



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.

## Hermitage Rouge 2016

Rhône Valley, 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

Hermitage is one of France's most spectacular and famous appellations, producing small quantities of extraordinarily intense and age worthy red wine and tiny amounts of dry white. The entire vineyard consists of 309 acres planted on a single granite hillside on the East bank of the Rhône. Hermitage Rouge is the quintessential Syrah, balancing power with finesse and complexity in a wine capable of aging and improving for decades in the cellar.

### VINEYARD

*Soils:* From 4 parcels in Hermitage, planted on limestone, granite/clay loam and sandy top soils that lie above the granite mother rock. These vineyards are the source for Ermitage Ex-Voto Rouge and Blanc in years when those are produced. To supplement this production and in years when Ex Voto is produced, they purchase grapes and wines from exceptional small growers, some of whom they have worked with for over 50 years.  
*Yields:* Average of 1.8 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 30 years

### WINEMAKING

*Grape Varieties:* 100% Syrah

*Fermentation:* Grape are hand harvested before undergoing a vinification of 3 weeks in temperature controlled stainless steel vats with frequent pump-overs.

*Aging:* 30-36 months in barrels coopered exclusively by Guigal, 50% of which were new. Bottling is done without fining or filtration.

*Alcohol:* 14.5%

### VINTAGE

2016 began with a cool and rainy spring, with some threat from hail and mildew early on, and very late flowering. However, fine weather through August and September provide perfect conditions for a classic vintage, and the Hermitage vineyards were harvested between late September and mid-October. The resulting wines are excellent, with great purity, concentration and balance. Exceptional aging potential.



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"Displays expansive aromas of fresh blueberry, cherry, incense and candied flowers. A subtle olive nuance builds with air. Juicy, youthfully chewy and deeply concentrated, offering smoke-tinged dark fruit preserve, candied violet, olive past, licorice and cracked pepper notes that build on the back half. In a powerful yet graceful style, with building tannins adding grip to an impressively long, floral and spice tinged finish." - J.R. 4/2020

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Wine Enthusiast

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