

DOMAINE DUJAC

Reviews of 2012 Vintage

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There isn't much to say about the 2012s at Dujac except that they are magnificent. The low yields of the vintage helped create the conditions for a set of rich, textured wines that with one or two exceptions are highly expressive to site. Jeremy Seysses is one of many winemakers who believe the loose architecture of the clusters was a key element in staving off diseases and keeping the fruit healthy. Of course, even that was not enough to compensate for a poor flowering and the subsequent millerandage (shot berries) that claimed 30-50% of the crop. As always, Seysses opted for a fairly high level of whole clusters in vinification. Across the board, this is one of the most impressive collections of 2012s I tasted in Burgundy. These are also some of the most structured 2012s readers will come across, so patience is going to be key. Readers should also note the Dujac Fils & Père négoce wines are reviewed separately.

2012 Chambertin Grand Cru

Dujac's 2012 Chambertin is utterly captivating. It's as simple as that. A wine that conquers all of the senses, the Chambertin embodies all of the qualities that makes Pinot Noir so compelling. At once marvelously deep yet also elusive, the 2012 is a wine of pure intrigue. The interplay of dark blue/purplish fruit with seemingly endless textures and aromas is truly captivating. As in the past, the Chambertin is made from two parcels, the larger being in Clos de Bèze, while a second parcel lies in Chambertin itself. As is often the case, the essence of Bèze comes through loud and clear. What a magnificent wine this is. 97-99

2012 Chambolle Musigny

Dujac's 2012 Chambolle-Musigny is rich, layered and sumptuous to the core. Here it is the wine's pure volume and intense, dark flavor profile that stand out most. There isn't too much Chambolle sexiness here, at least not today. Instead, readers will find an unusually dark, powerful Chambolle that is deeply marked by the richness of the year and the proximity of some of the parcels to Morey. The 2012 is quite striking, but it needs to be taken on its own terms. 90-92

2012 Morey St. Denis 1er Cru

Savory herbs, berries, crushed flowers, tobacco and sage lift out of the glass in the 2012 Morey St. Denis. The style is quite lifted and aromatic, much of that coming from the whole clusters, which are more evident here than in most of the other wines in the range. The pointed, nuanced finish is quite attractive. 91-93

2012 Chambolle Musigny Les Gruenchers 1er Cru

A drop-dead gorgeous wine, the 2012 Chambolle-Musigny Les Gruenchers captures the best qualities of the year. Razor-like veins of underlying minerality give energy and tension to the dark red and blue fruit. Floral and spice notes, along with a hint of white pepper develop in the glass, adding further dimensions of complexity and nuance as the 2012 blossoms in all directions. In 2012, the Gruenchers is classy through and through. 92-94

2012 Gevrey Chambertin Aux Combottes 1er Cru

The 2012 Gevrey-Chambertin Aux Combottes is endowed with marvelous focus and intensity. Graphite, violets, menthol and blue/blackish fruit are all alive in a vibrant, chiseled Burgundy marked by cool, insistent minerality and tons of pure nuance. As gorgeous as the 2012 is today, the Combottes possesses much less early appeal than many of other Dujac 2012. Readers will have to be patient here. For those who can wait, the Combottes has all the requisites to develop into a superb bottle. 92-94

2012 Charmes Chambertin Grand Cru

A rush of blue and purple-hued fruit, violets, smoke and exotic spices burst from the glass as the 2012 Charmes-Chambertin shows off its considerable personality. Even with all of the richness and intensity in the glass, the 2012 clearly has more than enough structure to age well for years. The 2012 is a decidedly huge, imposing Charmes. I am a bit surprised to see the Charmes at this point in the tasting, but it is gorgeous all the same. All of the vintage signatures are present here. 94-96

2012 Vosne Romanée Les Beaux Monts 1er Cru

The 2012 Vosne-Romanée Les Beaux Monts is textured and seamless on the palate. Spice, iron and tobacco notes

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meld into layers of expressive dark red fruit in a wine that impresses for its balance, persistence and totally sublime personality. Today the Beaux Monts is remarkably open and resonant, but is also likely showing only a hint of its true potential. 93-95

2012 Vosne Romanee Aux Malconsorts 1er Cru

Rich and ample on the palate yet also remarkably weightless, the 2012 Vosne-Romanée Aux Malconsorts conquers all of the senses with its stunning overall balance. Nothing in particular really stands out, instead it is the wine's total sense of harmony and poise that are breathtaking. I confess that from the beginning I have always had a weak spot for the Dujac Malconsorts. The 2012 is simply dazzling. 94-96

2012 Echezeaux Grand Cru

There is a lot going on in the 2012 Echezeaux. Savory and floral notes appear first, followed by darkish fruit and brighter, mintier notes. The interplay of lifted, perfumed aromatics and intense energy is simply dazzling. I very much like the nuance and focus here. 93-95

2012 Clos St. Denis Grand Cru

The 2012 Clos St. Denis is another pure, mineral-driven wine. Graphite, savory herbs, purplish mint lift out of the glass. The 2012 is intense in its linearity today and clearly needs years in bottle to fully blossom, but its sheer beauty and potential seem pretty clear, even at this early stage. The Clos St. Denis is tense, bright and powerful to the core. 95-97

2012 Clos De La Roche Grand Cru

A totally wild Burgundy, the 2012 Clos de La Roche comes across as unrestrained, sauvage and powerful. Smoke, iron and an exotic mélange of ferrous notes emerge over time, but my sense is that the 2012 is quite reticent, compact and closed in on itself. Hopefully another handful of years will be enough for the wine's imposing structure to start releasing some of the layers of flavor that today remain a bit clenched. 94-96

2012 Romanee Saint Vivant Grand Cru

The 2012 Romanée Saint Vivant is quite open and expressive. Savory herbs, tobacco, mint and game all take on an attractive element of lift and weightlessness in the glass. In 2012 there is just one barrel of the RSV, and today the wine remains a bit marked by the new oak. In the past, the Dujac RSV has always been slow to reveal all of its charms, so I can only imagine where the 2012 might be headed. 94-96+

2012 Bonnes Mares Grand Cru

Statuesque and towering, the 2012 Bonnes-Mares impresses for its pure depth and resonance. All the elements fall into place in a vertical, powerful Burgundy built for the cellar.

Layers of blue/black fruit, violets, lavender and spices grow in the glass, culminating in a huge finish supported by massive tannins. Readers who can find the Bonnes-Mares should not hesitate. That said, the 2012 is going to require serious time in bottle. Incidentally, a recent bottle of the 1993 was stratospheric. 95-97

2012 Morey St. Denis

The 2012 Morey St. Denis is a gorgeous wine at this level. Dark red and black fruit notes flesh out on in a dense yet inviting wine loaded with depth, nuance and complexity. Sweet licorice and tobacco notes develop over time, but first and foremost the Morey is a wine of structure, length and gorgeous polish. 89-91

2012 Fils & Père Gevrey Chambertin

The 2012 Gevrey-Chambertin is the most expressive of these three village level wines. Here the fruit pulses with energy, tension and an attractive sense of focus. Violets, graphite, spices and purple fruit linger on the finish. 89-90

2012 Fils & Père Morey St. Denis

The 2012 Morey St. Denis is a pretty, graceful wine to drink now and over the next few years. Sweet floral and spice notes contribute to the wine's gracious, mid-weight personality. 87-88

2012 Fils & Père Chambolle Musigny

Silky tannins support a core of open, expressive fruit in the 2012 Chambolle Musigny. The 2012 is supple, round and nicely layered. Best of all, it should drink well upon release. 88-89

2012 Fils & Père Nuits St. Georges Les Damodes 1er Cru

The Nuits St. Georges Les Damodes is all about power and tension. Iron, smoke and sweet red cherries open up in the glass. Overall, this is a solid wine, but also a work in progress. It will be interesting to see how things develop here. 88-90