



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 2017

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

Following the classic 2016 vintage, 2017 in the Northern Rhône was a year of contrasts and challenges. Starting with a very dry winter, spring was wet with hail and frost in some areas, reducing the crop considerably. Summer was characterized by periods of extreme drought, which continued through the fall, interrupted by some needed rain in early September. The crop in Saint-Joseph was about 15% smaller than usual. However, the fruit was clean and extremely concentrated, with rich but round tannins, producing dense wines of balance and ripeness. Guigal's 2017 Saint Joseph Lieu Dit Rouge is uncharacteristically rich, with explosive aromas of bacon and smoke and great depth and length – impressive early. A great result!

JEB DUNNUCK

"Coming from the namesake vineyard of the appellation just south of Tournon, it reveals a dense purple color as well as a primordial bouquet of smoked black fruits, bacon fat, chocolate, crushed rocks, and graphite. This deep, medium to full-bodied, concentrated effort has ripe, polished tannins, a great mid-palate, and a blockbuster of a finish." - J.D., 11/2020

95+

95

Wine & Spirits

93

Wine Spectator

93

Vinous