

Vinous - Neal Martin

Ladoix « Le Clos Royer » 2018 : 88-90/100

The 2018 Ladoix Le Clos Royer Rouge offers clean, pure black cherry and briar scents on the nose, the prudent use of new oak allowing the fruit to shine. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit, gentle grip and a fresh, quite citrus-driven finish with plenty of strawberry and raspberry fruit. This will drink well over the next decade. (2020 – 2029)

Côte de Nuits-Villages 2018 : 89-91/100

The 2018 Côtes de Nuits-Villages has an impressive nose of copious red currant and cranberry fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit, good substance and a fine bead of acidity, and raspberry preserve on the finish. Not complex, but I appreciate the energy here. (2021 – 2030)

Aloxe-Corton Village 2018 : 86-88/100

The 2018 Aloxe-Corton Village has a ripe black cherry, raspberry and bergamot bouquet that is vivacious and full of energy. The palate is sweet and a little chewy on the entry, and firm in terms of grip, with a rather blunt finish that needs to muster more flesh. Not bad, but a bit of a grumpy Aloxe-Corton. (2021 – 2026)

Ladoix 1^{er} Cru « Les Joyeuses » 2018 : 90-92/100

The 2018 Ladoix Les Joyeuses 1er Cru includes 50% whole cluster. This has a well-defined bouquet of blackberry and raspberry preserve, plus touches of wilted rose petal and crushed stone. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins, focused and delineated, conveying a sense of precision on the finish. This is a well-crafted Ladoix that should give 15 years of drinking pleasure. (2022 – 2037)

Vinous - Neal Martin

Ladoix 1^{er} Cru « La Corvée » 2018 : 90-92/100

The 2018 Ladoix La Corvée 1er Cru has a comparatively rich and outgoing bouquet of more confit fruit compared to the Les Joyeuses. The medium-bodied palate features vibrant red berry fruit laced with orange zest. Nicely focused, with a saline, quite masculine finish. Give this two or three years in bottle to smooth out the edges. (2023 – 2037)

Aloxe-Corton 1^{er} Cru « Les Valozières» 2018 : 90-92/100

The 2018 Aloxe-Corton Les Valozières 1er Cru has a generous bouquet of blueberry, raspberry and light rose petal aromas, hints of vanilla paste developing with aeration. The medium-bodied palate offers sappy red berry fruit laced with white pepper. Finely structured, with an edgy, quite citric finish that will hopefully retain its energy after bottling. This is very promising. (2022 – 2035)

Aloxe-Corton 1^{er} Cru « La Toppe au Vert » 2018 : 89-91/100

The 2018 Aloxe-Corton La Toppe Au Vert 1er Cru has a floral bouquet, quite refined and less energetic than the Les Valozières, but pure and comely, featuring raspberry preserve and smudged strawberry scents. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, quite rigid on the entry but softening a little toward the finish. This will need to soften in bottle over three or four years before it finds its groove. (2023 – 2035)

Aloxe-Corton 1^{er} Cru « Les Maréchaudes » 2018 : 90-92/100

There is just a single barrel of the 2018 Aloxe-Corton Les Marechaude 1er Cru comes from a plot that the authorities determined did not belong to the Grand Cru Corton. It has a generous bouquet of wild strawberry, raspberry confit and light rose petal aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, fleshy and nicely poised, and a precise, understated finish. Just one barrel made. (2022 – 2035)

Vinous - Neal Martin

Corton Grand Cru « *Les Maréchaudes* » 2018 : 91-93/100

The 2018 Corton Les Maréchaudes Grand Cru contains 60% whole-cluster fruit. It has a complex bouquet of brambly red fruit mixed with crushed rock and dried rose petal aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit and fine definition. Taut and linear, leading to a structured, serious finish that will demand several years in bottle. Maybe it lacks the depth of the other two Grand Crus, but it is still well crafted. (2023 – 2038)

Corton Grand Cru « *Le Rognet* » Cuvée Camille 2018 : 92-94/100

The 2018 Corton Le Rognet Cuvée Camille Grand Cru, named after Mallard's son born that year, contains 72% whole cluster. It has a vivacious, well-defined bouquet of blackberry, raspberry preserve and light kirsch aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins and a fine bead of acidity. A little tight on the finish but there is impressive precision and mineralité here. Excellent. (2023 – 2040)

Corton Grand Cru « *Les Renardes* » 2018 : 92-94/100

The 2018 Corton Les Renardes Grand Cru has a pretty, pure bouquet of well-defined raspberry, red currant and bergamot scents that intensify in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit, and slightly creamier in texture than the Les Maréchaudes, with well integrated new oak (75%) on the finish. Excellent. (2022 – 2040)

Ladoix Blanc Village 2018 : 87-89/100

The 2018 Ladoix Blanc had just been racked. It has an attractive lime and grapefruit bouquet that opens nicely in the glass. The palate is fresh on the entry with a twist of pink grapefruit and orange zest, leading to a poised finish. Very fine. (2020 – 2025)

Vinous - Neal Martin

Ladoix « Le Clos Royer » 2018 : 89-91/100

The 2018 Ladoix Le Clos Royer Blanc, matured in 35% new oak (350-liter barrels) has a lovely bouquet of orange pith, peach skin and light waxy aromas. The palate is taut and fresh on the entry, with a fine bead of acidity. Nicely poised, revealing hints of almond and walnut toward the effervescent finish. Excellent. (2021 – 2027)

Ladoix 1^{er} Cru « Les Gréchons » 2018 : 88-90/100

The 2018 Ladoix Les Gréchons Blanc 1er Cru has a generous orange zest, apricot and quince scented bouquet that conveys energy and vivacity. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, quite taut and precise. The malic finish needs a little more length. (2021 – 2026)

Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru 2018 : 92-94/100

The 2018 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru has a lovely bouquet of pressed yellow flowers, honeysuckle and jasmine aromas that unfurl in the glass. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, fresh and vibrant. The strict, tensile, citric finish is more Puligny than Corton-Charlemagne. Still, a very well-crafted white from Michel Mallard. (2022 – 2038)

Burghound.com - Allen Meadows

Ladoix « Les Buis » 2018 : 87-89/2023+

A very fresh and bright nose speaks of discreet floral nuances on the mostly red pinot fruit scents. The racy, intense and nicely detailed flavors exude a subtle salinity that adds to the refreshing character of the lingering finish that exhibits only a touch of rusticity.

Côte de Nuits-Villages 2018 : 87-90/2023+

A slightly more deeply pitched nose offers up notes of both red and dark currants together with more evident earth and a whiff of anise. There is very good energy to the beautifully well-detailed flavors that are at once delicious and inviting thanks to the refreshing character of the slightly more persistent finale.

Chorey-lès-Beaune « Les Beaumonts » 2018 : 87-89/2023+

This too is quite fresh with its more layered nose of various red berries, especially cherry, along with hints of earth and violet. I very much like the texture of the delicious middle weight flavors that also exhibit only a mild touch of backend rusticity. This should be approachable young if desired.

Ladoix « Le Clos Royer » 2018 : 88-90/2024+

An interesting nose reflects notes of very ripe liqueur-like red berries where a hints of cranberry and spice sneak in. The succulent, very rich and solidly voluminous flavors conclude in a dusty and slightly raspy but not really austere finale that offers slightly better depth.

Burghound.com - Allen Meadows

Savigny-Lès-Beaune 1^{er} Cru « Les Serpentières » 2018 : 89-92/2026+

This too is attractively fresh with its slightly cooler array of pretty red currant, plum and notably more spice-inflected aromas. There is a bit less mid-palate density to the nicely detailed and more refined middle weight flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the mildly austere and sneaky long finale.

Aloxe-Corton 2018 : 89-91/2025+

A super-fresh nose is comprised by the essence of red pinot fruit where top notes of spice and floral nuances add interest. There is excellent energy and delineation to the medium-bodied flavors that flash a taut muscularity on the firm, youthfully austere and serious finish. This is a very fine Aloxe villages and worth your interest because while it's certainly built-to-age over the mid-term, it avoids the usual rusticity.

Ladoix 1^{er} Cru « Les Joyeuses » 2018 : 90-92/2026+

A much more floral-suffused nose reveals super-fresh and airy essence of red raspberry, lilac and a lovely array of spice elements. The delicious tension-filled flavors exude a subtle minerality on the linear, focused and youthfully austere finale that is firm enough to suggest up to a decade of cellaring would be beneficial.

Ladoix 1^{er} Cru « La Corvée » 2018 : 89-92/2026+

This too is aromatically quite floral in character while the cool essence of red and dark pinot fruit is trimmed in just enough wood to notice. The wood can also be found on the palate of the medium-bodied flavors that possess very good volume and sap that helps to buffer the moderately firm, dusty and lingering finale.

Burghound.com - Allen Meadows

Aloxe-Corton 1^{er} Cru « Les Valozières » 2018 : 90-92/2030+

More deeply pitched aromas are composed by notes of poached plum, freshly turned earth and plenty of forest floor elements. The rich, muscular and more powerful medium weight flavors culminate in a firm, rustic and sneaky long finish where the only nit is a whisper of warmth. This is a classic Valozières.

Aloxe-Corton 1^{er} Cru « La Toppe au Vert » 2018 : 90-93/2028+

Once again there is a really lovely freshness to the floral and sauvage-inflected red berry fruit aromas. The sleek, delicious and tension-filled middle weight flavors are presently quite compact and relatively tightly wound on the linear finish that is also sneaky long. Note that this will need a few years.

Aloxe-Corton 1^{er} Cru « Les Maréchaudes » 2018 : 91-93/2028+

A pretty, ripe and very fresh nose reflects notes of red currant, cherry and plenty of earth wisps that are also trimmed in just enough wood to notice. There is both excellent definition as well as fine tension to the intense and attractively refined medium weight flavors where a fine bead of minerality helps to add lift to the delicious, complex and persistent finish. This lovely effort is sufficiently firm that it will need a few years to unwind and should reward a decade plus of cellaring.

Corton Grand Cru « Les Maréchaudes » 2018 : 91-94/2030+

This is aromatically similar to the 1er version if slightly more complex. There is a lovely precision to the energetic larger-scaled flavors that possess good power while retaining the same refinement on the impressively persistent finale. Very good quality here in an age-worthy package.

Burghound.com - Allen Meadows

Corton Grand Cru « Le Rognet » 2018 : 92-94/2033+

A brooding nose only grudgingly reveals much earthier and more sauvage-suffused aromas of dark currant, poached plum and violet. The impressively rich and well-concentrated medium-bodied flavors deliver fine length on the slightly warm, stony and built-to-age finish. This is firmer than its two Corton grand cru counterparts though I suspect that it could be approachable after 7 to 8 years.

Corton Grand Cru « Les Renardes » 2018 : 91-94/2030+

(from a .75 ha parcel). Discreet though not invisible wood frames intensely floral-inflected aromas of super-fresh essence of various red berries, spice and a hint of the sauvage. The relatively supple flavors retain very good precision while delivering excellent depth and persistence on the firm but not really austere finale.

Ladoix Blanc Village 2018 : 87-89/2023+

This is actually quite similar to the Bourgogne but will more evident citrus influence that can also found on the plump, round and fleshy middle weight flavors that exude a refreshing salinity on the lingering, dry and balanced finish. This too should be approachable young but has enough stuffing to reward at least a few years of cellaring.

Ladoix « Le Clos Royer » Blanc 2018 : 88-91/2023+

A very deft touch of wood easily allows the aromas of lemon grass, white orchard fruit, floral and passion fruit to be appreciated. There is a bit more volume to the round, delicious and generously proportioned flavors that possess a sappy texture while exhibiting sneaky length on the moderately dry finale. This borderline opulent effort should also be approachable young.

Burghound.com - Allen Meadows

Ladoix 1^{er} Cru « Les Gréchons » 2018 : 88-91/2024+

Restrained and agreeably fresh aromas are composed by notes of smoky mineral reduction, tea and green apple. Succulent yet relatively racy flavors exude a subtle minerality that continues onto the lemon, linear and very dry finish. In contrast to the prior wines, this will need a few years of bottle age to further flesh out.

Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru 2018 : 90-93/2026+

(from Le Charlemagne). A more elegant combination displays pretty scents of white flowers, petrol, pear, citrus, green apple and lovely spice nuances. The medium weight plus flavors possess both excellent power and minerality that manage to be at once succulent yet precise, all wrapped in a mandarin orange-inflected finish where a touch of wood gradually emerges. Like the Gréchons, this is sufficiently structured as to require at least a few years of cellaring first and a wine that should reward up to a decade of keeping.

DOMAINE
MICHEL MALLARD *et Fils*

Decanter - Tim Atkin MW & Charles Curtis MW

Ladoix 1^{er} Cru « Les Joyeuses » 2018 : 93/100

The Domaine Mallard Les Joyeuses hails from a parcel of 40-year-old vines and has produced a precise, floral, engaging Pinot Noir that has some added freshness and structure from 50% whole bunches, stylish 40% new wood and an appealing brightness and vivacity of fruit. Floral, sappy and very drinkable.

Drinking Window 2022 - 2028

Corton Grand Cru « Les Maréchaudes » 2018 : 93/100

Remarkably dense and lush for a Maréchaudes. The climat lies near the bottom of the slope on the border with Aloxe in land that was a marsh before it was drained (hence the name). Mallard produces this from 12.14 hectares of 60-year-old vines in two parcels. Destemmed fruit and whole clusters macerate for a week before fermentation. The result is super-rich and concentrated with a densely ripe black plum fruit marked with the cask aging. Impressive.

Drinking Window 2021 – 2034

Corton Grand Cru « Les Renardes » 2018 : 95/100

Michel Mallard's day job is as the winemaker at Domaine d'Eugénie in Vosne-Romanée, but he produces a very different style at his own domaine in Ladoix. This hails from a 0.72ha parcel at 300m on the hill of Corton and combines some of the terroir's classic grip, sinew and muscle with intense, floral red cherry and damson fruit, racy acidity and 70% whole bunches.

Drinking Window 2025 – 2035

Decanter - Tim Atkin MW & Charles Curtis MW

Corton Grand Cru « *Le Rognet* » 2018 : 94/100

Produced from two parcels in Ladoix totaling 1.27 hectares. The larger parcel is at the base of Le Rognet across from Les Grandes Lolières; the other is at the northern end of the appellation touching Les Carrières. The result is less opulent than Mallard's other cuvées and perhaps a bit less open, but there is more freshness and a pleasant mineral note on the finish. A wine of winning restraint and elegance.

Drinking Window 2021 – 2034

Corton Grand Cru « *Le Rognet* » Cuvée Camille 2018 : 95/100

Produced from what Michel Mallard calls 'my most beautiful bunches of Rognets', which come from the domaine's oldest vines, this is a superb Corton that ages effortlessly in bottle. Balanced, floral and clove spicy, it has deftly handled whole clusters and 80% new wood. Racy, subtle and refined, this is the sort of thing that could give Corton a good name.

Drinking Window 2026 – 2035