

DOMAINE BERNARD MOREAU

Reviews of 2018 Vintage Whites

Burghound – Allen Meadows

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Alexandre Moreau told me that the 2018 “growing season was relatively straightforward to manage because even though the spring was very wet, the summer was dry and hot so there wasn’t much in the way of disease pressure. As we approached the harvest though maturities really spiked so it was critical to choose the picking dates with care. Also, despite the fact that we started on the 30th of August, which historically is super-early, I was still afraid that the fruit would be too ripe. Happily, as it turns out, that wasn’t the case but I confess to being very worried about it. While we could see that there would be very good yields, the volumes still surprised us as there was a lot of juice in the berries. This was particularly true in our old vines where good yields are between 35 and 38 hl/ha but we obtained 50 hl/ha and we’ve never seen that before. Overall, our yields in white were between 50 and 55 hl/ha though much less in pinot. We used around 25% whole clusters for the vinifications and had no problems with the fermentations finishing. In white however the alcoholics took a long time to finish, which isn’t a problem other than you have to watch things carefully. As to the wines, perhaps the most surprising thing about them is how well they transmit their respective *terroirs*. Very ripe years normally minimize that but the 2018s are really quite transparent.” (The Sorting Table, www.thesortingtable.com, CA, USA; O.W. Loeb, www.owloeb.com, Flint Wines, www.flintwines.com, Uncorked Ltd, www.uncorked.co.uk, all UK; Pearl of Burgundy, www.pearlofburgundy.com, Hong Kong and Macau).

2018 St. Aubin “En Remilly”

A cool and pure nose speaks of relatively high-toned aromas of citrus-inflected freshly sliced pear and apple. As one would reasonably expect, the middle weight and lightly stony flavors possess a much finer texture before concluding in a lingering and balanced, if, much like the Bourgogne, not especially complex finale. In this case however there appears to be good upside development potential. **89** / 2023+

2018 Chassagne-Montrachet

(from 3 separate *lieux-dits*). Discreet wood influence sets off the ripe aromas of various white-fleshed fruit along with hints of matchstick and lemon rind. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors possess both good detail and punch, all wrapped in a less refined but notably more complex finale. This is a quality Chassagne *villages*. **(89-91)** / 2023+

2018 Chassagne-Montrachet “Clos St. Jean”

A more reticent nose timidly offers up note of resin, rosemary oil, grapefruit and poached pear. The medium-bodied flavors offer a step up in intensity and mid-palate density while exhibiting just a bit better depth and persistence on the lingering finish. This has an interesting texture that is almost oily yet there is very good energy. **89** / 2024+

2018 Chassagne-Montrachet “Champ Gains”

Mild reduction makes the nose hard to detect the nuances, but the underlying fruit seems to be quite ripe. Otherwise there is good power and concentration to the seductively red and textured medium-bodied flavors that remain focused on the lingering and well-balanced finale. This is worth checking out. **(90-92)** / 2025+

2018 Chassagne-Montrachet “Vergers”

(from Les Vergers proper). Subtle touch of wood and exotic fruit add breadth to the poached pear and spice aromas. Once again, the middle weight flavors possess a beguiling texture thanks to the abundance of dry extract that also buffers the moderately firm acid spine shaping the complex long and youthfully austere finale. This discreet stony effort will need at least a few years to unwind. **(90-92)** / 2026+

2018 Chassagne-Montrachet “Chenevottes”

(from Les Chenevottes proper and Les Bondues). A deft touch of wood allows the ever-so-slightly exotic and ripe floral, pear, white peach and citrus aromas to shine. The delicious and very rich medium-bodied flavors retain good delineation on the focused, long and youthfully austere finale that is also moderately tightly wound. **(89-92)** / 2026+

2018 Chassagne-Montrachet “La Maltroie”

A slightly riper nose freely offers up notes of petrol, citrus peel, white peach and honeysuckle. The more refined medium weight flavors also possess a wonderfully textured mouthfeel along with a bit more volume before terminating in a palate coating, focused and long finale that is noticeably more complex. This is really quite good and worth your interest. **(90-93)** / 2026+

2018 Chassagne-Montrachet “Morgeot”

(from the *climats* of La Cardeuse and Fairendes in a rough proportion of one-third to two-thirds). Like the Champ Gains, this is sufficiently reduced to blur the distinctions of what appears to be notably ripe fruit. By contrast, there is very good freshness to the dense, serious and muscular larger-scaled flavors that possess fine depth and persistence on the balanced finish that flirts with rusticity. This isn't elegant but it's a very good Morgeot. **(90-92)** / 2026+

2018 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Caillerets”

A mildly exotic nose is composed by notes of dried apricot, white peach, white flower and a hint of rosemary oil. The rich and relatively full-bodied flavors exude a subtle minerality on the well-detailed, complex and lingering finish that is clean and quite dry. This is a balanced wine of focused power that should amply reward mid-term cellaring. **(90-93)** / 2026+

2018 Chassagne-Montrachet “Les Grand Ruchottes”

(from a .345 ha parcel of vines planted in 1939). Here the expressive nose is relatively similar to Caillerets though it's a bit less exotic in character. The succulent, even juicy, and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors also flash very good power on the beautifully balanced finale. This mouth coating beauty is quite firm so plan on cellaring it for at least a few years first. **(91-94)** / 2028+

2018 Bâtard-Montrachet

(from Puligny side, one barrel made). A cool and restrained nose is much more floral in character with its airy blend of white orchard fruit, citrus and soft spice nuances. The attractively textured middle weight flavors are acceptably concentrated yet sleek while delivering impressively good length on the compact, tightly wound and built-to-age finish. This is not a monster of a Bâtard, but it is beautifully balanced and should age gracefully. **(91-94)** / 2030+

2018 Chevalier-Montrachet

An elegant, pure and airy if mildly exotic nose combines notes of passion fruit, apple, white flowers and mineral reduction. There is excellent intensity to the racy medium-bodied flavors that possess a borderline creamy mid-palate while exuding an overt minerality on the balanced, hugely, long, tightly wound and every-so-mildly austere finale. **(92-94)** / 2030+

2018 Corton-Charlemagne

(from Aloxe; two barrels made). Pungent aromas of phenolic character and wood set off aromas of green fruit, floral, spice and once again mineral reduction. There is excellent volume and intensity to the muscular, taut and mineral-driven big-bodied flavors that exhibit excellent length on the clean, dry and impressively complex finish. This is potentially an outstanding Corton-Charlemagne that should also age gracefully. **(92-94)** 2030+