

CHÂTEAU DE NALYS

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Saintes Pierres de Nalys Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc 2018

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France

ESTATE

Since their very first vintage bottled under the Guigal name, in 1946, the Guigal family has produced a Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The terroirs of Nalys realize a dream spanning three generations to join this leading prestigious and historic appellation. A property of 125 contiguous acres, Nalys is comprised of three spectacular plots within three of the best vineyards in the appellation: the famous "La Crau", Le Grand Pierre, and "Bois Sénéchal". Already listed in regional land registers at the end of the 16th century, Château de Nalys is one of the oldest properties in the appellation and begins a new chapter in the hands of Guigal.

WINE

Translated as "holy stones", a play on the soils and history of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, the second white wine to Chateau de Nalys has a character all its own, with a strongly different varietal and plot composition, and like its red Saintes Pierres counterpart, a fermentation, and aging geared towards emphasizing freshness. The hallmark seamlessness of Guigal's white wines is especially evident in this wine, which is unlike any Châteauneuf white we have experienced in its grace and lift. The beautifully balanced freshness and fleshiness, prominent floral and citrus notes, a complete wine. Guigal is today the single most important producer by value and volume of white wine in the Rhone, with 25% of their production dedicated to whites. Nalys is 18% planted to whites, very high for the area, and in fact at one point it is believed the estate made the majority of the entire appellation's white wine production.

VINEYARD

Produced from three exceptional terroirs: 34% Nalys, with fine, red sandstone and sandy clay, with some limestone and soft sandstone; 3% La Crau, featuring the famous galets, large round pebbles derived from the Rhone river; 63% Bois Senechal, with slightly smaller galets and sandier, less structured soils than La Crau.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 36% Clairette, 29% Bourboulenc, 25% Grenache Blanc, 7% Roussanne, 3% Picardan
Fermentation: Pressing and clarification of must before vinification in 80% stainless steel, 20% wood
Aging: 8 months with 20% continuing in wood (barrels, demi-muids)
Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

2018 started with modest spring rainfall before a relatively hot and humid summer. Disease pressure affected the size of the crop and caused uneven ripening; harvest lasted 5 full weeks in September and October in order to insure proper physiological maturity. Production was only 25% of normal for the white wines; fortunately, the quality of the fruit was extraordinary, resulting in wines with great structure, concentration and fresh acidities.

JEB DUNNUCK

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"The 2018s, all of which were tasted as barrel samples, the 2018 Châteauneuf Du Pape Saintes Pierres De Nalys Blanc offers racy notes of sliced apples, tart peach, and salty minerality. It's a vibrant, crisp effort that has good concentration as well as medium to full body."

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Wine Advocate