



Allen Meadows'

BURGHOUND.COM

The ultimate Burgundy reference

April 2020

Domaine Bitouzet-Prieur (Volnay)

2018 Beaune "Cents Vignes" 1er red (88-91)

2018 Bourgogne Pinot Noir red 86

2018 Bourgogne Passe-Tout-Grains "La Grange du Duc" red 86

2018 Volnay red (88-90)

2018 Volnay "Les Aussy" 1er red (89-92)

2018 □ Volnay "Les Caillerets" 1er red (91-93)

2018 □ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er red (91-94)

2018 Volnay "Les Mitans" 1er red (88-91)

2018 Volnay "Les Pitures" 1er red (89-92)

2018 □ Volnay "Les Taillepieds" 1er red (90-93)

François Bitouzet, who is building a new *cuvée* in ancestral digs in Meursault, said that 2018 was "a precocious and exceptionally warm vintage as we once again began the harvest in August, which is to say the 27th. We began with picking the chardonnay and then moved on to the pinot. The fruit really couldn't have been much cleaner with good sugars and acceptable acidities. One of the interesting aspects is that despite the fact that total acidities weren't especially high, because most of it was tartaric rather than malic, the pHs remain very good. Potential alcohols were higher than usual but not so high that they imbalanced the wines as the most elevated level was 13.8%. As to the wines, while they clearly are the product of a hot and dry vintage, they have surprisingly good energy and even fine *terroir* transparency." (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, UK; SAQ, www.saq.com, Canada; Jebesen Beverage Co., www.jebesen.com, China/Hong Kong, Grand Millésime Wine, www.grandmillesime.com.au, Australia). **Burghound.com April 2020 3 0**

2018 Bourgogne Passe-Tout-Grains "La Grange du Duc": (a blend of 35% gamay and the rest in pinot). A distinctly earthy and ripe nose features peppery aromas of red and dark berry fruits. The round, delicious and nicely vibrant flavors possess an easy-to-like texture and reasonably good length on the mildly rustic finish. This is already drinking well. 86/now+

2018 Bourgogne Pinot Noir: This is aromatically similar to the Grange du Duc but with less pepper influence. The supple, round and equally delicious flavors are also quite pliant though there is just enough supporting structure to suggest that one or two years of bottle age would be beneficial. 86/2021+

2018 Volnay: (from several parcels that include Ez Echards, Les Aussy and Les Petits Gamets). A discreet application of wood sets off more elegant aromas of ripe red berries that are sprinkled with floral and spice hints. As one would reasonably expect there is better volume to the delicious, round and fleshy medium weight flavors that terminate in a bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. (88-90)/2024+

2018 Beaune "Cents Vignes": This too is quite pretty with ripe yet cool aromas of red currant, red raspberry along with a top note of violet. The slightly riper and rounded medium-bodied flavors possess a succulent mid-palate where the sappy dry extract buffers well the moderately firm tannic spine. This attractive effort could be reasonably approached after only 3 to 4 years. (88-91)/2025+

2018 Volnay "Les Aussy": Whiffs of menthol and wood toast set off more restrained aromas of dark currant, violet and subtle spice hints. There is at once fine energy and detail to the more obviously mineral-inflected flavors that possess a bit more depth and persistence on the moderately firm finish. (89-92)/2026+

2018 Volnay “Les Mitans”: (from Mitans proper). This is even more restrained and requires aggressive swirling to slowly reveal pretty, elegant and pure aromas of various dark berries, anise and a hint of sandalwood. The liting refined and seductively textured middle weight flavors possess evident minerality on the slightly drying finale. This may well come together but today it's on the awkward side. (88-91)/2026+

2018 Volnay “Les Taillepieds”: A mentholated top note can be found on the overtly spicy and densely fruited nose of cassis, plum and violet. There is equally good density to the mouth coating and more mineral-driven flavors that evidence focused power on the refined, classy and beautifully long finish where the only nit is a trace of warmth. As is typically the case, this is built-to-age and will need at least 6 to 8 years first. (90-93)/2030+

2018 Volnay “Les Caillerets”: Once again there is good ripeness but also a sense of restraint to the aromas of poached plum, black raspberry, spice and an interesting hint of orange peel. The sleek, vibrant and intensely stony middle weight flavors display lovely persistence on the balanced and firm finish. This strikingly refined effort will need at least some time in bottle to develop better depth and my predicted range assumes that will occur in time. (91-93)/2030+

2018 Volnay “Clos des Chênes”: A ripe, complex and spicy dark berry fruit nose exhibits additional breadth in the form of warm earth, floral and exotic tea scents. Here too there is a sense of focused power to the equally stony though larger-scaled flavors that culminate in a beautifully long if youthfully austere finale. Patience advised for this impressive effort. (91-94)/2030+

2018 Volnay “Les Pitures”: (from 35+ year old vines). This is extremely ripe and not quite as fresh as the best in the range though I underscore that the intensely earthy dark berry fruit is not post-mature. The rich, full-bodied and decidedly powerful middle weight plus flavors possess obvious muscle on the slightly warm finish. The firm tannic spine stops short of rusticity, but its shaping presence cannot be missed. (89-92)/2030+



Allen Meadows'

BURGHOUND.COM

The ultimate Burgundy reference

April 2020

Domaine Edmond Cornu (Ladoix-Serrigny)
2018 Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes red (88-91)
2018 Aloxe-Corton "Moutottes" 1er red (89-92)
2018 □ Aloxe-Corton "Valozières" 1er red (90-92)
2018 Bourgogne red 86
2018 Choresy-lès-Beaune "Les Bons Ores" red (86-88)
2018 Côte de Nuits-Villages red (86-89)
2018 Corton-Bressandes Grand Cru red (90-93)
2018 Ladoix Vieilles Vignes red (86-89)
2018 Ladoix "Le Bois Roussot" 1er red (87-89)
2018 Ladoix "Les Carrières" red (88-90)
2018 Ladoix "La Corvée" 1er red (86-89)
2018 Savigny-lès-Beaune red (86-88)

Pierre Cornu described the 2018 growing season as "having a very wet winter followed by a cool February and then a very warm April jump started the vines and we were in the middle of the flowering by the end of May. While we did have some mildew risk for much of the late spring and early summer, the dry and warm conditions largely rendered it neutral. The closing of the bunches occurred at the end of June and the beginning of the *véraison* occurred in the third week of July. August was very dry and hot, and we began noticing some wilting of the fruit. I chose to begin the harvest on the 1st of September and picked all 11 ha in 6 days, which was possible because the fruit was so clean. I did a very soft vinification as the colors and extraction happened almost without actions on our part. For example, in a normal vintage I do from 12 to 15 punch downs and in 2018 I did 3 total. I also chose to do the fermentations at a controlled low temperature to avoid the risk of high heat inducing stoppages or even elevated levels of volatile acidity. This seemed to have worked because our wines suffered neither. As to the style of 2018, it's definitely marked by the heat of the vintage but not so much that the wines lose their *terroir* typicity." (Rosenthal Wine Merchant, www.madrose.com, NY, USA; McKinley Vintners, www.mckinleyvintners.co.uk, UK).

2018 Bourgogne: (note that this *cuvée* will be labeled as Les Barrigards for the US market). An earthy and somewhat fruity nose offers up mainly notes of cherry and raspberry. The relatively bright and energetic light weight flavors are delicious though the finish is slightly lean and youthfully austere. To drink young. 86/2022+

2018 Choresy-lès-Beaune "Les Bons Ores": A deft application of wood sets off the airy and fresh aromas of cool red berries and a touch of warm earth. The succulent, rounded and pleasantly crunchy flavors possess a bit more volume before concluding in a slightly grippy finish that flirts with dryness. (86-88)/2023+

2018 Savigny-lès-Beaune: A slightly more deeply pitched nose speaks of plum, red and dark cherry, earth and a hint of humus. The mid-palate of the middle weight flavors is also succulent and round where the seductive texture contrasts with the grippy, rustic and slightly short finish. (86-88)/2023+

2018 Côte de Nuits-Villages: (from Le Creux de Sobron in Corgoloin). A background whisper of wood can be found on the softly spicy nose that flashes mostly ripe red berries and discreet earth influence. The delicious medium-bodied flavors possess better mid-palate concentration though the firmer and dusty finish is also slightly grippy and rustic if not really drying. (86-89)/2025+

2018 Ladoix Vieilles Vignes: (from vines between 50 and 75 years of age that are mostly from Champ Pussuet with small amounts of Sur Les Forêts, La Butte and Hameau de Buisson). Here too there is a gentle touch of wood framing the ultra-fresh essence of red currant, warm earth and pretty if discreet spice wisps. I like the sense of vibrancy to the well-detailed medium weight flavors that possess a seductive mid-palate that again contrasts somewhat with the dusty and slightly lean finish. This is pretty enough but the balance isn't quite perfectly dialed in. (86-89)/2025+

2018 Ladoix "Le Bois Roussot": The fruit is once again super-fresh with its notes of raspberry, cherry and discreet oak scents. There is fine volume and lovely detail to the punchy and well-detailed medium-bodied flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the mildly rustic but slightly better-balanced finale. (87-89)/2025+

2018 Ladoix "Les Carrières": An admirably deft touch of wood sets of the very pretty mix of red and blue pinot fruit together with a floral hint. The caressing, round and utterly delicious medium weight flavors possess a lovely sense of underlying tension before terminating in a dusty, long and slightly more complex finish. (88-90)/2026+
Burghound.com April 2020 5 8

2018 Aloxe-Corton Vieilles Vignes: (from 40 to 60-year-old vines, primarily from Les Cras but with additional contributions from Les Brunettes et Planchots, Les Morais and Les Boutières). This is also aromatically very pretty with its array of various red berries, and especially cherry, combined with floral, earth and spice hints. The round, delicious and energetic flavors possess focused power on the mildly rustic but solidly persistent finish. Moderate patience advised. (88-91)/2026+

2018 Ladoix "La Corvée": Almost opaque. A very ripe nose of roasted plum and cassis flirts with prune. The medium weight flavors are slightly fresher on the palate though the finish is awkward and warm. This isn't for me. (86-89)/2025+

2018 Aloxe-Corton "Moutottes": (Cornu noted that this would be bottled exclusively in magnum). An attractively fresh blend of poached plum, red and dark raspberry and warm earth are also trimmed in just enough wood to merit mentioning. The very rich and agreeably textured flavors possess very good energy and a much more refined mouthfeel on the balanced and much more harmonious finish. Note that my suggested drinking window reflects the large format bottling. (89-92)/2033+

2018 Aloxe-Corton "Valozières": Earthy red and notably ripe berry fruit aromas are liberally laced with notes of wood and the *sauvage*. The sleek, intense and well-delineated middle weight plus flavors possess fine energy on the tautly muscular, powerful and serious finish that is less rustic than it typically is. This mildly warm effort will need patience. (90-92)/2028+

2018 Corton-Bressandes: A slightly more generous dash of wood influence can be found on the liqueur-like aromas of plum, cherry, spice and newly turned earth. There is fine delineation to the large-scaled and equally muscular flavors that possess plenty of palate coating dry extract that imparts a sappy texture to the bitter pit fruit-inflected finale. This needs to develop more depth to achieve the upper end of my projected range but it has the time to potentially do so. (90-93)/2030+