



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 27<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.madrose.com), NY, USA; Berry Brothers & Rudd, [www.bbr.com](http://www.bbr.com), UK; SAQ, [www.saq.com](http://www.saq.com), Canada; Jepsen Beverage Co., [www.jepsen.com](http://www.jepsen.com), China/Hong Kong, Grand Millésime Wine, [www.grandmillesime.com.au](http://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+