



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 2016

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 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

Following the outstanding 2015 vintage, 2016 did not disappoint in the Northern Rhône. It is a brilliant expression of the terroir, and wonderfully elegant even in their youth with great intensity and ripe fruit flavors. A late spring was followed by hot weather from July through September, which promoted ripening. An Indian Summer through October ensured full maturation of fruit.

Wine Spectator

"Warm in feel, with a velvety display of enticing plum sauce and cherry preserve notes that meld with ganache, melted licorice and mesquite flavors through the slightly exotic finish. Stays polished and focused. Will have fans for sure." - JM. 2/2020

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James Suckling