

CHÂTEAU DE NALYS

The terroirs of Nalys realize a dream spanning three generations to join this leading prestigious and historic appellation.



Châteauneuf-du-Pape Grand Vin Blanc 2020

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France

ESTATE

Since their very first vintage bottled under the Guigal name, in 1946, the Guigal family has produced a Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The terroirs of Nalys realize a dream spanning three generations to join this leading prestigious and historic appellation. A property of 125 contiguous acres, Nalys is comprised of three spectacular plots within three of the best vineyards in the appellation: the famous "La Crau", Le Grand Pierre, and "Bois Sénéchal". Already listed in regional land registers at the end of the 16th century, Château de Nalys is one of the oldest properties in the appellation, and begins a new chapter in the hands of Guigal.

WINE

Guigal's mastery of growing and producing white wine varieties in the Rhone Valley is exemplified in this wine of immense breadth and power, elegance and expression. Intensely aromatic nose of white flowers, citrus and a touch of vanilla, on the palate the presence is undeniably penetrating, with a deep minerality joining the notes above. Guigal is today the single most important producer by value and volume of white wine in the Rhone, with 25% of their production dedicated to whites. Nalys is 18% planted to whites, very high for the area, and in fact at one point it is believed the estate made the majority of the entire appellation's white wine production.

VINEYARD

Produced from four exceptional terroirs: 15% Le Piedlong. 30% Nalys, with fine, red sandstone and sandy clay, with some limestone and soft sandstone; 25% La Crau, featuring the famous galets, large round pebbles derived from the Rhone river; 30% Bois Senechal, with slightly smaller galets and sandier, less structured soils than La Crau.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 40% Roussanne, 40% Grenache Blanc, 18% Clairette, 2% Picardin & Piquepoul
Fermentation: Vinification 70% in wood and 30% in stainless steel. around 4 weeks
Aging: 8 months with 70% continuing in wood (barrels, demi-muids)
Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

2020 is another excellent vintage for the Rhône Valley. Another dry spring was followed by a moderate summer featuring, this time without the extreme heat spikes of 2019. Harvest occurred early – particularly for whites and Rosés – but the weather was even and temperate throughout. The grapes were ripe and concentrated with superb natural acidity – superb raw materials for exceptional wines. The wines are rich, balanced, and expressive.

97

JEB DUNNUCK

"Always made in a slightly richer style compared to the Saintes Pierres de Nalys, the 2020 Châteauneuf Du Pape Grand Vin Blanc checks in as 47% Roussanne, 40% Grenache Blanc, 10% Clairette, and tiny percentages of Picardin and Picpoul Blanc. It offers a beautiful array of white currants, honeyed peach, toasted brioche, and a terrific salty, mineral-like character that shows more on the palate. Rich, medium to full-bodied, wonderfully pure, and balanced, I'd put it up with the finest whites in the vintage" -J.D, 12/21

94

Wine Spectator