hot and humid summer. Disease pressure affected the size of the crop and caused uneven ripening in some areas. Because of these issues, the 2018 harvest at Château Nalys progressed over 5 full weeks in September and October in order to insure proper physiological maturity throughout the entire crop. As was the case in 2017, the crop was very small, and production was only about 50% of normal for the reds, and only 25% of normal for the white wines. Fortunately, the quality of the fruit was extraordinary, resulting in wines with great structure and concentration, supported by fresh acidities. A difficult vintage but an exceptional result in Châteauneuf du Pape.

## WINE ENTHUSIAST

### Editors' Choice

Full Review to be Published in October, 2021

94