



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 Lieu Dit Blanc 2019

Saint-Joseph, 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

A result of its quality, Guigal's Saint-Joseph Blanc Lieu Dit comes from the "Saint-Joseph" vineyard that gives the appellation its name. This site convinced the Guigals to work in Saint-Joseph and help to restore the historic perception of Saint-Joseph as an appellation of utmost quality. Saint-Joseph Blanc is a serious wine, with weight and complexity, and is deeply reflective of its vineyard sites. A seamless balance of freshness and fruitiness, pleasure and interest, and flavors and structure. Guigal's specialty in whites is especially evident in this wine, as it is almost a deceptively serious wine.

### VINEYARD

*Soils:* Sourced from the exceptional vineyards of Domaine J. L. Grippat (purchased in 2000) and de Vallouit (purchased in 2001), as well as some purchased fruit from hillside vineyards, all of the above around the communes of Tournon and Sarras. Guigal only works in the southern area of Saint Joseph, on intensely steep hillside sites of gneiss with streaks of granite.

*Yields:* Average of 1.9 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 20 to 75 years

### WINEMAKING

*Grape Varieties:* 95% Marsanne, 5% Roussanne

*Fermentation:* In stainless steel, with a slow pressing allowing the wine to stay on its skins.

*Aging:* 50% new oak barrels and 50% in 2nd year barrels for 9 month.

*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 across the river in Mauves were not affected. 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 Saint Joseph whites on September 11th and 12th, bringing in supremely concentrated fruit with excellent acidity. The 2019 Saint-Joseph Lieu Dit Blanc is rich and well-structured with a veneer of new oak framing superbly concentrated flavors of quince, peach pit, and lanolin. 2019 is clearly the finest vintage for this wine to date.

## JEB DUNNUCK

96

"Another incredible wine, the 2019 Saint Joseph Lieu-Dit Saint Joseph Blanc boasts a vivid gold hue as well as incredible notes of quince, white currants, toasted almonds, brioche, and a liquid rock-like minerality. Rich, full-bodied, and opulent on the palate, it has a wonderful sense of minerality, a seamless, multi-dimensional texture, and a blockbuster of a finish. This is the finest example of this cuvée I've tasted (and I've had them all)." - JEB DUNNUCK, 11/2020