

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE



BOUCHARD PÈRE & FILS
FONDÉE EN 1731

Grand Cru Bonnes-Mares 2018

94-96 Points

The high point of Bouchard's red portfolio this year is surely the 2018 Bonnes Mares Grand Cru, a striking wine that unfurls in the glass with aromas of raspberries, cherries and wild blueberries mingled with suggestions of rose petals, grilled squab, incense and dark chocolate. On the palate, it's full-bodied, deep and concentrated, with a multidimensional core, lively acids and a long, notably intense finish.



Grand Cru Chevalier-Montrachet 2018

93-95 Points

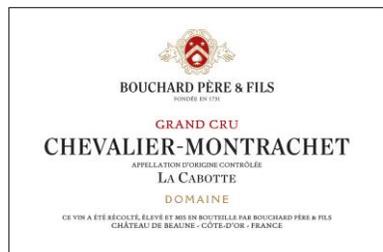
The wine reveals attractive aromas of citrus oil, mandarin and pear, framed by subtle hints of fresh pastry, cut flowers and nutmeg. On the palate, it's full-bodied, deep and layered, with a broad attack that segues into a ripe core of nicely concentrated fruit, underpinned by lively acids.



Grand Cru Chevalier-Montrachet La Cabotte 2018

94-96 Points

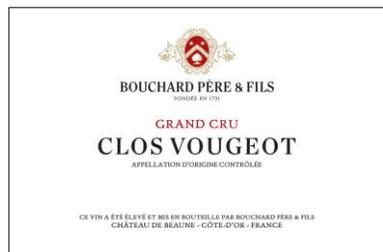
This is a terrific wine in the making, wafting from the glass with scents of crisp green pear, citrus oil, white flowers and blanched almonds. On the palate, it's full-bodied, racy and multidimensional, with terrific concentration, texture and structural tension, concluding with a long and penetrating finish. The Cabotte can almost match the amplitude and voluminousness of the Montrachet this year—and it's racier and more vibrant—so it gets my nod as Bouchard's finest white wine this year. Only four barrels were produced.



Grand Cru Clos Vougeot 2018

90-92 Points

This wine reveals aromas of raspberries, red cherries, spices and rose petals, deftly framed by new oak. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, firm and compact; indeed, the wine was quite introverted when I tasted it.



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Grand Cru Corton-Charlemagne 2018

91-93 Points

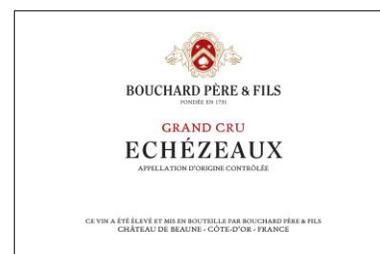
This wine exhibits aromas of confit citrus and citrus zest, complemented by notes of fresh pastry and warm bread. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, muscular and structured, with good depth and concentration. This is a Corton-Charlemagne with a promising future.



Grand Cru Echézeaux 2018

90-92 Points

Aromas of raspberries, red plums, orange rind, peonies and raw cocoa introduce the 2018 Echézeaux Grand Cru, a medium to full-bodied, muscular and structured wine that, like this year's Clos Vougeot, will need some time. And like the Clos Vougeot, this was hard to read in October, so a more definitive assessment will have to wait until the wine is bottled.



Grand Cru Le Corton 2018

92-94 Points

The 2018 Le Corton Grand Cru is a particular success, revealing lovely aromas of orange rind, peonies, wild berries, grilled game and earthy forest floor. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, elegant and precise, with good concentration and a long, mineral finish. Weber opted to ferment the old-vine fruit from this climat with some 20% whole cluster.



Grand Cru Montrachet 2018

94-96 Points

The 2018 Montrachet Grand Cru soars from the glass with an expressive bouquet of spiced pears, orange oil, white flowers, nutmeg and pastry cream. On the palate, it's full-bodied, fleshy and enveloping, with a deep and concentrated core that's layered and textural, underpinned by lively balancing acids and concluding with a long, expansive finish.



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Premier Cru Beaune Clos Saint-Landy 2018

89-91 Points

The 2018 Beaune 1er Cru Clos Saint-Landry Blanc offers up aromas of mirabelle plums, apricot and white flowers, followed by a medium to full-bodied, fleshy and textural palate that's ripe and enveloping but which remains nicely defined. Again, this will drink well young.



Premier Cru Beaune Clos de la Mousse 2018

89-91 Points

From a site defined by deep clay-rich soils that resist hydric stress, the 2018 Beaune 1er Cru Clos de la Mousse reveals lovely aromas of cherries, blackberries and forest floor, followed by a medium to full-bodied, rich and textural palate that's ripe but succulent. This is a gourmand, pleasure-bent Beaune that will offer a broad drinking window.



Beaune Grèves Vigne de L'Enfant Jésus 2018

92-94 Points

This is a promising bottle in the making, offering up a deep bouquet of dark berry fruit, dried flowers, dark chocolate, espresso roast and toasty new oak. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, deep and concentrated, with a muscular core of fruit, ripe tannins and a long, expansive finish. Weber observes that analytically this is very similar indeed to the 1947 vintage of l'Enfant Jesus, and that wine is certainly drinking brilliantly today.



Premier Cru Meursault Genevrières 2018

91-93 Points

Wafting from the glass with notes of pear, white flowers, orange oil and fresh pastry, the 2018 Meursault 1er Cru Genevrières is medium to full-bodied, satiny and textural, with lively acids and a long, mineral finish. Bouchard is the second-largest landowner in this premier cru and produces a very consistent cuvée.



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Premier Cru Meursault Perrières 2018

92-94 Points

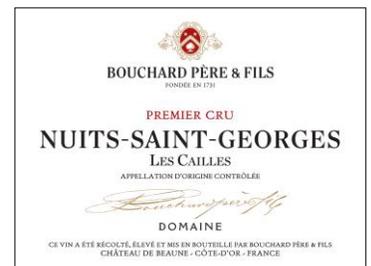
The 2018 Meursault 1er Cru Les Perrières unwinds in the glass with a crisp bouquet of citrus oil, crushed chalk and nutmeg, followed by a medium to full-bodied, racy and incisive palate that's tight-knit, tensile and mineral. Even in this generally forward white Burgundy vintage, this will need and reward bottle age.



Premier Cru Nuits-Saint-Georges Les Cailles 2018

91-93 Points

This wine is another success this year, mingling deep fruit tones of black raspberry, wild blueberry and plum with savory bass notes of grilled squab, burning embers and dark chocolate. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, velvety and layered, with beautifully refined tannins, ripe acids and a generous core of fruit.



Premier Cru Savigny-lès-Beaune Les Lavières 2018

91-93 Points

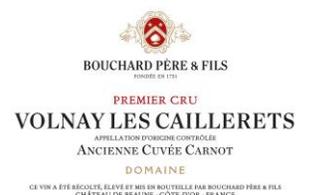
The 2018 Savigny-lès-Beaune 1er Cru Les Lavières derives from a 3.9-hectare parcel that Bouchard has owned for some time (I have magnums of the superb 1959 in my cellar). Wafting from the glass with a ripe bouquet of blackberries, cassis, burning embers, spices and violets, it's medium to full-bodied, supple and layered, with lively acids, a generous core of fruit and fine, powdery tannins.



Premier Cru Volnay Les Caillerets 2018

92-94 Points

Another of the high points of this year's range is the 2018 Volnay 1er Cru Les Caillerets Ancienne Cuvée Carnot, a promising wine offering up scents of cassis, wild berries, rich soil tones, smoke and a deft framing of toasty new oak. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, layered and enveloping, with more flesh on its elegant, structural bones than the Taillepieds, but similarly lively acidity.



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Chambolle-Musigny 2018

88-90 Points

Attractive aromas of raspberries, red berries, cinnamon, warm spices and woodsmoke preface the 2018 Chambolle-Musigny Village, a medium to full-bodied, lively wine with good depth at the core and refined structuring tannins. Around half of the cuvée derives from Bouchard's own holdings, the balance provided by purchased grapes.



Gevrey-Chambertin 2018

88-90 Points

The 2018 Gevrey-Chambertin Village derives from fully 10 hectares that are worked by the Bouchard team. Revealing aromas of raspberries, plums and earthy forest floor, it's medium to full-bodied, with a more muscular, structured profile than the Vosne-Romanée and Chambolle-Musigny that preceded it. Nicely balanced, this cuvée will likely soften up before it's bottled in the spring.



Meursault Les Clous 2018

88-90 Points

The 2018 Meursault Les Clous is also showing very well, revealing aromas of citrus oil, crisp Anjou pear, white flowers and pastry cream. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, chiseled and tensile, with lively acids and a mineral finish.



Vosne-Romanée 2018

89-91 Points

From a parcel that the Bouchard team farms and harvests, the 2018 Vosne-Romanée Village offers up a fragrant bouquet of raspberries, spices and rose petals, Weber observing that there is a lot of Pinot Beurret planted among the Pinot Noir in this old-vine plot. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, textural and fleshy, with good depth at the core and a perfumed finish.

