

# DOMAINE DUJAC

## *Reviews of 2017 Vintage Wines*

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**P**retty, open, and clearly differentiated by site, 2017 vintage reminds Jeremy Seysses of the 2007s—though he adds that the wines are also reminiscent of 2014 in the sense that they have gotten better and better with *élevage*. We agreed that their charm and immediacy may prove deceptive, as the 2017s have the balance to age. But the wines' expressive fruit tones, supple structures and comparative abundance after a series of short crops will certainly ensure that they win plenty of friends in their youth. Seysses told me he refrained from performing a *saignée*, though he considered it, lest he unbalances the wines. Readers will be familiar with the Dujac approach—organic viticulture, extensive retention of whole clusters, and *élevage* in barrels from Tonnellerie Rémond, many of which are new. Subtle refinements mean that the house style today is less impactful than under Jacques Seysses, with greater expression of vintage variation and arguably distinctions of site, but this remains one of Burgundy's most singular aesthetics.

Burgundy's 2017 vintage yielded a large harvest—the first this decade. The reds are supple, charming and expressive, characterized by melting tannins and comparatively low acidities. Reminiscent of a richer, more sun-kissed version of 2007, or a cleaner, more concentrated 2000, the 2017 red Burgundies will offer more immediate pleasure than the more serious, structured 2016 and 2015 vintages, though they are unlikely ever to rival those years for depth, longevity and complexity. Indeed, many 2017 reds are so fruit-driven and charming that they will drink well on release; and many producers sagely opted to bottle their wines early to capture that fruit. That notwithstanding, I suspect the best 2017s will prove sneakily long-lived, aging by virtue of their balance rather than any massive reserves of tannin or acid.

For white wines, 2017 should be taken more seriously: classically balanced and beautifully defined by site, these white Burgundies are less tangy and tensile than the 2014s, but they approach and sometimes surpass that vintage in quality. There is a succulence and plenitude to the 2017 whites that makes them very appealing indeed, and it is hard to find a recent analogy for the character of the vintage. While yields in Pinot Noir were the highest since 1999, the Chardonnay harvest was less copious. What's more, at the press, yields of juice were lower than anticipated.

Accordingly, some of the 2017s also possess impressive levels of dry extract. While many of the wines will drink well on release, their aging potential—if they are spared by premature oxidation—appears to be very promising.

### Vins Blancs

#### **2017 Domaine Dujac Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru “Folatières”**

The 2017 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Folatières offers up notes of ripe citrus, apples and white flowers, followed by a medium-bodied, pure and attractively tensile palate. The vines here are still young and the wine doesn't have the depth or concentration of the Combettes, but it's an elegant middleweight that should offer a broad drinking window.

**Rating (90 - 92)**

#### **2017 Domaine Dujac Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru “Les Combettes”**

The 2017 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Combettes opens in the glass with aromas of green orchard fruit, dried white flowers and beeswax. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, with more flesh, concentration and chewy extract than the Folatières, chunkier in profile but deeper and more profound.

**Rating (91 - 93)+**

#### **2017 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis Blanc**

Medium-bodied, giving and fleshy, the 2017 Morey-Saint-Denis Blanc offers up aromas of green orchard fruit and freshly baked bread followed by an openknit, succulent palate. It should offer generous drinking in its youth.

**Rating (87 - 89)**

#### **2017 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis Blanc 1er Cru “Mont Luisants”**

The 2017 Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru Monts Luisants Blanc reveals aromas of citrus oil, beeswax and wet stones, followed by a tangy, incisive palate that's tensile, chalky and acid-driven, with the bright, electric quality that's so typical of this bottling. It's the most extreme white in the Dujac cellar but also my favorite.

**Rating (92 - 94)**

## Vins Rouges

### **2017 Domaine Dujac Chambolle Musigny Villages**

Aromas of red berries, peony and spices introduce the 2017 Chambolle-Musigny Village, a pretty middle-weight that's medium-bodied, juicy and succulent, framed by light structuring tannins.

**Rating (87 - 89)**

### **2017 Domaine Dujac Chambolle Musigny 1er Cru "Les Gruenchers"**

The 2017 Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru Les Gruenchers has aromas of pomegranate and raspberries, which mingle with notions of rose petals, raw cocoa and grilled game bird, followed by a medium to full-bodied, satiny and open-knit palate that's succulent and supple, underpinned by tangy acids and concluding with a fragrant finish. Dujac's vines in this parcel are over 80 years old, but they delivered a record yield this year.

**Rating (91 - 93)**

### **2017 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru**

Aromas of plums, cherries, raw cocoa, espresso roast and grilled meats introduce the 2017 Morey-Saint-Denis 1<sup>er</sup> Cru, a medium-bodied wine with tangy acids and a succulent core of fruit that largely conceals its fine structuring tannins.

**Rating (90 - 92)**

### **2017 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis Village**

Dujac's 2017 Morey-Saint-Denis Village is very pretty, wafting from the glass with notes of plums, red berries, rose petal, cinnamon and other warm spices. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, succulent and giving with a juicy core of fruit and a light framing of chalky tannins.

**Rating (87 - 89)**

### **2017 Domaine Dujac Echezeaux Grand Cru**

The 2017 Echezeaux Grand Cru unfurls in the glass with a complex bouquet of sweet red berries, dried flowers, forest floor, orange rind and wood smoke, gently framed by a touch of new oak. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, satiny and expansive, with juicy acids, a deep but open-knit core and a long, sapid finish. Heavily frosted in 2016, in 2017 Dujac's vines pushed back with a vengeance, and the result is an Echezeaux that emphasizes charm and elegance.

**Rating (90 - 93)**

### **2017 Domaine Dujac Clos de la Roche Grand Cru**

The 2017 Clos de la Roche Grand Cru is an excellent wine in the making, offering up a complex bouquet of orange rind, warm spices, red cherries, rose petals, espresso roast and rich soil tones. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied with excellent depth and dimension, velvety textured after the satin of the Clos Saint-Denis but similarly supple and elegant, with juicy balancing acids and a sapid finish. While this remains a charming, giving vintage, there's enough structural tension here to suggest the wine will be sneakily long lived.

**Rating (93 - 95)**

### **2017 Domaine Dujac Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru "Aux Combottes"**

The 2017 Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Aux Combottes is showing well, offering up an appealing bouquet of dark wild berries, raspberries, warm spices, sweet soil tones and a subtle framing of cedary wood. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied with an expansive attack, sandy structuring tannins and juicy acids. It's a charming, supple Combottes which will offer a broad drinking window.

**Rating (90 - 92)**

### **2017 Domaine Dujac Charmes Chambertin Grand Cru**

Aromas of wild berries and plums mingle with accents of rose petal, grilled meat and espresso roast in an incipiently complex bouquet, introducing the 2017 Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied and broad-shouldered with a chunkier, more powerful profile than the Echezeaux, with some chewy structuring tannin asserting itself on the long, hearty finish.

**Rating (92 - 94)**

### **2017 Domaine Dujac Clos Saint-Denis Grand Cru**

Pure and fragrant, the 2017 Clos Saint-Denis Grand Cru unfurls in the glass with a seductive bouquet of rose petals, dried flowers, violets, sweet red fruits and orange rind, delicately framed by a judicious touch of new wood. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, silky and succulent, its structuring tannins concealed in a vibrant core of fruit, concluding with a long and fragrant finish.

**Rating (92 - 94)**

### **2017 Domaine Dujac Vosne-Romanee 1er Cru “Aux Malconsorts”**

Notes of smoked duck, plums, Asian spices, rose petal and orange rind introduce the 2017 Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Aux Malconsorts, a medium to full-bodied wine that's the deepest, densest premier cru in the Dujac cellar this year, though it retains the suppleness and elegance that characterizes the vintage at this address. While its firm back-end structure will require some bottle age, I suspect it will always be more accessible than the 2016 and 2015 renditions.

**Rating (91 - 93)+**

### **2017 Domaine Dujac Vosne-Romanee 1er Cru “Les Beaux Monts”**

The 2017 Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Les Beaux Monts was showing well, wafting from the glass with notes of plums, dark berries, smoked duck and spices. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, satiny and succulent, with melting tannins cloaked in a sapid core of fruit. While it's quite broad and accessible, I suspect it will be sneakily long-lived

**Rating (91 - 93)**

### **2017 Domaine Dujac Bonnes Mares Grand Cru**

One of the highlights of the Dujac portfolio this year, the 2017 Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru reveals a stunning nose of peony, red cherries, wild berries, espresso roast, grilled squab, heather and rich soil, framed by a deft touch of new wood. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, deep and layered with excellent concentration, chalky structuring tannin and a long, delineated finish. Even in this vintage, it's a wine that will demand a dozen years' bottle age but its potential is considerable. I expect it to land at the upper end of my banded score.

**Rating (93 - 95)+**