

DOMAINE DUJAC

La Lumière Noire: 2019 Burgundy - Côte de Nuits

Vinous – Neal Martin

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There is a MASSIVE hole in Morey-Saint-Denis. Either somebody is attempting to tunnel to the centre of the Earth or somebody is building a new cellar. In this case, it is the latter, since the Seysses family are finally expanding, building a new facility that will hopefully be inaugurated in 2022. “The walls will be made of hay,” Jeremy Seysses informs me just before tasting kicked-off. Apparently, it will have eco-friendly features such as a wooden structure and the ability to recycle all its CO2 emissions. Obviously, the depth of the aforementioned hole indicates that it will be a gravity-fed winery. Seysses also mentioned how it will afford them more temperature control. Warmer conditions at harvests mean that the fruit itself needs cooling to retard and prolong the alcoholic fermentation.

I tasted with Jeremy’s brother, Alec. “It was a tiring growing season for vineyards,” he told me. “I don’t place too much stock in the rain just before harvest and how it changed the fruit, but I think the vineyards that were in better shape and maybe organic, reacted better to the water. We are in that vein of warming vintages since 2014. It’s a blessing. Previous generations dreamed of vintages like this. The négoce wines were picked towards the end of the harvest that finished on 19 September. The picking in 2018 was more spread out - we felt we had to get everything in efficiently as soon as possible. The yields in 2019 were reasonably average, but nothing catastrophic, maybe 10% less than a normal vintage whereas in 2020 it is up and down depending upon vineyard. We used 85% to 90% whole clusters, négoce a little below that figure, especially on the Gevrey side. We have toned down the new oak in recent years, for example, the Grand Crus were raised in 70% new oak instead of 100%.” The whites are racked and in tank. The négoce wines have not been racked and will soon go straight to tank to be bottled.”

What can I say? I thought this was a stupendous, at times thrilling set of 2019s from Dujac, particularly in the Vosne-Romanée and Morey-Saint-Denis appellations. The Clos de la Roche is spellbinding, the Malconsorts spine-tingling and the Romanée-Saint-Vivant so sublime I wanted to elope with it. Whereas I felt some producers slightly misjudged the proportion of stem addition, here I found the stems neatly assimilated and never transgressed onto terroir expression or

purity of fruit. Then again, Jacques Seysses was one of the early proponents using whole clusters and is still around to give sage advice.

Vins Rouges

2019 Domaine Dujac Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru

The 2019 Bonnes-Mares Grand Cru has a more floral bouquet compared to others, violet and iris petal infusing the mixture of red and blue fruit. Well defined and nicely focused, yet maybe just missing the enthralling complexity of the Clos de la Roche. The palate is medium-bodied with very supple and lithe tannins, beautifully judged acidity with an irresistible silky finish that lingers in the mouth. Hopefully that aromatics will evolve just a little more terroir expression and then you will have a seriously fine Bonnes-Mares.

2024-2048 **(94-96)**

2019 Domaine Dujac Chambertin Grand Cru

The 2019 Chambertin Grand Cru, from Dujac’s leased parcel, offers pleasant brambly red fruit mixed with sous-bois and white pepper aromas, gaining in stature with aeration, hints of bay leaf and clove emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, very cohesive with a dense and quite structured finish that closes down with a touch of bitter cherry and marmalade on the aftertaste. Blue blood courses through this Chambertin's veins.

2024-2050 **(95-97)**

2019 Domaine Dujac Chambolle-Musigny Les Gruechers 1er Cru

The 2019 Chambolle-Musigny Les Gruechers 1er Cru has a tightly wound, perfumed bouquet with wilted iris aromas, hints of blood orange and mandarin infusing the dark cherry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with a slightly chalky opening that lends it a Morey-Saint-Denis like personality. Fine length, this will benefit from 3-5 years in bottle.

2024-2040 **(91-93)**

2019 Domaine Dujac Chambolle Musigny Village

The 2019 Chambolle-Musigny Village has a lovely bouquet that effortlessly intertwines subtle garrigues-like "bass" that comes from the stem addition, to the red fruit "treble". The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannins and superb acidity. This is very harmonious, lightly spiced and though not terribly persistent, there is such freshness and youthful vim and vigor, that this is going to be impossible to resist.

2022-2035 (90-92)

2019 Domaine Dujac Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru

The 2019 Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru has an airy and generous bouquet with lifted black fruit, hoisin and light roasted chestnut aromas, all well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, a beautiful line of acidity, svelte and harmonious with a slightly grainy-textured finish. I adore the discrete crescendo in this Grand Cru and the unimposing but long aftertaste. "It's been growing in stature over the last 10 to 15 years," remarked Alex Seysses. Proof of that is evident by tasting this superb Charmes-Chambertin.

2023-2045 (95-97)

2019 Domaine Dujac Clos Saint-Denis Grand Cru

The 2019 Clos Saint-Denis Grand Cru has a succinct and almost understated bouquet with tea leaf and light dried blood/ferrous aromas tincturing the brambly red fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with fine delineation, beautifully judged acidity, very refined with a touch of cracked black pepper that enlivens the sustained finish. Maybe it does not possess the bravura of the Clos de la Roche, but still a beautiful Clos Saint-Denis. I would not be surprised if it lands at the top of my banded score.

2024-2048 (94-96)

2019 Domaine Dujac Clos de la Roche Grand Cru

The 2019 Clos de la Roche Grand Cru has a tightly wound bouquet with beautifully defined red fruit laced with Earl Grey, autumn leaves and a touch of white pepper. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, demonstrating a little more girth and depth than the Clos Saint-Denis. It gently builds to a spicy and tensile finish, lingering peppery notes ensuring that you will not forget it in a hurry. Every vine that contributed fruit to this wine deserves a big shiny medal.

2024-2050 (97-99)

2019 Domaine Dujac Echezeaux Grand Cru

The 2019 Echézeaux Grand Cru shows a little more stem addition influence than the Les Beaux Monts, scents of truffle, damp autumnal leaves and dark berry fruit. There is fine delineation here although I find the Premier Crus show a little more grace. The palate is medium-bodied with more cohesion than the nose, modest weight, fresh and lightly peppered with a dab of white pepper and bay leaf towards the finish. Quintessentially Dujac in style, it should age well over the next 20 years.

2023-2045 (93-95)

2019 Domaine Dujac Gevrey-Chambertin 1er Cru Aux Combottes

The 2019 Gevrey-Chambertin Aux Combottes 1er Cru was allowed to open over 5-10 minutes. Plenty of undergrowth aromas with shaved black truffle, transparent and focused on the nose. The palate is medium-bodied with tertiary red fruit and fine acidity, just missing some structure and grip towards the finish. I would just like to see a little more backbone on this Combottes, a bit more density.

2023-2038 (90-92)

2019 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru

The 2019 Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru shows more overt whole bunch influence compared to the preceding Chambolle-Village, touches of tea leaf infusing the black cherry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with a fine bead of acidity, very harmonious and with fine salinity towards the elegant finish. Understated and refined.

2023-2038 (90-92)

2019 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis Village

The 2019 Morey-Saint-Denis Village shows fine delineation on the nose, traces of dark chocolate and espresso tincturing the dark berry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins, displaying the backbone you expect from this appellation and with fine salinity and pepperiness towards the finish. Very fine.

2022-2032 (89-91)

2019 Domaine Dujac Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Aux Malconsorts

The 2019 Vosne-Romanée Aux Malconsorts 1er Cru has a more savory bouquet than the Les Beaux Monts, the whole bunch less integrated by direct comparison and yet it also delivers more terroir expression and mineralité. Touches of cracked black pepper and sage lend complexity to the dark berry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, a fine bead of acidity, very harmonious with white pepper and clove, a lovely grainy texture and perhaps more refinement compared to the Echézeaux. The kind of Vosne-Romanée that you want to elope with.

2024-2050 (95-97)

2019 Domaine Dujac Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Les Beaux Monts

The 2019 Vosne-Romanée Les Beaux Monts 1er Cru has a perfumed and enticing bouquet with brambly black fruit, black truffle and Earl Grey aromas gently wafting from the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannins. The whole bunch influence is discrete here but lends an attractive white pepper and clove note towards the finish that fans out wonderful whilst maintaining freshness and tension. Just outflanked by the Aux Malconsorts, nevertheless, this is a brilliant Les Beaux Monts.

2024-2048 (94-96)

2019 Domaine Dujac Romanée Saint-Vivant Grand Cru

The 2019 Romanée Saint-Vivant Grand Cru is glorious, regal on the nose with black cherries, bilberry, light oyster shell and that has exquisite delineation. This has more intensity than the Chambertin. The palate is beguiling in terms of balance, utterly harmonious with filigree tannins. This is extremely pure and long, lightly spiced towards the finish and an extraordinarily long on the aftertaste. Utterly sublime and sensual, just as a Romanée-Saint-Vivant ought to be.

2024-2050 (96-98)

Vins Blancs

2019 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis Blanc 1er Cru Mont Luisants

The 2019 Morey-Saint-Denis Monts Luisants Blanc 1er Cru has such a pretty aromas with lemon thyme and lemon verbena aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with a tangy, quince-tinged opening matched with a fine bead of acidity. Whereas the Morey Village Blanc remains quite linear, this gently fans out on its pure orange pith and apricot-tinged finish. Maybe not a long-term Monts Luisants, yet it will certainly give much drinking fulfilment over the following decade.

2022-2032 (90-92)

2019 Domaine Dujac Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Folatières

The 2019 Puligny-Montrachet Les Combettes 1er Cru comes from vines in excess of 50-year old vines and was picked on 11 September. It demonstrates more precision and a little more tension than the Les Folatières. This contains a very subtle smokiness that complements the green apple and pear aromas - more Puligny and less exotic than the Folatières. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, lovely dried apricot and Clementine notes segue into a very composed finish that lingers with traces of white chocolate on the aftertaste. Excellent.

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