



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 2019

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: 14.5%

VINTAGE

2019 is the latest in an unprecedented string of magnificent vintages in the Northern Rhône Valley, with extremely high quality in all appellations and at all levels. Following the intense but also charming 2017s, and the forceful and forward 2018s, the 2019 reds are once again powerful wines with deep, healthy colors and pinpoint balance. Acidity levels and tannin content are both higher in this vintage than in the two prior, framing the 2019s as a hypothetical cross between the classic 2016s and the rich, forward 2018s. Yields were impacted by hail in some appellations, but outside of Crozes-Hermitage the damage was slight, and 2019 overall was a vintage of average size. The intensely concentrated fruit, framed by healthy acidity and deep, ripe tannins is perfectly suited to Guigal's method of extended élevage, and the 2019s should prove to be among the longest-lived vintages in recent memory.

97-100

JEB DUNNUCK

"The 2019 Côte-Rôtie La Mouline is a bigger, richer Côte Rôtie. Co-fermented with a solid chunk of Viognier and around 85% destemmed (the same as the La Turque), this full-bodied effort has a kaleidoscope-like bouquet of bloody black and blue fruits, tapenade, salted meat, woodsmoke, and a touch of violets. This cuvée is always an exotic wine, and the 2019 is no exception, offering full-bodied richness, a layered, multi-dimensional mouthfeel, plenty of structure, and a great finish." - J.D 12/22

97

James Suckling

94-96

Wine Advocate