

# DOMAINE DUJAC

## *Reviews of 2012 Vintage*

*by John Gilman's View From The Cellar*

*Nov/Dec 2013*

I had a rather unique visit with Jeremy Seysses during this November trip, as I agreed to taste along with Allen Meadows at the domaine, as both of us were trying to respect the difficulties faced by vignerons with multiple visits and a very short crop. I had tasted with Allen on several occasions in the past, when he was first starting up Burghound and I was still a rare wine broker, so I figured it would be a very pleasant experience to taste together again. I do see Allen fairly regularly when we are both in Burgundy and get along with him quite well, but on this visit, the conversation about the vintage seemed quite constrained and I have to hypothesize that it was probably not a good idea for the two of us to be tasting together, as I seem to have ended up with a lot less background information about the 2012s from Domaine Dujac than I normally have after a visit with Jeremy. In any event, what I did glean from the brief moments of background conversation was that the Dujac wines came in with natural sugars in the 12 to 12.8 percent range, which showed very good ripeness, and Jeremy used anywhere from eighty-five to one hundred percent whole clusters in 2012, as the stems were beautifully ripe. The malos here generally finished up between July and August of 2013, but the cellar had not yet been racked at the time of my visit, and there were several wines that were more than ready for the racking (which was scheduled to begin within a week or so of my mid-month visit). With so many of the wines showing at least moderate signs of reduction, it was a rather tough cellar to work through, but there is little doubt that despite seeing this lineup in a very cranky moment during the elevage, this is going to be a very special range of 2012s. I was very pleased to see that a few of the grand crus were raised in three-quarters or less new oak in this vintage, and needless to say, if this trend continues, I will be very, very happy to see what happens with what is already one of the greatest ranges of wines to be found anywhere in the world! Could they get even better with less new wood? I did not get figures for the village and premier crus in 2012, but Jeremy Seysses observed that the 2012 yields in their grand crus were down anywhere from thirty to fifty percent from their crop load in 2011, and 2011 was not a particularly generous crop to start with! Jeremy also noted that the domaine is

working on a new distribution plan for their tiny amount of Romanée-St.-Vivant, as the family is tired of allocating out very small allotments to a few, most favored customers, only to see those same bottles appearing at auction a couple of months later. He is thinking that the domaine may end up auctioning off the bottles directly to clients, and in that way, hopefully getting the wines into the hands of the people that really want to drink and cellar the bottles, rather than those who simply flip them at auction in a brazen bit of Burgundy arbitrage. Of the notes that follow, I have scored wines that were in a fairly reduced state in a range, and those that were singing with a single number. I would fully expect the wines that were a little cranky with reduction to eventually land at the higher number of their respective range.

### **2012 Morey St. Denis Dujac Fils et Père**

The 2012 Morey St. Denis from Dujac Fils et Père was a bit reduced at the time of my visit, but underneath is a very pretty wine of black cherries, dark berries, woodsmoke, gamebirds and cool, dark soil. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and very suave on the backend, with modest tannins and very lovely length and grip. I am sure this will be a lovely bottle with a few years of cellaring. 2016-2035+. 88-89+.

### **2012 Chambolle-Musigny Dujac Fils et Père**

The 2012 Dujac Fils et Père Chambolle AC is really, really lovely wine in the making, with all of the charm and sappy purity that this vintage is long going to be famous for very much in evidence in this stylish village wine. The bouquet is a very fine blend of black cherries, plums, cocoa, a lovely base of soil and a nice touch of nutskin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, plush and very elegant, with a nice sappy core, fine, gentle tannins and a long, tangy and very classy finish. Lovely juice. 2015-2035+. 89+.

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### 2012 Gevrey-Chambertin

#### Dujac Fils et Père

The 2012 Gevrey villages bottling from Dujac Fils et Père was also showing very much spot on at the time of my visit, and further underscored my impression that Gevrey is one of the really blessed villages in this vintage. The superb nose wafts from the glass in a blend of black cherries, dark plums, cocoa, a lovely base of dark soil tones, woodsmoke, a touch of nutskin and just a whisper of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and quite velvety on the attack, with a lovely core, fine focus and soil signature, modest tannins and lovely length and grip on the bright and classy finish. Fine juice. 2016-2035+. 90.

### 2012 Nuits St. Georges “les Damodes”

#### Dujac Fils et Père

The les Damodes 2012 from Dujac Fils et Père was just a bit cranky, but with a bit of swirling, it began to show quite well and offered up a very red fruity personality this year that I found particularly attractive. The bouquet is a classy blend of cherries, a touch of blood orange, gamebirds, coffee, a fine signature of soil and a nice dollop of nutskin in the upper register. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very soil-driven in personality, with a lovely core of pure fruit, a classic base of chewy, well-integrated tannins and excellent length and grip on the tangy and very well-balanced finish. Another lovely bottle in the making. 2020-2050. 89-91+.

### 2012 Morey St. Denis

#### Domaine Dujac

The 2012 “estate” Morey AC was particularly reluctant to be tasted at the time of my visit, as this wine was quite reduced and really impossible to place a score upon. Underneath the reduction is a fullish wine of lovely precision on the backend, a fine sappy and very black fruity core, fine transparency and impressive length and grip on the modestly tannic finish. I am sure this will be really lovely, but it is hard to imagine catching it at a worse time to try and taste!

### 2012 Chambolle-Musigny

#### Domaine Dujac

The domaine’s own bottling of Chambolle AC was a bit less cranky than the Morey, and it was much easier to get a read on this very promising village wine. The bouquet is quite black fruity this year, offering up scents of black cherries, a bit of dark berry, espresso, woodsmoke and a lovely base of chalky soil tones. On the palate the wine is fullish, primary and shows of a lovely core of fruit, with tangy acids, modest tannins and lovely mineral drive on the long backend. This will be a lovely wine. 2018-2035+. 90.

### 2012 Morey St. Denis “Premier Cru”

#### Domaine Dujac

The 2012 Morey “Premier Cru” was very easy to get a read on at the time of my visit and this is going to be a lovely wine. The bouquet is very pure and very precise, wafting from the glass in a mix of black cherries, dark plums, a touch of graphite, espresso, a lovely base of soil and a discreet framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very nicely focused, with a sappy core, fine transparency and impressive backend energy and bounce on the suavely-tannic and classy finish. Fine juice. 2020-2050. 92.

### 2012 Chambolle-Musigny “Gruenchers”

#### Domaine Dujac

The 2012 Domaine Dujac Gruenchers was showing quite reserved at the time of my visit, but not particularly reduced, and I think this is just going to be a wine that wants a good eight to ten years in the cellar to really blossom. The bouquet offers up lovely purity and nascent complexity in its mélange of black cherries, damsons, cocoa, complex minerality, woodsmoke, incipient notes of gamebird and a stylish base of new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very elegant, with lovely mid-palate depth, fine-grained tannins and excellent focus and balance on the very long, vibrant finish. This is going to be a beautiful bottle of Chambolle in the fullness of time. 2020-2050+. 92+.

### 2012 Gevrey-Chambertin “aux Combottes”

#### Domaine Dujac

The 2012 Combottes was again rather reductive at the time of my visit and ready for its imminent racking. With a bit of urging, the wine reluctantly offers up a very promising and quite black fruity bouquet of cassis, black cherries, espresso, gamebirds, dark soil tones, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, suave on the attack and impressively transparent, with a sappy core, fine-grained tannins and excellent balance on the long, pure and focused finish. This will certainly be lovely. 2022-2055. 92-93.

### 2012 Charmes-Chambertin

#### Domaine Dujac

The 2012 Charmes-Chambertin was raised in seventy-five percent new wood this year, and this percentage seems to really have worked beautifully with this terroir. The bouquet is really very deep, pure and classic, jumping from the glass in a mix of cassis, dark plums, bitter chocolate, a bit of venison, woodsmoke, incipient notes of mustard seed and a lovely base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very pure on the attack, with superb focus and transparency, suave, ripe tannins and

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superb backend energy on the very long, poised and classic finish. Great juice in the making. 2022-2065. 94+.

### 2012 Vosne-Romanée “Beaumonts”

#### Domaine Dujac

This was really a roller coaster visit, as after the absolutely singing 2012 Charmes, the Beaumonts was again pretty hunkered down behind its reduction and waiting patiently for its racking! Underneath is a very good wine in the making, with notes of red and black cherries, dark chocolate, dark soil, woodsmoke, gamebirds and a nice base of new wood (this is also raised in seventy-five percent new barrels- same as the Charmes in 2012). On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite shapely on the attack, with a very good core of fruit, lovely soil drive, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the focused and youthful finish. This will be very good. 2020-2045+. 91-92+.

### 2012 Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts”

#### Domaine Dujac

The 2012 Malconsorts from the Seysses family is going to be a very, very lovely example of the vintage, but it is cut from the same cloth as the refined and reserved Gruenchers, and it will need some extended cellaring to really blossom and show all of its layers of complexity. The very classy nose gently emerges from the glass in a refined blend of red plums, black raspberries, cocoa, a touch of nutskin, a beautifully complex base of minerality, woodsmoke, spices and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very, very suave on the attack, with a sappy core of fruit, great backend minerality, fine-grained tannins and outstanding length and grip on the tangy and perfectly balanced finish. This wine is quite tightly-knit today, but there is an inner core of energy that will make this a stunning wine when it has blossomed! 2020- 2060. 94+..

### 2012 Echézeaux

#### Domaine Dujac

The 2012 Echézeaux at Domaine Dujac was raised in seventy percent new wood in this vintage (yeah, yeah, yeah!) and was showing absolutely beautifully at the time of my visit. The deep, complex and quite red fruity nose this year wafts from the glass in a superb blend of raspberries, red plums, venison, Asian spices (cardamom?), woodsmoke, excellent minerality and a stylish base of cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, tight and very minerally in personality, with a superb core of fruit, lovely focus and balance, suave, elegant tannins and exceptional length and grip on the very pure and soil-driven finish. One of the greatest young vintages of Echézeaux I have ever had the pleasure to taste at Domaine Dujac, and I have been visiting here for a while now! 2025-2075. 95.

### 2012 Clos St. Denis

#### Domaine Dujac

Back on the roller coaster! The 2012 Clos St. Denis from Domaine Dujac was pretty reduced at the time of my visit, but again, with a bit of coaxing, offers up scents of red and black cherries, nutskin, cocoa, lovely spices, gamebirds, soil and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and very transparent, with a lovely core, fine-grained tannins and excellent length and grip on the tangy finish. I am sure this will be excellent, but it would have been awfully nice (particularly after all the fireworks in the glass provided by the Echézeaux) to have caught this wine in full bloom in the cellars! 2022-2060+. 94-95.

### 2012 Clos de la Roche

#### Domaine Dujac

The 2012 Clos de la Roche was also a bit reductive at the time of my visit. Underneath is clearly a superb wine in the making, offering up a lovely combination of sappiness and structural reserve. The bouquet is a fine blend of plums, dark berries, raw cocoa, gamebirds, a complex base of soil, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very, very elegant on the attack, with a great core of sappy fruit, excellent soil signature, superb focus and grip and a very long, suavely-tannic and tangy finish. This is going to be a very special vintage for this wine. 2024-2075. 95-96.

### 2012 Bonnes-Mares

#### Domaine Dujac

Happily, the 2012 Bonnes-Mares was not grumpy at all and was just singing in the barrel at the time of my visit. The superb bouquet soars from the glass in a classic mélange of red and black cherries, plums, cocoa, gamebirds, a stunningly complex base of soil, gentle notes of nutskin, woodsmoke and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, and very pure on the attack, with great sappiness at the core, stunning transparency, fine-grained tannins and magical length and grip on the perfectly balanced and very classy, young finish. A great example of Bonnes-Mares in the making. 2025-2075. 96+.

### 2012 Romanée-St.-Vivant

#### Domaine Dujac

There is only a single, four hundred liter, new barrel of the RSV in the Dujac cellars this year. The wine was a touch reduced when I was here in mid-November, but offers up considerable aromatic promise in its classy blend of raspberries, red plums, exotic spice tones, duck, a beautifully complex base of minerality, nutskins and spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, very pure and tangy, with stunning transparency, a great sappy core of red fruit, very suave tannins and outstanding length

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and grip on the focused and vibrant finish. Man, this is going to be a great wine! 2025-2075. 97-98.

### 2012 Chambertin

#### Domaine Dujac

There are only two barrels of Chambertin (out of a normal crop of four) in 2012 at Domaine Dujac, which is really a pity, as this wine is already hard enough to find in the market. The young and very classy bouquet wafts from the glass in a mix of black cherries, plums, dark chocolate, incipient notes of meatiness, a beautifully complex base of soil and a nice framing of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is [pure, full-bodied and very suave on the attack, with outstanding mid-palate depth, ripe tannins and a very, very long, shapely and still quite primary finish. This will be a great wine as well. 2025-2075. 96+.