

# Visit Domaine A.-F. Gros, tasting of the 2018s from cask

By [Steen Öhman](#) June 12, 2019

This was my first visit to Domaine A.-F. Gros after tasting the wines several times at Vosne Millisime, Trilogie and Grands Jours de Bourgogne.

I have not always been excited by the style here, but with a new team in place, I have heard much positive feedback on the wines that I simply had to go and taste for myself.



I was not disappointed. Both the style and the quality have improved a great deal over the last couple of years with Caroline Parent-Gros in charge of sales and her younger brother Mathias Parent-Gros as winemaker.

This is a strong team – and the wines demonstrate that strength ....

**Gros ... one of the Gros**

The Gros family in Vosne-Romanée is large, and controls four estates: Domaine Anne Gros, Domaine Gros Frere et Soeur, Domaine Michel Gros and finally A.-F. Gros in Pommard and Beaune, although with a large part of the vineyards in Vosne-Romanée.

The Gros story is rather complex: Alphonse Gros (1804-1884) was the first Gros to move to Vosne-Romanée – in 1830 – and he married a Latour. He acquired the house at No. 3 Rue des Communes – the house still owned by the Gros Family which was for many years the home of Jean Gros. In 1860, Alphonse Gros acquired the Clos des Reas plots today owned by Jean Gros.

Alphonse Gros had two sons, and one of them – Louis-Gustave Gros (1831 – 1904) – continued the vineyard acquisitions, including 2 ha of Richebourg purchased in 1882. This vineyard is still owned by the different Gros estates, and is at the very core of the family's vineyard portfolio – including as a part of A.-F. Gros. Louis-Gustave married a Miss Guenaud, and for a time the estate was called Gros Guenaud – and they had the son Jules Gros.

Moving forward, we encounter one of the great estate builders: Jules Gros (1862-1930). In 1920, Jules Gros bought two parcels of Clos Vougeot at the Léonce Bocquet sale. A few years later, he bought Les Grands Échézeaux and over a period acquired a 3-hectare parcel in Échézeaux les Loächausses. During his tenure, the estate was called Domaine Gros-Renaudot after his wife.

When Jules Gros' son Louis Gros (1893-1951) took over the domaine, he created the estate Louis Gros, later Louis Gros & Fils. When he passed away in 1951 his four children ran the estate jointly, but in 1963 the estate was divided among them.

One fourth of the estate was passed to Francois Gros (1931 – 2004), and forms the current Domaine Anne Gros. One-fourth each went to Collette (1935- ) and Gustave Gros (1925-1984), and were used as the foundation of Gros Frere et Soeur. The final quarter continued as

Domaine Jean Gros, managed by Jean (1927-2016).

Jean Gros retired in 1995 and split the domain among his three children: Michel Gros (1956- ), who had run the estate together with his own parcels up to that date; Anne-Françoise Gros (1957- ), married to François Parent, who had created the A.-F Gros domaine in Pommard in 1988; and finally Bernard Gros (1958- ), manager of the Domaine Gros Frere et Soeur, where he has worked since 1980.

Clearly, the ownership structure is complex, with some cross-ownership among the three children of Jean Gros – the new generations are now taking over – so also at A.-F. Gros, where Caroline Parent-Gros works with her younger brother Mathias Parent-Gros as winemaker.

Important vineyards and great potential are included in the Gros family portfolio.

From the 2022 vintage, A.-F. Gros will cede its Vosne Romanée Clos de la Fontaine to Domaine Gros Frere et Soeur, plus 10 ares of Richebourg. In exchange, they will acquire Clos Vougeot Musigni (14 ouvrées) and 13 ouvrées of Echezeaux les Lochausses. The Musigni parcel is equivalent to 0.60 ha – a substantial plot of what is often mentioned as one of the best parts of the Clos de Vougeot.

## **Domaine A.-F. Gros improving tremendously**

The arrival of Mathias Parent-Gros has strengthened the quality of the wines at A.-F. Gros. The aromatic profile is now more precise, with greater depth and purity, and the style and impressions are more consistent.



I would not call it a revolution style-wise, but I do feel that the quality has been upped at least two notches – meaning it is now in another league.

This improvement raises higher expectations for this fine old estate, and to be honest that is both welcome and encouraging. It's always lovely to see new winemakers improve older estates. Very exciting indeed .... so let's move on to the tasting notes!

## **Tasting notes for the 2018s from A.-F. Gros**

All the wines showed well, and it was great to find much more wine in the cellar in this vintage – the yields in 2018 are quite generous – the second year in a row with a good harvest.

### **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Bourgogne Rouge 2018**

The Bourgogne Rouge 2018 is a good start – quite generous for the level. Nice mid-palate intensity, slightly tightly knit currently, but showing both the house style and nice balance.

(Drink from 2019) – **Good** (85 – 86p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

## **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Bourgogne Rouge Côte de Nuits Village 2018**

The Bourgogne Rouge Côte de Nuits Village 2018 is quite a step up in both intensity and mineral density. A lovely glass with a sensuous mouth-feel. Quite gratifying with a charming presentation.

(Drink from 2024) – **Good** (86 – 87p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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## **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Vosne-Romanée Clos de la Fontaine 2018**

In Vosne we find the first of the village wines, the Clos de la Fontaine – a monopole located in the southern part of Vosne-Romanée. A floral and vivid wine with a focus on refinement and a clear minerality. Lovely balance with an effortless and airy mid-palate. Shows the vintage elegantly with very little solar tendencies.

(Drink from 2026) – **Very Good** (88 – 89p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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## **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Vosne-Romanée Chalindin 2018**

On the Flagey side of Vosne-Romanée is Les Chalindin – a somewhat richer, warmer expression of the village terroir. Sweet, slightly solar, fruit with good length and intensity, and a bigger wine than Clos de la Fontaine. Fine balance with a nice fresh expression in this rather hot vintage.

(Drink from 2027) – **Very Good** (89 – 90p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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## **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Vosne-Romanée Aux Reas 2018**

The Vosne-Romanée Aux Reas is a further step up in intensity. A more concentrated wine with typical Vosne spiciness, violets and rose petals,

and mineral intensity, Aux Reas is a lovely village. It's a bit more generous and intense than the two previous village wines

(Drink from 2028) – **Very Good** (89 – 90p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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### **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Chambolle-Musigny 2018**

The Chambolle-Musigny village is a big wine, showing the weightier side of the hot 2018 vintage. This is however a lovely wine, still fresh and vivid without any bad solar tendencies. The Aux Reas might be a better terroir, but this wine has a generous and charming side.

(Drink from 2027) – **Very Good** (89 – 91p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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### **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Morey-Saint-Denis 2018**

The Morey-Saint-Denis is slightly disappointing after tasting the Vosne and Chambolle wines – lacking some density and intensity on the mid-palate. A good typical Morey ... yet lacking a bit.

(Drink from 2024) – **Good+** (87p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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### **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Gevrey-Chambertin 2018**

The Gevrey is showing the generous and charming – but hot – side of the 2018 vintage. Sweet red fruit – raspberries and delicate strawberry notes – lovely density with a fine mineral backbone. This is perhaps on the rich side – 13.8% – but it's well-balanced.

(Drink from 2027) – **Very Good** (89 – 90p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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## **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Savigny-les-Beaune Clos des Guettes 2018**

The Savigny-les-Beaune Clos des Guettes is showing well – grapes from a terroir located just above the village, to the right when you enter the village of Savigny-les-Beaune from Beaune. Vivid and nicely rounded giving a lovely mineral balance, although perhaps lacking the mineral tension of some of the Vosne village wines.

(Drink from 2027) – **Very Good** (87 – 88p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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## **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Beaune Les Boucherottes 2018**

The Beaune Les Boucherottes 2018 is a 1er cru located on the Pommard end of Beaune. This is a juicy and intense wine – lovely energy and intensity. The nose offer vivid blackberry fruit – somewhat solar – but still vivacious with a lovely hedonistic side. A deliciousy Beaune in the making , and quite a big wine.

(Drink from 2028) – **Very Good** (89 – 91p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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## **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Pommard Pezerolles 2018**

It seems like Pommard has done very well in 2018, or at least some have tamed the solar monster of the 2018 vintage very well!! This is a vivacious wine – lovely intensity – yet with a lovely energy and effortlessly airy balance. A a delightful wine.

(Drink from 2028) – **Fine** (91 – 92p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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## **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Pommard Arvelets 2018**

The Pommard Arvelets is a deeper, denser and more serious wine.

Slightly darker bias on the fruit – a bit of tar notes and a slight hint of tobacco. Perhaps a slightly higher level of volatile acidity in this wine is unfolding more nuances despite the darker fruit notes. Nevertheless a fine Pommard in the making.

(Drink from 2029) – **Very Good** (89 – 90p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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### **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Pommard Chanlins 2018**

The Pommard les Chanlins is unfolding beautifully – from its location north of the Pommard village. A generous wine with rich, vivid fruit. Good energy offers a lovely bouquet with orange blossom and delightful red berries. This is a charming Pommard – confirming the fine form of the appellation in this vintage.

(Drink from 2029) – **Very Good+** (90 – 92p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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### **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Echezeaux 2018**

The Echezeaux – from high on the slope in Champs Traversin – is perhaps the wine of the vintage here. This is deep, intense, energetic and vivacious – offering intense fruit and a strong mineral backbone. While it has a somewhat solar ripeness, there is intense minerality to balance this to perfection. A delightful Echezeaux in the making, and a tremendous wine.

(Drink from 2032) – **Very Fine+** (94 – 95p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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### **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Richebourg 2018**

The Richebourg is of course showing the goods – and in a rather cool and vivid way – reflecting the Les Varoilles location – slightly orientated

towards the north. The nose offers rich and intense fruit and a strong mineral presence, with violets, rose petals and cool red and dark berries. A big wine with plenty of stuffing and ageing potential – perhaps struggling to match the hedonistic abundance of the Echezeaux.

(Drink from 2035) – **Very Fine+** (94 – 95p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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A.-F. Gros also offer both a Moulin-a-Vent and some interesting whites .. so let's go!!

### **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Moulin a Vent 2018**

And now to something completely different – whole cluster – and a vivid and energetic wine that shows very well. A wine for drinking and enjoyment – nice complexity and freshness. This is a lovely and fresh wine ... a delightful glass. This is why we drink Beaujolais.

(Drink from 2019) – **Good** (85 – 86p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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### **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Beaune Montrevenots Blanc 2018**

The white Beaune comes from from a vineyard located above the Clos de Mouches – a beautiful place for a white Beaune. Vines relatively young planted in 2011 – still quite a nice intensity and length. Like the rich aromatic profile of this wine: rich, velvet and intense with lovely silky texture.

(Drink from 2026) – **Fine** (91 – 92p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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### **Domaine A.-F. Gros, Corton-Charlemagne 2018**

The Corton-Charlemagne is an intense and balanced wine. Some

reduction still, but intense fruit, great balance and lovely freshness – even in this relatively weighty vintage. A big Charlie by most standards – but maintaining a fine balance – with the airy style prevailing.

(Drink from 2029) – **Very Fine+** (94 – 95p) – Tasted 20/05/2018

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## Recommended wines .... the favourites

I have many favourites at Domaine A.-F. Gros, here are a few: The top wines are for me the Corton Charlie and the Echezeaux – not surprisingly followed by the Richebourg.

Next up is the Chambolle Musigny, the Pommard Chanlins and Pommard Pezerolles 2018 keeping the cool very well.

## Tasting Notes for this producer

### Related articles

- [Visit Domaine A.-F. Gros, tasting of the 2018s from cask](#) This was my first visit to Domaine A.-F. Gros after tasting the wines several times at Vosne Millisime, Trilogie and Grands Jours de Bourgogne. I have not always been excited by the style here, but with a new team in place, I have heard much positive feedback on the wines that I simply had to go ...
- [Visit A.F. Gros – first time here](#) Beaune – Monday morning at 09:00 – visit at Domaine A.F. Gros / one of the Gros – vineyards in Vosne, located in Beaune and partly originating from Pommard. I was received by Caroline Parent-Gros and her brother Mathias Parent-Gros – who are forming the relatively new team at A.F. Gros. Caroline Parent-Gros Mathias Parent-Gros presented the 2018s ...