



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.



Côte-Rôtie Brune et Blonde 2019

Côte-Rôtie, 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

Guigal is synonymous with the Cote-Rotie area, for bringing this great wine region to prominence. The incredible Syrah from this area, co-fermented with a touch of Viognier, has tremendously balanced concentration, depth and finesse. The name of this wine is a nod to the two areas of Cote-Rotie where fruit is used, the Cote Brune and the Cote Blonde. The historical legend is that long ago a lord deeded the Cote Brune to his dark-haired daughter and the Cote Blonde to his blond daughter.

VINEYARD

Soils: Plots on steep slopes Côte Blonde are mostly silicone and limestone soils, while the plots on the Côte Brune are rich in iron oxyde

Yields: Average of 2.2-2.5 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 35 years

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 96% Syrah, 4% Viognier

Fermentation: The wine sees a traditional lengthy maceration in stainless steel, punching down twice a day for good extraction

Aging: 36 months in oak barrels, 50% new

Alcohol: 14%

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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"Vibrant, spice-accented cherry and boysenberry scents are complicated by hints of black pepper, candied flowers and licorice. Supple and broad in the mouth, offering juicy red and blue fruit preserves, spiced cake, olive paste and violet pastille flavors that tighten up steadily with air. The floral note repeats strongly on the clinging finish, which shows excellent clarity and velvety, slowly building tannins." -J.R 12/22

90-92 Wine Advocate

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