



Above: The Guigal family spent nearly 15 years restoring Château 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.



Condrieu La Doriane 2018

Condrieu, 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

While only 2-3% of the Rhône's production is white wine, a full 25% of Guigal's production is Vin Blanc, so it should come as no surprise that they are leaders in the Condrieu AOC. Located on steep hillsides just south of the vineyards of Côte Rôtie, Condrieu is the ancestral home of the viognier grape, and in fact that is the only variety permitted in the AOC. The Guigals first made La Doriane in 1994, selecting grapes from two exceptional parcel. Since then, they have added two more vineyards, and the cuvée now includes grapes from four legendary Lieu-Dits: Côte Chatillon, Colombier, Château Volan, and Côteau de Chery. Despite its vinification in 100% new oak barrels, La Doriane is fresh, mineraly, and explosively aromatic – as exceptional for its appellation as their estate Côte Rôties are for theirs.

VINEYARD

Soils: Very steep, terraced vineyards, with soils composed of shale, limestone, and various granite formations
Yields: Viognier is a difficult vine, with stubbornly low yields. The La Doriane vineyards produce between 1.5 to 2 tons per acre.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: Viognier 100%
Fermentation: Barrel fermentation in 100% new estate barrels. 100% malolactic.
Aging: 12 months in barrel
Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

The 2018 vintage in the Northern Rhône was marked by wet weather through the end of June followed by a relatively hot and dry summer and fall. Quantities in the north were exceptional, while in the south crop levels were impacted by the excessive heat and also mildew. Northern Rhône whites in 2018 are rich, broad, and immediately appealing – a vintage of great ripeness and concentration, with enough structure for balance. Eminently enjoyable in their youth.

JEB DUNNUCK

"Beautiful quince, acacia flowers, apricot, and spice notes emerge from the glass and it builds beautifully on the palate, with medium to full body, integrated acidity, and flawless overall balance. It shows the soft, sexy side to the vintage and is best enjoyed over the coming 4-6 years."

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Vinous