

DOMAINE DUJAC

Burgundy 2019: Domaine Dujac wines rated and reviewed Decanter – Charles Curtis MW February 2021

Domaine Dujac is indisputably at the top of its game.

Since being founded by Jacques Seysses and his father Louis Seysses in 1967, it has gone from strength to strength as it has grown.

Today the holdings total more than 15 hectares, and while the minute production of Chambertin and Romanée-St-Vivant may command the highest prices, the heart of the domaine is in Morey-St-Denis where they are based.

Morey is where more than half of their vineyards are located, including nearly two hectares of Clos de la Roche and 1.29 hectares of Clos Saint-Denis. Today, Domaine Dujac is run by Jacques' two sons Jeremy and Alec, along with Jeremy's wife Diana (née Snowden) and their brother Paul.

According to Alec Seysses, 2019 was a medium-size crop, noting that it was larger than the crop in 2020 but smaller than those from 2016 – 2018.

It was also more homogeneous than 2020 due to water stress this later year. A difficult flowering was only one of the reasons limiting crop size.

Seysses feels in general that the slightly larger yields in recent years help to balance the influence of rising temperatures and global warming. 'Under-ripeness is no longer the issue in Burgundy; over-ripeness is the thing you have to be careful of,' he says.

Regarding the yields, he adds, 'it used to be six to eight bunches per vine, now it's more like seven or eight.'

Domaine Dujac began picking the first parcels on 3rd September. As with many estates, they started with the Pinot Noir and then moved on to Chardonnay.

They began to pick the whites in Puligny-Montrachet on the 10th and 11th of September and followed through on the reds after finishing on 19th September.

Dujac is not certified organic, but they farm their vineyards using organic methods combined with some elements of biodynamics, and the work in the winery flows as much as possible following the biodynamic calendar.

The winemaking at Dujac is very sensitive and essentially non-interventionalist. Although they are famous for whole cluster fermentation, the exact percentages are determined by the ripeness of the stems and the presence of botrytis (none in 2019).

Alec says that they usually destem 10-15% of the fruit, commenting 'it's more about infusion than extraction,' with a combination of punching down, pumping over, and gently foot-treading some of the smaller vats.

Since they incorporate a relatively significant portion of the press wine, it is essential to understand how much tannin will come from pressing. Fermentation is done with wild yeasts, and the wines are typically bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

Seldom does one find winemaking as expressive as that being done by the young generation at Dujac.

Vins Rouges

2019 Domaine Dujac Chambertin Grand Cru

From 0.24ha of Clos de Bèze and 0.05ha of Chambertin, both parcels neighbouring Rousseau. In 2019, the vineyards in Gevrey were picked first because of the danger of water stress and sunburn. True to the appellation, the wine is intense and tightly wound. Perhaps a bit forbidding initially, one sees with time the immense potential of this wine, packed with cherry fruit and a mineral, almost saline edge. The structure is very tannic, but there is immense potential here. A wine for the future.

98 points / 2029 - 2049

2019 Domaine Dujac Clos de la Roche Grand Cru

Dujac's Clos de la Roche holdings include parcels in the original Clos de la Roche heart of the vineyard, in Monts Luisants and in Les Chabiots; a total of nearly 2ha. In 2019, Dujac produced a spectacular wine, already very aromatic with ripe black cherry fruit and notes of spice and earth. On the palate this wine is tannic and structured, but the texture of the tannins is silky, elegant and very refined. Marvellous.

98 points / 2029 – 2049

2019 Domaine Dujac Romanée-Saint-Vivant Grand Cru

An exceptional wine, the Dujac Romanée-Saint-Vivant is from the parcel acquired from Moillard in 2005, located downslope from Romanée-Conti and next to Cathiard. Using mostly whole cluster fermentation and very gentle extraction, this massive wine is a bit of a chameleon, closed on the nose yet revealing with time dense, compact plummy fruit, minerals, spice and a texture that is firmly tannic and very long. Tiny (two barrel) production, with spectacular results.

98 points / 2029 - 2049

2019 Domaine Dujac Bonnes Mares Grand Cru

Produced from two parcels, one on the heavier red clay soils and another on the chalky white soil at the top of the slope. The blend is a wine of superb elegance and balance, with notes of cassis and spice on the attack. Although the wine is made using only whole clusters, the ripeness of the stems and the care in the winemaking give density, but not at the expense of finesse. Marvellous.

97 points / 2029 - 2049

2019 Domaine Dujac Clos Saint-Denis Grand Cru

The domaine owns two parcels of Clos-St-Denis: 1.1ha down the slope from Ponsot and 0.37ha in the Lieu-dit Calouère. Here, the cold maceration and whole cluster fermentation have produced a wine of immense concentration, with lovely dark fruit character of a floral cast and considerable substance on the palate, which is ripe and weighty, yet still very fresh. This shows superb elegance and breed; discreet, yet absolutely marvellous quality.

97 points / 2024 - 2049

2019 Domaine Dujac Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Aux Malconsorts

This spectacular holding of 1.57ha has been in the family since 2005 and never fails to impress. One portion of the vineyard actually extends into Les Gaudichots, better known today as La Tâche. After a mostly whole cluster fermentation and some time in cask, the 2019 delivers intensely ripe blackberry fruit, with hints of spice and smoke, plus a dense texture that showcases firm but supple tannins and a savoury, saline finish. This superb wine goes from strength to strength.

96 points / 2024 - 2049

2019 Domaine Dujac Échézeaux Grand Cru

This silky, seductive wine was produced from parcel of 0.69ha in the Champs Traversin section of Échézeaux. The fruit was about 10-15% destemmed and very gently fermented, with Alec Seysses of Dujac pointing out that it's more about infusion than extraction, and that the tannin will come from pressing, not punching down. Still, the result is dense, with extract and enough substance here to carry it to a powerful finish.

95 points / 2024 - 2049

2019 Domaine Dujac Gevrey Chambertin 1er Cru Aux Combottes

Gevrey Combottes is right in the line of grands crus, between Latricières and Clos de la Roche, where Dujac has 1.16ha. The whole cluster fermentation and gentle extraction has produced a wine which is, with lots of lovely framboise fruit and spice, plus a lovely, expressive freshness and a tannic line on the palate. Delicious now, it will continue to develop for decades.

95 points / 2024 - 2049

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

Produced from Dujac's 0.73ha of Beaux Monts. The whole cluster ferment and new casks here have given smoky, dark and savoury aromas on the nose, and a dense feel on the palate, with lovely depth and firmness, before a finish that lingers pleasantly on the palate. Marvellous quality and should age well.

95 points / 2024 - 2049

2019 Domaine Dujac Charmes-Chambertin Grand Cru

Produced from several parcel acquired by the domaine beginning in the 1970s. Some of these are located in Mazoyères and some in Charmes, proper. The vineyard was green harvested in 2019, a technique which used to be invariably applied, but now only as needed. The result is a wine of uncommon intensity for Charmes-Chambertin; a bit closed on the nose and very grippy on the palate. With time, however, it reveals substantial fruit and extract. Should open well with time.

94 points / 2024 - 2049

2019 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis 1er Cru

This is a blend of four different lieux-dits, including Les Ruchots (which forms a majority of the blend) along with Clos Sorbé, Les Millandes and Les Charrières, all just below the Route des Grands Crus. Alec Seysses of Dujac feels it is representative of the village. My impression is very ripe fruit, more plum than cherry; dense, firm and tannic on the palate, with elegance and a substantial finish.

94 points / 2024 - 2049

2019 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis Village

Blended from just over 0.7ha of vines scattered throughout the village in the lieux-dits of Porroux, Le Village, Clos Solon and Les Herbuottes, this is potently aromatic. Super-dense and concentrated, with lovely dark fruit and length on the palate, where the texture impresses with firm but silky tannins that extend the length forever. Top quality for a village-level wine.

93 points / 2024 - 2049

2019 Domaine Dujac Morey-Saint-Denis Blanc

This elegant Chardonnay is made from vines in the lieu-dit Les Davreaux. There is a ripe apricot fruit character and a lovely, approachable texture, although the wine is still fairly substantial. The grapes are gently pressed and fermented in tank, followed by ageing in used casks for a year and a further six months in tank after blending.

92 points / 2024 - 2049

2019 Domaine Dujac Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Folatières

The aromas are rich, almost tropical and the wine feels dense, almost a bit heavy, reflecting the character of the year more than the position on the slope. From 1.16ha of fairly young vines, this is fermented and aged with relatively modest use of new oak.

91 points / 2024 - 2049

Vins Blancs

2019 Domaine Dujac Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru Les Combettes

Produced from vines of about 60 years of age (Alec Seysses of Dujac isn't entirely certain, since the planting records have been lost), the vines lie at the northern extremity of Puligny, bordering Meursault Charmes. This has some of the rich, buttery notes of Meursault, but it's firmly structured feel and lemony fruit on the palate, place it firmly in Puligny. The wine shows both power and complexity, with the depth and definition to help this age and improve for decades.

95 points / 2022 - 2034

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

From a 0.6ha parcel of Chardonnay that Dujac rents, this has noticeably more depth and nuance than the village-level white. This is a substantial, serious white Burgundy, with an apricot character but also hints of lemon peel and a salty minerality. There is more depth and extract on the palate, but also more freshness. This will doubtless reward mid-term ageing if you have the patience to wait.

95 points / 2024 - 2049