



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.



Saint-Joseph Lieu Dit Rouge 2018

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

A result of its quality, Guigal's Saint-Joseph Lieu Dit Rouge comes from the "Saint-Joseph" vineyard that gives the appellation its name. Guigal owns the majority of this parcel, with 14 acres in total, 60% of which is planted to red grapes and 40% to white grapes. 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. The 100% Syrah wine has complex and deep black fruit, floral, spice and mineral characteristics. Despite its concentration and powerful attack, the wine retains the trademark elegance that Saint-Joseph offers.

VINEYARD

Soils: Steep sloped vineyards of gneiss containing streaks of granite.

Yields: Average of 1.8 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 20 to 75 years.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 100% Syrah

Fermentation: Carried out at high, controlled temperatures

Aging: 50% aged in new oak barrels and 50% in first year barrels.

Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

2018 is shaping up to be 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, with yields slightly above average. Fruit was uniformly ripe, resulting in red wines that are dense and concentrated, with exceptionally deep color and rich tannins; similar to 2015, but with even more intensity.

Wine Spectator

95

"Warm and lush in feel, with flavors of cocoa-edged plum sauce and steeped blackberry preserves, backed by roasted apple wood and licorice snap notes. This has both muscle and perfume." - J.M., 9/2021