



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.



Condrieu La Doriane 2020

Condrieu, 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

While only 2-3% of the Rhône's production is white wine, a full 25% of Guigal's production is Vin Blanc, so it should come as no surprise that they are leaders in the Condrieu AOC. Located on steep hillsides just south of the vineyards of Côte Rôtie, Condrieu is the ancestral home of the viognier grape, and in fact that is the only variety permitted in the AOC. The Guigals first made La Doriane in 1994, selecting grapes from two exceptional parcels. Since then, they have added two more vineyards, and the cuvée now includes grapes from four legendary Lieu-Dits: Côte Chatillon, Colombier, Château Volan, and Côteau de Chery. Despite its vinification in 100% new oak barrels, La Doriane is fresh, mineraly, and explosively aromatic – as exceptional for its appellation as their estate Côte Rôties are for theirs.

VINEYARD

Soils: Very steep, terraced vineyards, with soils composed of shale, limestone, and various granite formations
Yields: Viognier is a difficult vine, with stubbornly low yields. The La Doriane vineyards produce between 1.5 to 2 tons per acre.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: Viognier 100%
Fermentation: Barrel fermentation in 100% new estate barrels. 100% malolactic.
Ageing: 12 months in barrel
Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

2020 was another drought year in the Northern Rhône, with a warmer than average winter and early budbreak, and despite some rain during this time, the rainfall total for the North was the lowest in 30 or more years. The heat continued through the summer, but without the spikes seen in 2019, and the maturation and development of the crop was even, if rather early. Harvest in Condrieu commenced on August 26th and was finished on September 12th. The Viognier fruit was clean and concentrated, and the resulting wines are rich yet balanced, with excellent acidity and freshness, and perfect ripeness. A vintage to enjoy both early and in a few years' time!

JEB DUNNUCK

"Just about pure perfection and one of the finest Condrieu to pass my lips, the 2020 Condrieu La Doriane offers an insane bouquet of grilled pineapple, charcoal, crushed stone, acacia flowers, and white peach. It picks up an incredibly sense of salinity on the palate and is full-bodied, has blockbuster concentration, remarkable purity and focus, and a great finish. I like this beast/beauty today, but it will keep for a decade."
- JD, 2,22

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