

DOMAINE DUJAC

Reviews of 2017 Vintage Wines

View From The Cellar – John Gilman

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The Domaine Dujac 2017s are excellent wines across the board, though this is one of those estates where the style between the négociant bottlings and the wines produced from domaine-grown fruit is noticeable, with more depth and structure found in the domaine wines this year. Of course, this is quite understandable, as several of the growers that the domaine purchases grapes from for their Dujac Fils et Père bottlings were amongst the hardest hit by frost damage in 2016, so human nature would dictate that more generous yields in 2017 were not going to be denied where there were so few bunches to sell the year before.

My timing of the November visit was not ideal, as the domaine wines had all been racked two weeks prior to my tasting the wines and they were in varying stages of recovery from this. As Morey St. Denis had been spared the frost damage of 2016, there was no concerted effort in the village to burn damp hay bales here in late April of 2017, but despite the lack of heavy smoke, the vines were able to avoid frost damage on that one cold night and yields were good here in 2017, but not anywhere out of the ordinary, as there was not the same pent up energy from very low yields the previous year in most of the Dujac parcels of vines.

Picking started here in 2017 on August 28th for the domaine's white wines in Puligny, with the red grape harvest getting rolling on September 5th. There is a new wine in the Domaine Dujac cellars in 2017, which is a négociant bottling from the fine premier cru vineyard of Les Cras in Nuits St. Georges. The first vintage contracted for by the Seysses family had been in 2016, but the parcel was hit very hard by frost and not commercialized, so the 2017 is the inaugural vintage for this very good wine.

Jeremy Seysses reported that the malolactic fermentations in the cellars this year were quite normal in their timing, with pretty much everything finishing up by the end of March or early April of 2018, so there was not the same phenomenon of very early malos for the 2017s here as was the case in some cellars in this vintage. Given the various stages of recovery from racking of the wines in the cellar this year, I have scored wines that were still grumpy in their post-racking phase within a range, while those that were fully bounced back receive more precise scores (to the best of my ability anyway!). 2017 is clearly a great vintage for Domaine Dujac for their own estate-bottled wines, and still quite good for the more forward, but silky and stylish négociant bottlings sold under the Dujac Fils et Père label.

Vins Rouges

2017 Chambolle-Musigny- Dujac Fils et Père

The 2017 Dujac Fils et Père bottling of Chambolle is a pretty and already quite silky wine, but it is a bit easy-going from the yields of the vintage. The bouquet offers up a stylish mix of red and black cherries, raw cocoa, dark soil tones, gamebird and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, fullish and quite generous on the attack, with respectable depth at the core, a touch of tannin and good length and bounce on the tasty finish. This will offer pleasure from the outset, but does not have quite its customary stuffing in 2017. 2018-2040. **88**

2017 Morey St. Denis- Dujac Fils et Père

The 2017 Morey St. Denis AC bottling from Dujac Fils et Père was a bit more reserved on both the nose and palate than the Gevrey and Chambolle, but was showing good potential as well. The bouquet reluctantly yields up scents of plums, dark berries, espresso, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, closed and rather grumpy about being disturbed, but with a good core, ripe tannins and very good focus and balance on the long and adolescent finish. I am sure this will be quite good, but it was not yet bounced back at the time of my visit. 2021-2045. **89-90**

2017 Nuits St. Georges “aux Cras”- Dujac Fils et Père

The inaugural release of Nuits St. Georges “aux Cras” from Dujac Fils et Père is very good indeed. Jeremy Seysses is not certain of the exact age of the vines here, but notes “that they are certainly older than fifty years of age.” There are seven pièces of Cras in the cellars this year, so this wine will have some availability and will certainly be quite rewarding for those intrepid enough to search out a Dujac Nuits St. Georges premier cru. The bouquet is lovely, wafting from the glass in a fine blend of red and black cherries, nutskin, gamebird, coffee, woodsmoke, a fine base of chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite refined structurally (particularly for young Nuits), with a fine core of fruit, lovely transparency, fine-grained tannins and good bounce and grip on the long and vibrant finish. Fine juice.

2025-2065. **92**

2017 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Dujac

The 2017 domaine bottling of Morey AC is also very good, but it is still a bit agitated post-racking and I scored it within a range as a result. The bouquet is more precise than the palate right now, as it wafts from the glass in a fine mix of plums, red and black cherries, dark soil tones, raw cocoa and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and has very good depth at the core, with fine focus and grip, moderate tannins and a long finish. I am sure this will be quite good.

2023-2060. **89-90+**

2017 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Dujac

Jeremy and his team were able to do a bit of green harvest in their own parcels of Chambolle villages and the wine has turned out with quite a bit more mid-palate sappiness than the négociant version in 2017. This is going to be an excellent village wine, as it offers up a lovely bouquet of red plums, black cherries, raw cocoa, chalky soil tones, gamebird and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely sappy at the core, with lovely soil signature, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy and classy finish.

2023-2060. **90+**

2017 Morey St. Denis “Premier Cru”- Domaine Dujac

The 2017 Morey Premier Cru bottling was in fine form at the time of my visit, soaring from the glass in a very expressive blend of red cherries, pomegranate, complex, chalky soil tones, cocoa power, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full, long and nicely sappy at the core, with excellent transparency, suave, refined tannins and a long, precise and complex finish. This is very classy juice in 2017!

2025-2065+. **92+**

2017 Chambolle-Musigny “les Gruenchers”- Domaine Dujac

I was very happy to see the Gruenchers back in the lineup in 2017, after the severe frost damage here in 2016, but sorry to see it so grumpy after its racking! The bouquet is still rather recalcitrant post-racking, but eventually delivers a mélange of red berries, red plums, raw cocoa, chalky soil, mustard seed and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine’s purity is certainly apparent, despite its unsettled nature, with its full-bodied and nicely tangy format offering up good depth at the core and fine-grained tannins on the long finish. I am sure this is going to be very good indeed, but it just wanted to be left alone on the day of my visit.

2026-2060+. **91-92+**

2017 Gevrey-Chambertin “aux Combottes”- Domaine Dujac

Underlining the variations in the Dujac cellars a few weeks out from their racking, the 2017 Combottes was absolutely singing at the time of my visit! The bouquet is pure, refined and utterly charming, wafting from the glass in an elegant mix of red and black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, a complex base of soil, gamebird, a dollop of mustard seed and a suave base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, transparent and sappy at the core, with suave tannins, great focus and grip and a very long, vibrant and complex finish. Great juice.

2026-2065+. **93**

2017 Vosne-Romanée “Beaumonts”- Domaine Dujac

The Domaine Dujac 2017 Beaumonts was also very much on form after its racking and is clearly going to be a terrific example of the vintage. The refined aromatic constellation delivers scents of raspberries, black cherries, dark soil tones, gamebird, raw cocoa, a touch of bonfire and a deft framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and supremely elegant this year, with a sappy core, fine-grained tannins and a long, tangy and beautifully balanced finish. A fine, fine example of Beaumonts!

2026-2065. **93**

2017 Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts”- Domaine Dujac

The 2017 Malconsorts chez Seysses is a bit more reserved in personality than the lovely Beaumonts, but it too was in good form at the time of my visit and was showing all of its inherent potential. The bouquet is a refined blend of red and black raspberries, plums, duck, a complex base of minerality, raw cocoa and spicy oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and refined, with a lovely core, ripe tannins and a long, youthful and tangy finish of excellent focus and grip. All this beauty needs is time!

2027-2070. **93+**

2017 Echézeaux- Domaine Dujac

The 2017 Echézeaux from Domaine Dujac is a superb wine in the making, as this wine displays the sappy depth and gorgeous transparency of the very finest examples of the vintage. The lovely, red fruity nose wafts from the glass in a refined mix of raspberries, cherries, red plums, raw cocoa, a very complex base of soil tones, gamebird, Vosne spices and cedary new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, elegant and marvelously sappy at the core, with great soil signature, fine-grained tannins and a very long, vibrant and laser-like finish. I love the combination of elegance and sappy generosity that this wine hints at and will deliver down the road.

2028-2075+. **94+**

2017 Clos St. Denis- Domaine Dujac

The domaine's 2017 Clos St. Denis is utterly classic in profile and is going to be a superb wine. The refined, nascently complex and very precise bouquet delivers scents of cherries, raspberries, red plums, complex soil tones, a touch of cocoa powder, mustard seed, gamebird and spicy oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, elegant and very transparent in personality, with a lovely core of fruit, suave, seamless tannins and a very long, tangy and precise finish. A marvelous vintage of this most iconic of Clos St. Denis bottlings!

2017-2075+. **95**

2017 Clos de la Roche- Domaine Dujac

I always have a sweet spot in my heart for the Domaine Dujac Clos St. Denis, but in 2017, even I have to admit that the beautiful Clos de la Roche is a step up! The bouquet is flamboyant and sappy this year, soaring from the glass in a great blend of cherries, red plums, a touch of blood orange, cocoa powder, a very complex base of soil, woodsmoke, roses and spicy oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, complex and sappy at the core, with great soil signature, refined focus and grip, perfect balance and huge, stunning backend energy on the long and ripely tannic finish. A great, great vintage of Clos de la Roche!

2017-2080+. **97**

2017 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Dujac

When Jeremy moved from the Echézeaux to the Clos St. Denis in our tasting progression, I asked why the Charmes was going to be served out of its customary place in the rotation. He responded that "I really, really like the Charmes this year and we will see if my faith in the wine has been misplaced." However, not surprisingly, when we got to the wine, Jeremy's impressions were vindicated and the wine showed stellar potential- even hard on the heels of the great Clos de la Roche! The bouquet is pure and simply outstanding in 2017, offering up scents of red and black cherries, black plums, a very complex base of soil, gentle meatiness, woodsmoke, raw cocoa and cedar. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, deep and rock solid at the core with sappy fruit, excellent focus and grip, fine-grained tannins and a very long, soil-driven and complex finish. I am not sure I have ever tasted a better young vintage of Charmes-Chambertin from Domaine Dujac.

2017-2075. **95**

2017 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Dujac

After several grand crus in the lineup that were simply singing, the 2017 Dujac Bonnes-Mares was a bit grumpier and not fully back on form after its recent racking. There is clearly a great wine lurking in wait here, but patience will be needed. With some coaxing, the wine offers up a sappy blend of red and black cherries, red plums, gamebird, chalky soil tones, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, closed and rock solid at the core, with lovely transparency, fine-grained tannins and a very long, very primary finish. I am sure this is going to be a great wine, but I did not catch it on the best of days.

2017-2080. **94-95+**

Vins Blancs

2017 Morey St. Denis Blanc- Domaine Dujac

The 2017 Morey villages Blanc spent twelve months in cask and then was racked into cement eggs to finish up its élevage. The wine was showing well and quite forward and easygoing structurally, offering up a bright bouquet of white peach, apple, chalky soil tones, spring flowers and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied and quite suave on the attack, with good complexity, a juicy core and good grip and length on the wide open and succulent finish. Good juice that will offer plenty of early appeal.

2017-2030. **89**

2017 Puligny-Montrachet "les Folatières"- Domaine Dujac

Jeremy Seysses used ten to fifteen percent new oak for his two Puligny premier crus in 2017. The Folatières was showing very good potential at the time of my visit (albeit a bit grumpy), wafting from the glass in a fine mix of apple, white peach, beeswax, chalky soil tones, a touch of fresh almond, spring flowers and a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, complex and quite bouncy, with a good core, bright acids and fine length and grip on the long and wide open finish. This will charm right from the outset.

2017-2040. **91-92**

2017 Puligny-Montrachet "les Combettes"- Domaine Dujac

The 2017 Combettes from the Seysses family was more content to be tasted than the Folatières at the time of my visit and was showing beautiful promise. The bouquet is pure, refined and very classy, delivering scents of apple, pear, almond, chalky minerality, apple blossoms and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with excellent cut and grip and a long, focused and energetic finish. This is really lovely in 2017.

2017-2045. **93**

**2017 Morey St. Denis “les Monts Luisants” Blanc-
Domaine Dujac**

The 2017 Monts Luisants Blanc from Domaine Dujac is another very good wine in the making. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a classy blend of apple, pear, fresh almond, chalky minerality, a nice touch of bee pollen and a gentle base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and quite shapely, with a fine core of fruit, good cut and grip and a long, vibrant and zesty finish. This is lovely.

2018-2040. **92**