



E. Guigal

Saint-Joseph Rouge

2015



ESTATE

The firm of E. Guigal, located in Ampuis, was founded in 1946 by Etienne Guigal. Since 1961 his son Marcel has led the estate, and his unparalleled work ethic and dedication to quality have brought attention to Côte-Rôtie and other appellations throughout the Rhone that were in danger of being lost, and lifted the Guigal wines to the pinnacle of the wine world. Today, Marcel's son Philippe serves as Director and Oenologist, continuing the tradition of leadership in the Rhone Valley and uncompromising excellence.

WINE

The Guigals are among the most vocal advocates about the extraordinary depth and complexity that wines from the great sites of Saint-Joseph can display. The wines can share some of the same smoldering black fruit and spice character as their neighbors across the river in Hermitage, but they are less brooding, more composed when young, and in general wines of finesse rather than power.

VINTAGE

When Marcel Guigal called 2015 "the vintage of a lifetime", and on par with 1929, 1947 and 1961", the anticipation while Guigal carried out their customary extended aging was almost too much bear. From a vintage nearly as perfect as you could get, from vine dormancy right through harvest, the wines are spellbinding, with an utterly perfect

balance of charm, complexity, and power. Replenishing rain in the winter restored the water tables to supply the plants with nutrients, and then abundant sunshine and warmth helped the vines mature the berries to perfection as the generous diurnal shift maintained the acidity and freshness of the fruit.

VINEYARD

Saint Joseph is comprised of nearly 2,500 acres, planted about 90% to Syrah and 10% to Marsanne and Roussanne. Guigal only works in the southern area of Saint Joseph, on intensely steep hillside sites. This area around Tournon and south to Mauves is the true heart and origin of the appellation. Guigal's vineyards are among the best in the appellation, and situated on hillsides with complex soils of decomposed granite with limestone and sandy granite topsoils that produce spicy and structured wines of 100% Syrah. This Saint Joseph Rouge is comprised of fruit from the exceptional vineyards of Domaine J. L. Grippat (purchased in 2000, the "Rolls Royce of Saint-Joseph") and de Vallouit (purchased in 2001). Vines average in age from 20 to 50 years.

VINIFICATION

The 100% Syrah is fermented in stainless steel, left to rise to high temperature. Aging was for 24 months in second use barrels, all coopered by Guigal at Chateau d'Ampuis.

"Inviting, with a core of warm raspberry, fig and blackberry compote flavors with roasted apple wood and anise notes. Shows brambly grip through the finish."

– 93 Points Wine Spectator

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