

DOMAINE DUJAC

Reviews of 2018 Vintage Wines

View From The Cellar – John Gilman

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Jeremy Seysses is very happy with how the domaine's 2018s have turned out, though one gets the sense that their effortless beauty in the glass belies an awful lot of work that had to go on behind the scenes to make such beautifully classic wines in the torrid summer of 2018. The team at Domaine Dujac was out picking chardonnay for their white wines on August 26th of 2018 and did not waste any time moving onto pinot noir on the 30th of the month, once the white grapes had been brought in. The last pinot noir grapes were brought in on September 8th, from the premier cru vineyard of Malconsorts in Vosne-Romanée. As is typical in mid-November, the red wines here were in varying stages of evolution at the time of my visit, with the Dujac Fils et Père AC level bottlings already having been assembled in tank and a few of the other wines still down in the cellars in barrel also having just been racked, or were due for a racking in the near future. So, while many of the wines here were absolutely singing, others were still fairly easy to ready, but perhaps not quite at their optimum for tasting and a couple were a bit cantankerous and ready to be racked. The Fils et Père villages wines had been racked about four weeks prior to my visit on November 11th, while the few domaine wines that had already been racked had been decanted only a couple of weeks prior, so they were a bit more unsettled than the earlier racked village wines. But, in general, it was very easy to see that 2018 is a brilliant vintage for Domaine Dujac and the wines are going to be among the reference point successes of this roller coaster of a vintage.

The reds from the Seysses family in 2018 are packed with beautifully ripe fruit tones, coupled with exemplary expressions of their underlying terroirs, suave, seamless tannins and great promise for the future. A few of the wines (probably the latter picked) are a bit more powerfully fruit-driven and will probably evolve along the lines of the 1990s here (which are very successful in the context of that slightly roasted vintage), while others are a significant step up in terms of purity and transparency and seem more likely to age along the lines of the 1999s here (which I vastly prefer to the 1990s). It is too early to say with any certainty, but it does seem likely that the best 2018s in the cellar at Domaine Dujac (and there are many of these), will end up even superior to the 1999s, so this is clearly one of the most successful range of wines to be found in the Côte d'Or in this vintage.

Vins Rouges

2018 Morey St. Denis- Domaine Dujac

This has already been racked a couple of weeks ahead of my visit, but seemed to be on good form and was not hard to handicap. The nose wafts from the glass in a very refined mix of plums, black cherries, dark chocolate, a fine base of soil, vanillin oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, long and nicely transparent, with a good core of fruit, suave tannins and a long, poised and vibrant finish. This is going to be a very good AC. 2026-2045+. **90+**

2018 Chambolle-Musigny- Domaine Dujac

I did not write down whether or not the domaine's version of Chambolle villages had been racked prior to my visit or was just in need of one, but it was a bit cranky and much harder to get a read on than the lovely Morey AC. The wine is ripe and black fruity, with scents of dark berries, black cherries, espresso, soil, bonfire and pigeon wafting from the glass. On the palate the wine is deep, fullish and quite nicely plump at the core, with a good base of soil, ripe tannins and a long, adolescent finish. I am sure this will be quite good in due course, but I did not catch it on the best of days. 2026-2045. **88-90**

2018 Morey St. Denis "Premier Cru"- Domaine Dujac

The Domaine Dujac Morey "Premier Cru" is a really lovely example of the 2018 vintage. The bouquet delivers a fine combination of sweet dark berries, black plums, raw cocoa, a complex base of soil tones, woodsmoke, a touch of vanillin oak and a fine topnote of violets. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and shows off excellent mid-palate depth, with fine transparency and grip, refined tannins and a long, nascently complex and very well-balanced finish. Just a lovely wine in the making. 2027-2065. **92+**

2018 Chambolle-Musigny “les Gruenchers”- Domaine Dujac

The 2018 Gruenchers is a very good wine, but its ripeness and more plush personality had a hard time following up the magical troika of Echézeaux, Clos de la Roche and Clos St. Denis in our tasting lineup. The sappy nose wafts from the glass in a ripe blend of red plums, black cherries, woodsmoke, chocolate, chalky soil tones and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and pleasingly plump at the core, with a long, ripely tannic and already pretty generous finish. I suspect this wine will age along the lines of a 1990 Burgundy and show more of its vintage character as the decades roll away. 2028-2065. **91**

2018 Gevrey-Chambertin “aux Combottes”- Domaine Dujac

The 2018 Combottes chez Seysses is also outstanding and beautifully red fruity this year. The bouquet is pure and very expressive already, offering up scents of cherries, strawberries, woodsmoke, raw cocoa, a great base of soil tones, gamebird, a touch of new oak and lovely, delicate spice tones in the upper register. On the palate the wine is long, pure and very classy in personality, with a sappy core of red fruit, excellent soil signature, fine-grained tannins and a long, precise finish of impressive backend tension. Fine, fine juice. 2031-2070+. **93+**

2018 Charmes-Chambertin- Domaine Dujac

This year, we stayed within communes as we worked our way through the cellars, so the 2018 Charmes-Chambertin followed up the excellent Combottes. This is more reserved aromatically than the Combottes, but every bit as good, as it eventually offers up (with a bit of coaxing) a fine blend of red plums, cherries, woodsmoke, pigeon, a very classy base of soil tones, cedar and a topnote of mustard seed. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and beautifully sappy at the core, with fine soil signature, ripe, buried tannins and great focus and grip on the long, nascently complex and vibrant finish. A marvelous Charmes. 2031-2070+. **94+**

2018 Vosne-Romanée “Beaumonts”- Domaine Dujac

In a torrid vintage like 2018, I would expect the Beaumonts here to be quite black fruity in personality, but the wine is all red fruit this year and really superb. It delivers a fine aromatic constellation of red plums, cherries, Vosne spices, a bit of gamebird, a superb base of quite stony soil tones, bonfire and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and marvelously transparent out of the blocks, with a lovely core of fruit, ripe, seamless tannins and a long, complex and beautifully balanced finish. Fine juice. 2028-2060. **93**

2018 Vosne-Romanée “Malconsorts”- Domaine Dujac

The 2018 Malconsorts chez Seysses is more exotic and musky in personality than the Beaumonts this year, but at least based on the showing at the time of my visit, there is not quite the customary distance between the two wines. The bouquet is very flashy out of the blocks, offering up scents of sappy black raspberries, sweet blackberries, raw cocoa, plenty of musky floral tones, new oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and more reserved in personality than the flamboyant nose suggests, with a sappy core of black fruit, ripe, well-integrated tannins and a long, tangy and focused finish. I like this wine very much, but it is a tad riper in personality than the Beaumonts (which is of course, a cooler microclimate than

Malconsorts), and tough the wines are comparable in quality, my personal preference this year may run to the Beaumonts. 2030-2065+. **93**

2018 Echézeaux- Domaine Dujac

The 2018 Echézeaux from Domaine Dujac is a brilliant wine in the making, and this is one of the best young examples of this cru that I can recall tasting at the estate. The celestial bouquet soars from the glass in a sappy blend of raspberries, cherries, red plums, duck, a very complex base of soil tones, Vosne spices, cocoa powder and cedary oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tangy, with all of the complexity that the nose promises, a great core, suave, fine-grained tannins and outstanding backend mineral drive on the focused and utterly complete finish. Great, great Echézeaux! 2032-2075+. **95**

2018 Clos St. Denis- Domaine Dujac

The 2018 Clos St. Denis here is every bit as magical as the Clos de la Roche. The spicy and red fruity bouquet is already very expressive, offering up a deep, pure and sappy constellation of red plums, cherries, raspberries, strawberries, a complex base of soil, cocoa powder, fresh nutmeg and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is elegant, full-bodied and very transparent, with a sappy core, great focus and grip, ripe, buried tannins and a very, very long, soil-driven and tangy finish. This is brilliant and maybe my favorite wine in the Dujac cellars this year (though I did not taste the RSV). 2030-2085. **96+**

2018 Clos de la Roche- Domaine Dujac

The 2018 Domaine Dujac Clos de la Roche is another gorgeous example of the vintage. The nose is pure, complex and already beautifully refined, offering up a mix of plums, red and black cherries, a refined base of soil tones, gamebird, cocoa powder, mustard seed and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and full-bodied, with a sappy core of fruit, great backend mineral drive, suave, seamless, but firm tannins and a very, very long, vibrant and promising finish. A great vintage of this iconic cuvée. 2032-2085. **95**

2018 Bonnes-Mares- Domaine Dujac

After the slight dip of premier cru, we ramped right back up to the magic of Domaine Dujac grand crus with this stellar example of Bonnes-Mares. The bouquet is deep and flat out stunning out of the blocks, soaring from the glass in an already very complex combination of red and black cherries, plums, gamebird, a great base of chalky soil tones, woodsmoke, raw cocoa, vanillin oak and a topnote of rose petals. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure on the attack, with a great core, superb soil signature, ripe, firm, but buried tannins and a very long, tangy and promising finish. This is extremely refined already for young Bonnes-Mares and is another stellar example of the vintage from the Seysses family. 2035-2085+. **96+**

Dujac Fils et Père

2018 Chambolle-Musigny- Dujac Fils et Père

The négociant bottling of 2018 Chambolle-Musigny from Dujac Fils et Père is a ripe and black fruity example of the vintage this year, offering up a nascently complex nose of plums, dark berries, a good base of soil tones, dark chocolate and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, tangy and nicely sappy at the core, with a nice touch of backend tannin and a long, tasty finish. This will be quite a good AC. 2024-2045. **88-89**

2018 Morey St. Denis- Dujac Fils et Père

Of the three Dujac Fils et Père villages bottlings, the 2018 Morey was the prettiest of the three at the time of my visit. The nose is pure and precise, offering up scents of plums, black cherries, dark chocolate, gamebird and a fine base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is long, pure and classy, with a full-bodied and very nicely balanced format, a good core and a long, moderately tannic and focused finish. Good juice. 2023-2045+. **89-90**

2018 Gevrey-Chambertin Dujac Fils et Père

The 2018 Fils et Père Gevrey was a bit reduced and not particularly expressive aromatically, but surprisingly, was far easier to appreciate on the palate. The nose offers up a mélange of sweet black fruit, dark chocolate, a good base of soil and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is ripe, full-bodied and nicely succulent at the core, with good soil signature, modest tannins and a long, promising finish. This should prove to be quite good, though it is close to fourteen percent octane and seems likely to be quite plush in personality when it is ready to drink. 2024-2045. **88-89+**

2018 Nuits St. Georges “aux Cras”- Dujac Fils et Père

Happily, there will be no interruption in the production of the Nuits “aux Cras” from the domaine, and the 2018 version has turned out beautifully. The bouquet offers up a very refined nose of red and black cherries, plums, raw cocoa, a fine base of minerality, pigeon and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and focused, with a very suave attack (particularly for young Nuits), as lovely core of fruit, fine soil signature and a long, ripely tannic and very classy finish. This wine was raised in one-third new oak and this percentage really works beautifully with this terroir. 2028-2055+. **92**

Vins Blancs

2018 Morey St. Denis Blanc- Domaine Dujac

The 2018 Morey AC Blanc from Domaine Dujac is a very pretty example of the vintage. The nose wafts from the glass in a bright blend of white peach, apple, chalk, white flowers, fresh almond and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nicely succulent on the attack, with a good core, fine backend tension and a long, vibrant finish. Good juice that will drink with generosity right from the start. 2020-2035+. **90**

2018 Puligny-Montrachet “les Folatières”- Domaine Dujac

The 2018 Folatières is a lovely and succulent example of the vintage. The ripe and generous nose offers up scents of apple, peach, a good base of chalky soil tones, vanillin oak, citrus zest and a topnote of white lilies. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and succulent at the core, with very good focus, cut and grip and a long, already quite complex finish. This is a lovely example of the vintage that could use a few years in the cellar to blossom fully, but which will be hard to resist out of the blocks. 2023-2045. **91+**

2018 Puligny-Montrachet “les Combettes”- Domaine Dujac

The 2018 Combettes has a bit more backend tension and grip than the Folatières, which is already wearing its heart on its sleeve, but it too will drink really well with not a whole lot of bottle age. I really like the nose here, which wafts from the glass in a mix of apple, pear, bee pollen, a hint of almond, a beautiful base of limestone, vanillin oak and a whisper of the beeswax to come with bottle age. On the palate the wine is bright, full-bodied, focused and very long on the backend, with a good core, fine transparency and grip and a long, zesty and quite complex finish. 2023-2050. **92+**

**2018 Morey St. Denis “les Monts Luisants” Blanc-
Domaine Dujac**

The 2018 les Monts Luisants Blanc from Domaine Dujac is another lovely example of the vintage in the making. It does not quite have the same mid-palate volume of the Combettes, but offers up lovely aromatic complexity in its blend of apple, lime, white flowers, chalky soil tones, citrus peel and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full and beautifully detailed, with a fine sense of balance, very good backend mineral drive and lovely grip on the long, complex and classy finish. This too is really charming this year. 2022-2045. **92**