

DOMAINE DUJAC

France, Burgundy: The Cote d'Or's 2018 Vintage

The Wine Advocate – William Kelley

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Jeremy Seysses opted to pick early in 2018, beginning with the white wines on August 27 and started the reds on the 30th. "The 'usual' picking order was disrupted," related Seysses, explaining that sites with deeper soils experienced less hydric stress and ripened faster. "Without the large crop"—which here ranged between 42 and 48 hectoliters per hectare, with even the old-vine Gruenchers giving 35 hectoliters versus a normal 25 per hectare—"I think it would have turned out like 2003," he added. This is clearly a very successful vintage chez Dujac, and it's a very consistent portfolio in what is more generally a somewhat heterogeneous vintage. This is a deep and youthfully muscular set of wines, and I visited just after the first few cold days and nights of winter 2019. Seysses commented that the range was in a comparatively closed phase, with their structure a bit more prominent than had been the case a month earlier—but such are the vagaries of barrel tasting. What is clear is that this is a serious vintage, built for the long haul despite its abundance of fruit, and the Dujac 2018s have the makings of very age-worthy wines.

Vins Blancs

2018 Domaine Dujac Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Folatières

The 2018 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Folatières was showing well, wafting from the glass with aromas of pear, citrus oil, nutmeg and warm pastry, followed by a medium to full-bodied, racy and nicely defined palate that's long and intense.

Rating (91 - 93)

2018 Domaine Dujac Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Combettes

The 2018 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Combettes reveals attractive aromas of pear, orange oil, toasted hazelnuts and pastry cream. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, with a richer, more textural and more concentrated profile than the Folatières, differences of both site and vine age being at play here.

Rating (92 - 94)

2018 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis Blanc

Revealing generous aromas of pear, ripe lemons and bread dough, the 2018 Morey-Saint-Denis Blanc is medium-bodied, with a fleshy core of fruit tempered by good tension and grip, concluding with a chalky finish.

Rating (87 - 89)

2018 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru Mont Luisants Blanc

Aromas of citrus oil, white flowers, green apple and pastry cream preface the 2018 Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru Monts Luisants Blanc, a medium to full-bodied, chalky and incisive wine that's racy and tensile. With a finished pH of less than 3.0, this certainly challenges preconceptions about the 2018 vintage.

Rating (92 - 94)

Vins Rouges

2018 Domaine Dujac Chambolle-Musigny Village

The 2018 Chambolle-Musigny Village is also showing very well, exhibiting aromas of Griotte cherries, raspberries and blood orange, framed by a deft application of creamy new oak. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, succulent and youthfully structural, its ample chassis of surprisingly muscular but powdery tannin cloaked in succulent fruit. It's promising, but based on this showing, it will also require patience.

Rating (89 - 91)

2018 Domaine Dujac Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru Les Gruenchers

Aromas of cherries, raspberries, sweet spices, orange rind and peony preface the 2018 Chambolle-Musigny 1er Cru Les Gruenchers, a medium to full-bodied wine that was also quite firm and structured on my visit chez Dujac, displaying plenty of succulent, fragrant fruit behind its youthfully muscular chassis of tannin. Again, there's a lot of potential here, but patience will be required.

Rating (92 - 94)

2018 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru

The 2018 Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru unwinds in the glass with aromas of sweet cherries and red berries mingled with nuances of rose petals, orange rind, cinnamon and forest floor. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, muscular and structured, with lively acids, fine concentration and a youthfully chalky finish.

Rating (91 - 93)

2018 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis Village

Wafting from the glass with an inviting bouquet of sweet red cherries, berries, orange rind and spices, the 2018 Morey-Saint-Denis Village is medium to full-bodied, supple and elegant, with powdery structuring tannins, fine concentration and a nicely defined finish.

Rating (89 - 91)

2018 Domaine Dujac Echezeaux Grand Cru

The 2018 Echezeaux Grand Cru is a promising cuvée in the making, mingling aromas of dark berry fruit, cassis and cherries with notions of burning embers, dried flowers and dark chocolate. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, broad and ripely tannic, with a layered and nicely concentrated core, lively acids, and a well-defined finish.

Rating (92 - 94)+

2018 Domaine Dujac Clos de la Roche Grand Cru

The 2018 Clos de la Roche Grand Cru is a beautiful young wine, built for the ages. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of cassis, cherries, rose petals, orange rind, woodsmoke, cinnamon and rich soil tones, it's full-bodied, muscular and introverted, with prodigious concentration, lively acids and a long, ripely tannic finish. While I suspect my visit to Domaine Dujac coincided with an especially brooding evolutionary phase, this will be a Clos de la Roche for the patient.

Rating (95 - 97)

2018 Domaine Dujac Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru Aux Combottes

The 2018 Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Aux Combottes was showing especially well, soaring from the glass with a lovely bouquet of cassis, dark berry preserve, baking chocolate and peonies. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, supple and enveloping, with lively acids and a long, aromatic finish.

Rating (92 - 94)

2018 Domaine Dujac Romanée-Saint-Vivant Grand Cru

The 2018 Romanée-Saint-Vivant Grand Cru was showing brilliantly, soaring from the glass with a complex bouquet of wild berries, red plums, rose petals, smoked duck and rich soil tones. On the palate, it's full-bodied, fine-boned and elegant, with a deep and concentrated core, lively acids and immensely attractive structural refinement. **Rating (95 - 97)**

2018 Domaine Dujac Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru

The 2018 Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru was also showing very well, offering up an expressive bouquet of ripe cherries, cassis, warm spices and rich soil tones. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied, supple and textural, with a broad attack, good depth and energy at the core, powdery structuring tannins and a sapid finish.

Rating (93 - 95)

2018 Domaine Dujac Clos Saint-Denis Grand Cru

The 2018 Clos Saint-Denis Grand Cru is also showing beautifully, bursting with aromas of raspberries, red cherries, cassis and raw cocoa that are complemented by fragrant top notes of orange rind, rose petals and violets. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied, lively and elegant, with finer-grained tannins than the more overtly muscular Clos de la Roche, but with similar dimension and mid-palate presence, concluding with a long and perfumed finish.

Rating (95 - 97)

2018 Domaine Dujac Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Aux Malconsorts

The fireworks begin in earnest with the 2018 Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Aux Malconsorts, a brilliant young wine that bursts from the glass with aromas of cherries, red berries and exotic spices, complemented by delicate top notes of blood orange and peonies and framed by a deft touch of creamy new oak. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, supple and enveloping, with a deep and multidimensional core, lively acids and a long, resonant finish.

Rating (94 - 96)

2018 Domaine Dujac Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Les Beaux Monts

The 2018 Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Les Beaux Monts exhibits a deep bouquet of cherries, plums, orange rind, smoked duck and spices, followed by a medium to full-bodied, supple palate that's succulent and charming, framed by powdery but not unduly assertive tannins.

Rating (91 - 93)

2018 Domaine Dujac Bonnes Mares Grand Cru

Unfurling in the glass with a youthfully reserved bouquet of cassis, wild berries, rose petals, peonies and sweet soil tones, Dujac's 2018 Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru is full-bodied, lively and incisive, with a muscular and tight-knit core, racy acids and a long, chalky finish. As usual, this is one of the tightest-knit, most overtly mineral reds in the cellar, and it will demand patience.

Rating (94 - 96)+