

Spotlight on Moulin-à-Vent 2018: 72 wines tasted and rated

Considered the 'king' of the ten Beaujolais crus for the power, concentration, structure and ageability of its wines, Georgina Hindle tastes over 70 from the 2018 vintage...



Mill of Moulin à Vent village in Beaujolais land Credit: Gaelfphoto / Alamy Stock Photo

Situated in the north of the [Beaujolais](#) region, Moulin-à-Vent is one of the most famous crus and named after the local windmill – the literal translation of the name.

It is a historic appellation with a vine-growing history dating back hundreds of years. It was officially granted appellation status in 1936 – one of the first in the country.

Scroll down for the top 22 Moulin-à-Vent 2018 wines

Wines are made solely with Gamay Noir grapes, an ancient Burgundian variety and natural offspring of Pinot Noir and the obscure white variety Goulais Blanc.

Gamay tends to be bluer in colour than other reds, with dominant flavours of freshly picked red fruits and relatively high acidity however they are also extremely tannic and concentrated with these traditional Beaujolais wines a wide departure from the light and simple styles of Beaujolais Nouveau.

In their youth, these wines can exhibit plush textures with floral aromas and crunchy fruit which, over time, develop spicy, earth-driven, mushroom and truffle characteristics but can hold a juiciness on the palate for decades.

Vineyards span both the Rhône and Saône-et-Loire departments covering 600ha with the best sites positioned on the south and southeast-facing slopes of the Beaujolais hillsides at elevations of 200-300m. However, a trio of factors are responsible for shaping the natural style of the wines; the presence of silica in the soil, depth of the soil and exposure to the wind.

[See all 72 Moulin-à-Vent wines from the tasting](#)

Moulin-à-Vent Terroir

Distinctive pink granite soils are the main feature of the Moulin-à-Vent terroir. These are rich in iron oxide, copper and manganese minerals and are said to directly benefit the longevity of the wines.

However, with 69 lieu-dits, this appellation has a multitude of different micro-terroirs that winemakers are keen to show – some comprising sand and granite, some alluvial-granite soils and others with larger percentages of clay. A striking comparison to a much larger cru, for instance, Morgon with double the size under vine at 1,200ha and less than 20 delineated lieu-dits.

Winemaking techniques tend to eschew the use of carbonic maceration, primarily to show this soil diversity and favour slow and long vinifications of between 18-22 days, with an average of one-third whole bunch, two-thirds de-stemmed followed by one-third aged in barrel and two-thirds in stainless steel.

2018 Vintage

With 2018, Moulin-à-Vent has experienced four great vintages in a row and while they maybe a little less colour and concentration than in 2017, the quality is extremely high with quantity to match – an extremely important element considering yields can vary from a 30ha plot producing 40,000 bottles in 2012 to 130,000 bottles in 2018.

A wet, cool spring and early summer gave way to a long period of hot and dry weather – heatwave spikes in July in August – with no rain falling on most of the region until after the harvest. Fortunately, vines had water reserves from April and May giving the 2018s slightly more freshness and higher acidity than the preceding years. Growers reported the start of

picking around 28th August and harvested healthy crops by the end of the first week of September.

The 2018s in this tasting showcase a variety of characteristics from plush, supple and crunchy fruit to fragrant, floral and soft flavours but all with a signature acidity that makes them so juicy and appealing.

Champ de Cour, in particular, stood out. A sand and granite area with shallow soils that provides a warmer environment producing smaller, concentrated grapes with elegance and charm.

As these wines can age well, easily for 30 years or more, some are not as approachable as others and need more time to settle and integrate – a suggestion of 5-8 years before opening.

However, many are offering delightful freshness and vibrancy and would make excellent drinking companions to roast meats or rich cheese dishes.

Many will require seeking out direct from the estates but they are definitely worth it.

See the top 22 Moulin-à-Vent wines



[Cave du Château de Chénas, Thesaurus Vinum Cuvée Vieilles, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais 2018](#)

Light and juicy on the palate with vibrant acidity. This gives a good attack of red cherry and strawberry fruit with a refreshing lift right through the palate. I really like this, it's on the lighter spectrum with the youthful fruit masking the power at the moment, but has a...

Points 93



[Domaine Mee Godard, Au Michelin, Beaujolais, Moulin-à-Vent, France, 2018](#)

This has a gorgeous smooth and sumptuous texture, velvet-like with lovely deep and heady blackcurrant and red cherry fruit. It has a plush and juicy palate with such vibrancy and concentration. There's a mineral aspect too which gives length and interest. From the northern part of the appellation with dark...

Points 93



Domaine Thibault Liger-Belair, La Roche, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais, France, 2018

Delicious crunchy fruit on the palate with softly grippy tannins. There's a dense concentration of vibrant and juicy cherries, blackberries, blueberries and raspberries underpinned by a mineral streak leading to a long finish. Smooth, supple and sophisticated - a vat sample but delicious to drink now. From 70-year-old vines cropped...

Points 92



Domaine des Chers, Voyage Dans Le Temps, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais, France, 2018

Grippy right from the off, this holds its form on the palate, caressing with ripe strawberry and sweet red cherry flavours alongside wood spice and pepper. It's rich but not overpowering and has a menthol coolness that comes in at the finish. Aged in 500l barrels.

Points 92



Château du Moulin-à-Vent, La Rochelle, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais, France, 2018

A highly complex and intense wine - one of the absolute standouts, sourced from one of the top single-vineyards in the appellation sitting at 280m in attitude on the southern side of the Vérillats hill planted with vines that are over 80 years old. It has a luxuriously soft and...

Points 92



Domaine des Bruyeres, Beaujolais, Moulin-à-Vent, 2018

Impressive definition of juicy and lively fruits on the palate, edging towards red rather than black here. This is refreshing but with a deep and powerful core that is rich, full bodied and heady. Great grip and signature - one worth seeking out. Run by Nicolas Durand and his wife...

Points 92



Pascal & Jean-Philippe Granger, Les Chassignols, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais, France, 2018

A lovely softly floral fruity nose, this smells like ripe blackcurrants with touches of hawthorne and violet. Succulent tannins coat the mouth, giving grip to a fairly concentrated darkly-fruited wine but it remains relatively soft and really juicy on the mid palate rising to a long finish. From a 14ha...

Points 91



Domaine du Penlois, Sous l'aile du Moulin, Beaujolais

A bouquet of red cherries and peonies, this is quite ripe on the palate with strawberry, raspberry and redcurrant flavours. It tastes like summer in a glass with a masterful lightness of touch. Fruity, vibrant and juicy with good length.

Points 91



Domaine Thibault Liger-Belair, Champ de Cour, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais, France, 2018

Lovely smooth and rich cherry and blackcurrant fruit here - even some blueberry touches. It's well balanced - dense, rich and powerful but remains juicy on the palate with softly gripping tannins and a long finish. Vat sample. From south facing vineyards, shielded by the windmill hill giving more mature...

Points 91



Château Bonnet, Vieilles Vignes, Beaujolais, Moulin-à-Vent, France, 2018

A great, powerful juicy core here, rich and vibrant, heady and concentrated though it has a light touch with red fruits dominating - raspberry and sweet red cherry. The texture is smooth with firm tannins that give a good hold alongside touches of minerality.

Points 91



Château des Jacques, Clos de Rochegrès, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais, France, 2018

An instant hit of refreshing and plush juice on the palate, vibrant with energy and persistence. Silky ripe strawberry and red cherry fruit combine with lifted acidity and a mineral frame. This is a wonderful, everyday drinking wine with lift and length but that will also benefit from at least...

Points 91



Albert Bichot, Domaine de Rochegrès, Beaujolais, Moulin-à-Vent, France, 2018

Good structure here combining concentrated juicy fruits with oak-spiced edges. This is solid and intense, revealing aromatic notes of wild red berries and subtle hints of flowers with elegant tannins giving grip on the palate. From vineyards located at the heart of one of the 18 recognised single-vineyards in the...

Points 91



Domaine Romanesca, Champ de Cour, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais, 2018

A complex nose with aromas of fresh red fruits, rose petals and violets. This has such a lovely texture, grippy tannins that fully coat the mouth but so elegant and finessed. On the palate there's deep cherry and damson flavours with edges of wood spice. From a family-run domaine that...

Points 91



Domaine Romanesca, La Rochelle, Beaujolais, Moulin-à-Vent

A lighter texture than the Champ de Cour with a vibrant juicy core. I think this is more immediately accessible with enjoyable mineral notes that support the fresh and round fruit to a long finish. Silky, smooth and totally moreish. Made by second-generation winemakers in their 30s who quit their...

Points 91



[Domaine Richard Rottiers, Champ de Cour, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais, France, 2018](#)

This is lively and supercharged with vibrant acidity making it one of the more mouthwatering wines in the lineup, and also one of the more lighter-framed styles. Nevertheless it's structured with cherry, strawberry and some lime zestiness. Very enjoyable.

Points 91



[Château du Moulin-à-Vent, Les Vérillats, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais, France, 2018](#)

A balanced and complex palate combining a textured palate with lightness of fruit flavour. It has an amazing ability to taste deep and rich but be elegant, light and refreshing on the palate. Very impressive with supple black berry flavours alongside a minerality that comes through as wet stones, chalk...

Points 91



[Pierre-Marie Chermette, Les Trois Roches, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais, France, 2018](#)

This is bright with crisp cherry fruit, freshly picked strawberries and blackcurrant juice. Really succulent and inviting with distinctly perfumed elements - peonies and violets and some chalky minerality. A complete wine that's full of character and can be drunk now or left to age.

Points 91



[Pascal Chatelus, Beaujolais, Moulin-à-Vent, Burgundy, 2018](#)

A lively juiciness straight away, fully refreshing with good lift and vibrancy while still offering a richness of flavour. This is a little more savoury than some with truffle and woodland notes. A lovely, easy drinking wine.

Points 91



Château de Belleverne, Cuvée Mandrin, Beaujolais

Light and refreshing with subtle perfume aromas - violets and irises, this is one of the more floral and delicate in the lineup. Ripe cherries and blackcurrant flavours on the palate with generous tannins giving way to acidity that provides good lift and energy. HVE certified.

Points 91



Domaine de Chênepierre, Christophe Lapiere, Moulin-à-Vent, Beaujolais, 2018

This is deep and richly fruited on the nose and palate. Delicate and juicy thought on the palate with a core of refined fruit comprising blueberries and blackberries alongside red cherries and blackcurrants with evident wood spice around the edges. Fine grained tannins and a long length complete the wine.

Points 91

L'article est disponible en ligne ici :

<https://www.decanter.com/premium/spotlight-on-moulin-a-vent-2018-72-wines-tasted-and-rated-442648/>