



E. GUIGAL

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.

Ermitage Ex Voto Rouge 2018

Hermitage, 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

Ermitage Ex-Voto represents the fulfillment of a longtime dream of Marcel Guigal's to own vineyard land on the hill of Hermitage. Through the purchase of the de Vallouit and J. L. Grippat domaines in 2000, Guigal acquired four exceptional vineyard parcels on this legendary site. The 2001 vintage was the first release of this estate-bottled Hermitage red and white. The quality of the intense old-vine fruit is quite special, but given the Guigal's already strong work in Hermitage, they decided to only release an Ex-Voto red or white when the wine is utterly exceptional and clearly superior to their appellation bottlings.

VINEYARD

Soils: The grapes come from four steep sloped vineyards: Bessards (30%), Greffieux (30%), L'Hermite (20%), and Murets (20%). The vines at these sites average 50-90 years in age, and the soil types range from clay to granite to alluvial.

Yields: 35 Hl/hectare.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 100% Syrah

Fermentation: Grape are hand harvested before undergoing a vinification of 4 weeks in temperature controlled stainless steel vats with frequent pump-overs.

Aging: 42 months in new French oak. The wine is bottled without fining or filtration, creating a wine that represents the pinnacle of the appellation, with exceptional concentration and great potential longevity.

Alcohol: 14.5%

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 150 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.

JEB DUNNUCK

"Killer nose of ripe blackberries, cassis, spice, game, woodsmoke, and bacon fat. The tannins from Hermitage always have a different feel from the Côte Rôtie releases, and this is full-bodied, with a refined, seamless mouthfeel, beautiful structure, and a great finish. The balance, as well as the purity, are just about off the charts. This is another magical 2018 from this team that flirts with perfection." - J.D. 12/2022

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Wine Advocate

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James Suckling

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