



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.



Saint-Joseph 2019

Saint-Joseph, 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

The Guigal family lives and works just 45 minutes north of Saint-Joseph, but it was circumstance in 1999 that brought them to several extraordinary sites in Saint-Joseph they eventually purchased. They are not only converts, but among the most vocal advocates about the extraordinary depth and complexity that wines from the great sites of Saint-Joseph can display. The wines can share some of the same smoldering black fruit and spice character as their neighbors across the river in Hermitage, but they are less brooding, more composed when young, and in general wines of finesse rather than power.

VINEYARD

Soils: The best vineyards are planted on granite outcroppings of the Massif Central, intermixed with some limestone and sand. Fruit is sourced from exceptional Estate vineyards in the key Saint Joseph sectors of Mauve, Tournon, and Sarras, including vineyards from Domaines J. L. Grippat and de Vallouit (mostly bottled as selections parcellaires). Additional fruit and wine sourced from vineyards south of Sarras.

Yields: Average of 1.8 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 20 to 50 years

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 100% Syrah

Fermentation: In stainless steel, left to rise to high temperature

Aging: 16 months in second use barrels, all coopered by Guigal at Chateau d'Ampuis.

Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

2019 looks to be a nearly perfect vintage in the Northern Rhône. Following a cool spring, flowering was normal, setting a normal crop – a relief after two short harvests. Hail impacted Crozes Hermitage, but vineyards further north were not impacted. July was the hottest on record in the Rhône, but August brought some welcome rain leading into a warm and even September with perfect harvest conditions. Guigal harvested their Condrieu vineyards between September 10th and 20th, bringing in concentrated fruit with excellent acidity – better balance than even the excellent 2018.

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JEB DUNNUCK

"This cuvée always delivers, and the base 2019 Saint Joseph is solid. Cassis, graphite, and some floral notes show on the nose, and it's medium to full-bodied, has plenty of oomph, ripe tannins, and a great finish. It should certainly be an outstanding wine and evolve for 10-12 years.- J.D., 2/2022

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James Suckling

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