

Burghound.com's 2018 Vintage Selections

The "Top Value" Wines from the 2018 vintage in this Issue

2018	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	Belland, Roger/Joseph	91
2018	Pommard "Les Cras"	Belland, Roger/Joseph	89
2018	Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	Belland, Roger/Joseph	91

Domaine Roger/Joseph Belland (Santenay)

2018	➔ Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	red	91
2018	Les Maranges "La Fussièrè" 1er	red	89
2018	➔ Pommard "Les Cras"	red	89
2018	➔ Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	red	91
2018	Santenay "Les Charmes"	red	88
2018	Santenay "La Comme" 1er	red	90
2018	Santenay "Les Gravières" 1er	red	90
2018	➔ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	91

Roger Belland told me that 2018 is a "very ripe yet copious vintage the above average yields actually helped to preserve freshness and acidity. We began picking on the 3rd of September and averaged around 55 hl/ha in white and about 42 hl/ha in red with very good alcoholic strength at between 13 and 14%. We used around 50% whole clusters in the vinifications for most of the reds [80% was used for the Santenots.] but used a very light touch as there were only a total of 4 punch downs. In the same vein, we did almost no lees stirring for the whites. As to the wines now, it's clear that they are excellent and with age could even potentially be great; in fact the reds remind me quite a bit of the 1978s." Belland noted that the 2018 reds were bottled in August 2019.

2018 Les Maranges "La Fussièrè": A cool, pure and quite fresh nose speaks of aromas of ripe black raspberry, violet and subtle each and spice nuances. There is both good energy and lovely detail to the succulent, round and delicious medium weight flavors that offer solid depth and persistence on the attractively textured finale. 89/2024+

2018 Santenay "Les Charmes": This too is quite ripe and pretty if perhaps not quite as fresh though there is fine vibrancy to the equally succulent and round flavors that are borderline lush, all wrapped in a generously proportioned finale that isn't quite as complex. This could easily be enjoyed on the younger side. 88/2023+

2018 Santenay "La Comme": A discreet but not invisible application of wood frames a fresh and pretty blend of both red and black pinot fruit that is trimmed in soft floral and spice wisps. The delicious and slightly bigger medium-bodied flavors are actually notably finer as well on the balanced, moderately firm and solidly persistent finale. Lovely and fashioned in an understated style. 90/2024+

2018 Santenay "Beauregard": An ultra-floral-suffused nose offers up an even more diverse bouquet of spice, red cherry and dark currant scents where the whole cluster vinification is very much in evidence. The caressing and relatively sophisticated medium weight flavors possess fine volume before tightening up on the focused and sneaky long finale. This is quite good and is a wine that could be approached with pleasure in its youth or held to good effect over the mid-term. 91/2025+

2018 Santenay "Les Gravières": A more deeply pitched nose reflects notes of poached plum, cassis, violet and plenty of earth elements. The rich, supple and markedly rounded flavors exude a subtle minerality on the generous yet sleek finale that coats the palate with sappy dry extract. This is very 2018 in style, yet it manages to stay in balance. 90/2024+

2018 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois": (a 3-ha *monopole* of the Domaine, planted 50% each to pinot and chardonnay; the pinot vines are approximately 60+ years of age). This is also notably ripe with its pepper-inflected nose of violet, plum liqueur and soft spice whiffs. Once again there is a decidedly rounded mouthfeel to the slightly more concentrated flavors that are easy-going, yet the finish is almost crunchy, which imparts a refreshing quality to it. This too should be approachable young if that's your preference. 91/2024+

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2018 Pommard "Les Cras": Like the Beauregard, the aromatic profile is ultra-floral in character with a broad array of scents that include lilac, violet and rose petal together with cassis and dark raspberry. The medium weight flavors are seductive and rich to the point of being plush, all wrapped in a borderline sweet finish. This too should drink well early on. 89/2025+

2018 Volnay "Santenots": (vinified with 80% whole clusters). Background wood influence sets off the equally floral-infused aromas of very spicy dark berries and exotic tea scents. The fleshy, round and opulent middle weight flavors possess a highly seductive mid-palate that contrasts with the firm, serious and built-to-age finale. Worth checking out. 91/2028+