



Above: The Guigal family spent nearly 15 years restoring Château 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 Vignes de l'Hospice 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

Guigal's Vignes de l'Hospice is one of the finest sites in the Northern Rhone Valley. This steeply terraced vineyard used to be divided into three, but Guigal now owns the majority of this parcel in order to restore the perception of Saint-Joseph as an appellation of utmost quality. In fact, Guigal is often asked when they will produce a fourth "LaLa," and their response is that their fourth single vineyard phenomenon of the Northern Rhone is already being produced: the Vignes de l'Hospice.

### VINEYARD

*Soils:* Steep vineyards on a granite slope

*Yields:* Average of 1.3 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 20 to 80 years

### WINEMAKING

*Grape Varieties:* 100% Syrah

*Fermentation:* Guigal vinifies this 100% Syrah wine in the same fashion as their Côte Rôtie crus and Ermitage Ex-Voto, in stainless steel temperature controlled vats with traditional pumpovers.

*Aging:* 30 months in 100% new oak barrels, clarified by racking only, and bottled unfiltered

*Alcohol:* 14.0%

### 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, 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 15% potential alcohol. The resulting red wines are dense and concentrated, with exceptionally deep color and rich tannins, similar to 2015 but with even more intensity. These wines are excellent candidates for long maturation.

## Wine Spectator

95

This is packed with dark fig, blackberry and black cherry compote flavors, all wrapped in apple wood and bacony toast before ending with a swath of warm earth on the finish. Rock-solid, with range and depth for the cellar. - J.M

94-97

Wine Advocate