



E. GUIGAL

Above: The Guigal family spent nearly 15 years restoring Chateau 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.

Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2018

Côte-Rôtie, 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

La Mouline is historically the oldest vineyard site in Cote-Rotie, with walls dating back 2,400 years. Today its vines are also the oldest in the region, averaging 90 years of age, with the oldest dating back to plantings in the 1890s, from the first plantings after phylloxera. Acquired in 1963 from the Dervieux family, La Mouline was Guigal's first single-vineyard Côte- Rôtie, and the inaugural vintage was 1966. This 1-HA vineyard is located on the lighter soils of the Cote Blonde, and is planted to about 11% Viognier, aspects that give La Mouline its telltale aromatic complexity and additional softness and roundness; it is often called the most feminine of Guigal's Côte-Rôties.

VINEYARD

Soils: Terraced wines in the shape of a Roman amphitheatre. Gneiss with lightly coloured silicone soil with limestone loess.

Yields: Average of 2.59 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 75 years

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 89% Syrah, 11% Viognier

Fermentation: In stainless steel vats. seeing traditional pump overs with fermentation and maceration lasting around 4 weeks.

Aging: 42 months in new oak

Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

2018 is now confirmed as 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 150 potential. Due to the heat, the vineyards on the elevated slopes fared best, and Côte Rôtie, Hermitage, and the granitic-terraced sites in Saint-Joseph and Crozes excelling. The red wines are dense and concentrated, with exceptionally deep color and rich tannins, similar to 2015 but with even more intensity. The whites are rich, juicy, and succulent.



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JEB DUNNUCK

"Just about pure perfection as well as a desert Island wine [...] Incredible notes of black raspberries, spring flowers, bacon fat, smoked game, violets, and pepper all emerge on the nose. These carry to a full-bodied, round, supple, sexy Côte Rôtie offering ultra-fine tannins, an insane level of purity, no hard edges, and a monster of a finish." - J.D 12/22

98 Vinous

98-100 Wine Advocate