



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.



Crozes-Hermitage Blanc 2019

Crozes-Hermitage, 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

Crozes-Hermitage can be considered the gateway to the red and white wines of the Northern Rhône Valley: Crozes displays the unique, signature style of the sites and grapes of the Northern Rhône in an approachable, appealing and great value fashion. Whites make up less than 2% of production in the Rhône, but white wines are a little bit of a secret specialty at Guigal and today comprise 25% of their production. They specifically display an expressiveness and brightness while also capturing the warmth of the area. Explosive and exotic floral and fruit aromas and flavors meld with intense mineral notes, and the silky, powerful concentration of flavors has an appealing roundness that finishes remarkably fresh.

VINEYARD

Soils: The vineyards are grouped in the north of the appellation, specifically around the villages of Gervans, Mercuro, Larnage and Crozes-Hermitage itself. Soils tend to limestone, clay silt and sandy gravel.
Yields: Average of 1.8 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 35 years

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: Marsanne 95%, Roussanne 5%
Fermentation: Handled at low temperatures and fermented in stainless steel
Aging: 12 months in neutral oak
Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

2019 looks to be a nearly perfect vintage in the Northern Rhône. Following a cool spring, flowering was normal, setting an average-size crop – a relief after two short harvests. Hail impacted Crozes Hermitage, but the Hermitage vineyard itself was 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.

Decanter

90

"Apple and pear aromas with a touch of florality. It's full-bodied, rich and silky on the palate, but the acidity is well balanced. There's a good sense of precision here, it's well made; but drink soon. From 25-year-old vines grown on clay, silt, sand and gravel; aged for 12 months partly in barrels before release." - M.W 9/22