



E. GUIGAL

Crozes-Hermitage 2015

Crozes-Hermitage

ESTATE

The more you learn about the Guigal family, the more astounding becomes their story. Their wines are the benchmarks for every Rhone 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 brings you into the Northern Rhône Valley, where the red wines have a profile unlike anywhere else in the world, an irresistible combination of warm flavors of red and black fruit, exotic spice notes, and certainly in the case of Crozes, with pleasure and approachability in youth. It's important to note that most of Crozes-Hermitage is produced from the plains to the south and east of Hermitage, and these wines tend to be straightforward. Guigal's approach is to make a more serious Crozes that also has vigor, intensity and depth. In Guigal's hands, Crozes becomes a wine that delivers quality and pleasure far beyond its price.

VINEYARD

Soils: Guigal first produced a Crozes-Hermitage in 1999 after the acquisition of low-yielding, hillside vineyards. Since then they have continued to purchase similar quality vineyards, exclusively on hillsides, on soils that tend to limestone, clay silt and sandy gravel, with vine age averaging 35 years. The vineyards are grouped in the north of the appellation, specifically around the villages of Gervans, Mercuro, Larnage and Crozes-Hermitage itself.

Farming: The Guigal's work with organic and sustainable growers and practices.

Grape Variety: 100% Syrah

WINEMAKING

Fermentation: In stainless steel

Aging: 24 months in 228 liter barrels exclusively produced at Guigal's Chateau d'Ampuis cooperage.

VINTAGE

Described by the Guigals as the "vintage of a lifetime," which brought heat and drought, without the downside as nights were cool, maintaining acidity, and rains well-timed for ideal ripening. The 2015 vintage offers wines that are spellbinding, with an utterly perfect balance of charm, complexity and power.



96

WINE & SPIRITS MAGAZINE

"This is a strapping Crozes-Hermitage, and a terrific example of the combination of power and finesse possible in the 2015 vintage. Culled from parcels in four villages, most of the vines growing on steep granite slopes, the wine is initially gruff and unyielding, the fruit walled off by tannins, oak and the simple density of the extract. But give it a few hours in a decanter and the structure begins to fill with flavor, juicy blackberry and plum notes welling up to meet the austere minerality head-on. It feels more Hermitage than Crozes, the firm tannins and deep, concentrated flavor demanding more time in the cellar to relax and reveal their detail."