



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 2018

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

2018 is now confirmed as one of the truly great vintages in the Northern Rhône valley. Following a very wet Spring, Summer was dry and hot – the warmest vintage since 2003. Harvest was quick and early, starting on the last day of August and finishing in Côte Rôtie on September 20th. Yields were slightly above average, but the fruit was uniformly ripe, with some vineyards in Côte Rôtie coming in at 15o potential. Due to the heat, the vineyards on the elevated slopes fared best, and Cote Rotie, Hermitage, and the granitic-terraced sites in Saint-Joseph and Crozes excelling. The red wines are dense and concentrated, with exceptionally deep color and rich tannins, similar to 2015 but with even more intensity. The whites are rich, juicy, and succulent.



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All of the classic Cote-Rotie aromas (leather, smoked bacon, spices and black cherry) pour from the glass of this rich and fleshy wine. Very silky texture, in spite of the generous, fine tannins, which build beautifully at the long, complete finish. - J.S 2/22

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