

DOMAINE DUJAC

Reviews of 2008 Vintage

by John Gilman's View From The Cellar

November-December 2009

My visit each year to Domaine Dujac is always one of the highlights of the long trip through Burgundy, as one is always certain that the Seysses family will have made the most of the opportunities that the vintage has presented. This was certainly the case with the beautiful 2008s sitting in barrel in November, and Jeremy Seysses was extremely content with how the wines have turned out in this vintage. As I tasted through this stellar lineup, I thought to myself that 2009 is really going to have to deliver the goods to eclipse the quality of the very best examples of 2008, as it is going to be hard to get more excited about riper and more plush fruit tones (which is generally what I expect from the 2009s, based on the very small handful that I tasted on this trip) than about the strikingly vivid soil signatures and magical purity of the very best wines of 2008. A few of the wines here had not yet finished their malolactics at the time of my visit, and a couple had also had their sulfurs recently adjusted, so not everything in the cellar was happy to be tasted. But the wines that were not in fine form were still very easy to get a read on, and the wines that were in perfect shape for tasting were ample testimony that the Domaine Dujac 2008s will be some of the finest wines of the vintage.

Gevrey-Chambertin- Dujac Fils et Père

The 2008 Fils et Père Gevrey-Chambertin (these are the négociant bottlings that Jeremy began making a handful of years ago to augment the domaine's production of village wines, which was not sufficiently large from their own vineyards to meet demand) is a very pretty wine that was aged in forty percent new oak this year. The nose offers up a stylish blend of plums, strawberries, soil tones, a discreet touch of wood and a nice topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is medium-full, complex and nicely balanced, with a suave attack, solid mid-palate depth and good length on the tangy and quite forward finish. 2012-2030. **88.**

Morey St. Denis- Dujac Fils et Père

The 2008 Fils et Père Morey St. Denis is also very forward and stylish in this vintage. The bouquet is a fine blend of plums, chocolate, a touch of dark berry soil tones, a gentle base of oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and strikingly transparent this year, with bright acids, modest tannins and lovely length and grip. This is really good this year and seems to be a step up in terms of precision and purity than has been the case in the past- probably reflective of the longer relationship that the Seysses family has had now with the growers that they buy grapes from in Morey to make this bottling. A lovely bottle. 2012-2030. **89.**

Chambolle-Musigny- Dujac Fils et Père

The 2008 Fils et Père Chambolle-Musigny is also very good, but it cannot quite match the purity and transparency found in the Morey this year. As Jeremy noted, "finding really high quality Chambolle fruit is still certainly possible, but the prices in this village are up over the last few years, and one can find really interesting Gevrey premier cru fruit available for the same price as Chambolle *villages* these days." Does this portend a bit of Gevrey "Corbeaux" or "Cazetiers" under the Fils et Père label in the future? As Jeremy noted, "it would be really interesting to work with some of these premier cru *terroirs* in Gevrey in the future." So stay tuned. In any case, the 2008 Chambolle is also a lovely bottle, as it offers up scents of black cherries, plums, herb tones, soil, coffee and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long, tangy and a touch more reserved than either of the two above wines, with good mid palate depth, and good length and grip on the finish. A tasty *villages*. 2012-2030. **88.**

Morey St. Denis- Domaine Dujac

The domaine's own example of Morey *villages* is exceptional this year. The nose is deep, very pure and perfumed in its mix of plums, black cherries, coffee, a touch of blood orange, complex soil tones and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long

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and intensely flavored, with beautiful transparency, impeccable focus, modest tannins and a very long, tangy and soil-driven finish. Really a lovely bottle this year. 2013-2030. **89+**.

Morey St. Denis 1er Cru- Domaine Dujac

The Morey St. Denis Premier Cru will also be an outstanding bottle in 2008, as the wine shares the same precision and transparency of the Morey AC in this vintage, with of course more depth and complexity. The bouquet offers up a very stylish mélange of red and dark plums, dark barriers, bitter chocolate, a lovely and complex base of soil and a touch of lead pencil from the new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and beautifully focused, with excellent nascent complexity, fine mid-palate depth and a very long, soil-driven finish that closes with tangy acids and very sophisticated tannins. A lovely bottle in the making. 2016-2040. **91+**.

Gevrey-Chambertin “aux Combottes”- Domaine Dujac

The 2008 Combottes is also extremely elegant and transparent on the nose, as the wine soars from the glass in a blend of red and black cherries, coffee, raw cocoa, a really lovely base of soil and a delicate framing of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very intensely flavored, with a fine core of fruit, refined tannins, impeccable balance and excellent focus and complexity on the very long and tangy finish. Just a beautiful bottle of Combottes in the making. 2016-2040. **92**.

Vosne-Romanée Beaumonts- Domaine Dujac

The Beaumonts '08 was also still in malo, but was much closer to finishing up than the Charmes and was therefore much easier to get a read on. The wine is going to be really lovely this year (as has been the case in every vintage since the additional parcels of old vines were added from the old Thomas-Moillard estate a few vintages back) to augment the one smallish parcel of younger vines that the domaine previously owned. The bouquet offers up scents of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, herb tones and a great base of soil. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, long and complex, with fine midpalate depth, great purity and a long, tangy and ripely tannic finish. This will be a really dynamite bottle in 2008. 2016-2040. **91-93**.

Vosne-Romanée Malconsorts- Domaine Dujac

Happily, the Malconsorts is now one of the largest production cuvées in the Dujac cellars these days, which should make latching onto a few bottles of this hauntingly ethereal elixir a bit easier that was the case a few years ago. The nose is deep and absolutely beautiful, as it wafts from the glass in a perfumed mélange of red plums, cherries, raspberries, cocoa, Vosne spices, simply great minerality, a touch of new wood and a distinct topnote of orange zest. On

the palate the wine is medium-full, long and tangy, with laser-like focus, fine mid-palate depth, stunning transparency and simply great length and grip on the moderately tannic finish. A beautiful bottle of Malconsorts. 2016-2040+. **93+**.

Echézeaux- Domaine Dujac

The 2008 Echézeaux is also a stellar and strikingly pure and soil-driven example of the vintage. The deep, black fruity and utterly refined nose offers up scents of cassis, dark berries, woodsmoke, a lovely base of soil, espresso and a touch of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very fine, with excellent mid-palate depth, silky tannins and great length and grip on the focused and nascently complex finish. A very classy Echézeaux this year. 2018-2050. **93+**.

Chambolle-Musigny “Gruenchers”- Domaine Dujac

The 2008 Gruenchers is also a really lovely bottle in this vintage. The bouquet is deep, pure and vibrant, as it jumps from the glass in a blaze of cherries, strawberries, blood orange, brilliantly complex soil tones, violets, spice tones and just a touch of new wood (this was raised in two-thirds new wood this year). On the palate the wine is fullish, deep and very intensely flavored, with an excellent core, great signature of soil, impeccable balance and a very long, tangy finish that closes with fine-grained tannins and lovely minerality. 2016-2040. **93+**.

Clos de la Roche- Domaine Dujac

The Dujac Clos de la Roche is an absolute classic in the making in 2008. The bouquet offers up a soaring blend of red plums, cherries, raw cocoa, gentle notes of gamebirds, woodsmoke, a suave framing of vanillin oak and an absolutely stellar base of complex soil tones. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, deep and very tangy, with great transparency, fine-grained tannins and stunning length and grip on the beautifully focused and utterly seamless finish. Just a glorious bottle of Clos de la Roche. 2013-2050. **94+**

Clos St. Denis- Domaine Dujac

The 2008 Clos St. Denis is another absolutely stellar bottle in the making. The bouquet is deep, pure and utterly refined, as it offers up a perfumed mélange of red plums, cherries, blood orange, clove-like spices, great minerality and a judicious framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is fullish, long and tangy, with a fine core of fruit, brilliant transparency, refined tannins and magical length and grip on the dancing and completely soil-driven finish. A great Clos St. Denis. 2016-2045. **94+**

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Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Dujac

The sulfur had just been adjusted on the Bonnes-Mares, so the wine was a bit more sullen than the last few wines in the lineup. The bouquet is very deep, very complex and still quite primary in its aromatic profile that includes notes of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, a great base of soil, woodsmoke and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite reserved, with a rock solid core of fruit, great transparency, ripe tannins and a long, tangy finish. This will also be excellent- no surprise here. 2018-2050. **94-95**

Chambertin- Domaine Dujac

The 2008 Chambertin was made with two-thirds whole cluster this year, and it too is a brilliant wine in the making. The wine was a touch reduced when I tasted it in November, but underneath is a wine of immense complexity and breed. The bouquet is a very fine blend of black cherries, blood orange, great minerality, a touch of game, cocoa, woodsmoke and new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully focused, with a rock solid core of fruit, ripe tannins, outstanding acids and exceptional length and grip on the very transparent and sophisticated finish. A great, great wine. 2018-2060. **97+**

Romanée-St.-Vivant- Domaine Dujac

The 2008 Romanée-St.-Vivant was one hundred percent whole cluster this year, and this too is a monument in the making. The brilliant, sappy nose soars from the glass in a blaze of cherries, raspberries, blood orange, musky spice tones, a profound base of soil, duck and cedary wood. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, deep and very suave, with superb mid-palate depth, laser-like focus and stunning length and grip on the hauntingly pure and transparent finish that closes with fine-grained tannins and tangy acids seamlessly interwoven. Another utterly profound wine. 2018-2060. **97+**

Morey St. Denis Blanc- Domaine Dujac

The Monts Luisants blanc was still in the midst of malo and made no sense to taste on this visit, but the Morey *villages* blanc was showing very well. The wine had already been bottled and offered up a lovely nose of apples, lemon zest, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and just a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is medium-full, long and succulent, with crisp acids, fine focus and good length and grip on the finish that closes with a fine signature of white soil. 2009-2020. **87**