

BURGHOUND.COM

## THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

Domaine Roger/Joseph Belland (Santenay)

2017	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	red	90
2017	Les Maranges "La Fussi�re" 1er	red	86
2017	Pommard "Les Cras"	red	88
2017	Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	red	88
2017	Santenay "Les Charmes"	red	87
2017	Santenay "La Comme" 1er	red	89
2017	Santenay "Les Gravi�res" 1er	red	89
2017	→ Volnay "Santenots" 1er	red	91

Roger Belland told me that 2017 is a "vintage where the warm and sunny growing season produced fairly ripe wines and this is particularly true for the whites. We waited to begin picking until the 11<sup>th</sup> of September and brought in good but not high yields that averaged about 38 hl/ha for the reds and 42 hl/ha for the whites. We used between 20 and 95% whole clusters to vinify the reds as the stems were clean and the fruit ripe so we had no worries about using them. One of the aspects that I

particularly like about the wines is that they've only been in bottle a short while yet they're already approachable." Belland said that the reds were bottled in August 2018. I found the quality of these 2017s to be essentially in-line with what I found elsewhere in the C te de Beaune. (T. Edwards Wines, [www.tedwardwines.com](http://www.tedwardwines.com), NY, USA; Berkmann Wine Cellars, [www.berkmann.co.uk](http://www.berkmann.co.uk), Berry Brothers & Rudd, [www.bbr.com](http://www.bbr.com), Lay & Wheeler, [www.laywheeler.com](http://www.laywheeler.com), Liberty Wines, [www.libertywine.co.uk](http://www.libertywine.co.uk) all UK - Note that the exact same wines are sold under the Joseph Belland label, which is represented by Cellar Door Selections, [www.cellardoorselections.com](http://www.cellardoorselections.com), MD, USA).

**2017 Les Maranges "La Fussi re":** An attractively floral-scented nose combines very ripe notes of earth, dark currant and plum. The rich and nicely vibrant flavors possess an appealing texture yet the finish lacks freshness and is presently somewhat flat. I would be hesitant to age this for very long. 86/now

**2017 Santenay "Les Charmes":** There is slightly better freshness to the nose of red cherry, raspberry and soft violet nuances. The improved freshness carries over to the palate as well with good detail being displayed by the medium weight flavors that are rustic and delicious if not particularly complex, at least not today. 87/2021+

**2017 Santenay "La Comme":** This too isn't super-fresh though it stops short of being dull with its otherwise pretty array of red and dark raspberry aromas that are cut with hints of earth and black pepper. There is both good volume and vibrancy to the more evidently mineral-inflected flavors that offer reasonably good depth and persistence on the clean and dry-in-the-best sense finish. 89/2022+

**2017 Santenay "Beauregard":** A very ripe nose reflects notes of cherry jam, poached plum and a hint of anise. The medium-bodied flavors possess a highly seductive texture while offering a subtle touch of minerality on the acceptably long and complex finish. This needs a few years in the hopes that better depth will develop. 88/2022+

**2017 Santenay "Les Gravi res":** There is a very mild hint of volatile acidity present on the ripe array of red raspberry, cherry and once again poached plum. There is a bit more minerality to the finer and more vibrant flavors that are shaped by slightly firmer tannins on the balanced finale. This too needs a few years of cellaring to more fully develop depth. 89/2024+

**2017 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 too reflects a very subtle note of volatile acidity on the fresh and ripe nose of relatively cool aromas of peppery and spicy red and dark currant scents. The rich, suave and seductively textured medium weight flavors possess better depth on the bitter cherry-inflected finish. 90/2023+

**2017 Pommard "Les Cras":** Once again there is a hint of volatile acidity to the rose petal, spice, dark cherry and softly earthy nose. The rich and vibrant medium-bodied flavors are shaped by relatively fine-grained tannins on the muscular and concentrated finish. Some patience will be required though this is not a particularly austere Pommard *villages*. 88/2023+

**2017 Volnay "Santenots":** (vinified with 95% whole clusters). An overtly floral array is composed primarily of violet nuances though there are hints of rose petal and lavender present to add breadth to the markedly spicy and fresh nose. The mouth feel of the attractively sleek middle weight flavors is the finest in the range while displaying fine length on the dusty if ever-so-mildly edgy finish. However, because the edginess does not cut the persistence short, my rating offers the benefit of the doubt. 91/2025+