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 Blanc 2019

Saint-Joseph, France

ESTATE

The more you learn about the Guigal family, the more astounding becomes their story. 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

The Guigals believe, as do a number of top producers working in the area, that Saint-Joseph will be one of the great stories in the next few decades, reaching the renown it received several hundred years ago. Saint-Joseph Blanc is a serious wine, with weight and complexity, and is deeply reflective of its vineyard sites. The 30 mile long district of Saint-Joseph, along the Western bank of the Rhône, extends from the southern part of Condrieu, through and around the town of Touron, to the northern boundary of Cornas. Guigal only works in the southern area, around Touron, the true heart and origin of the appellation.

VINEYARD

Soils: Sedimentary, limestone and sandy soils, with many pebbles and alluvial deposits.
Yields: Average of 1.8 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 20 to 50 years

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 95% Marsanne, 5% Roussane
Fermentation: In stainless steel, with slow pressing allowing for the wine to stay in contact with its skins. The entire wine goes through malolactic fermentation.
Aging: Partially in stainless steel vats (50%) and partly in oak (25%) coopered by Guigal at Chateau d'Ampuis.
Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

2019 looks to be a nearly perfect vintage in the Northern Rhône. Following a cool spring, flowering was normal, setting a normal crop – a relief after two short harvests. Hail impacted Crozes Hermitage, but vineyards across the river in Saint-Joseph were not affected. July was the hottest on record in the Rhône, but August brought some welcome rain leading into a warm and even September with perfect harvest conditions. Guigal harvested their Saint Joseph whites on September 11th and 12th, bringing in supremely concentrated fruit with excellent acidity.

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JEB DUNNUCK

"Pretty apple blossom, spice, and sappy flower notes dominate the bouquet of the 2019 Saint Joseph Blanc. This carries to a more medium-bodied, elegant white that offers a solid sense of minerality, good mid-palate depth and concentration, notable balance, and a great finish." - JEB DUNNUCK 11/2020