

TASTING HIGHLIGHTS

9 Beaujolais Reds to Drink After Labor Day

Just in case you wanted to stick to the rules, these light-bodied newly reviewed wines from France will do the trick



Château du Moulin-à-Vent is a quality leader in the appellation it's named after. (Michel Baudoin)

By Gillian Sciaretta

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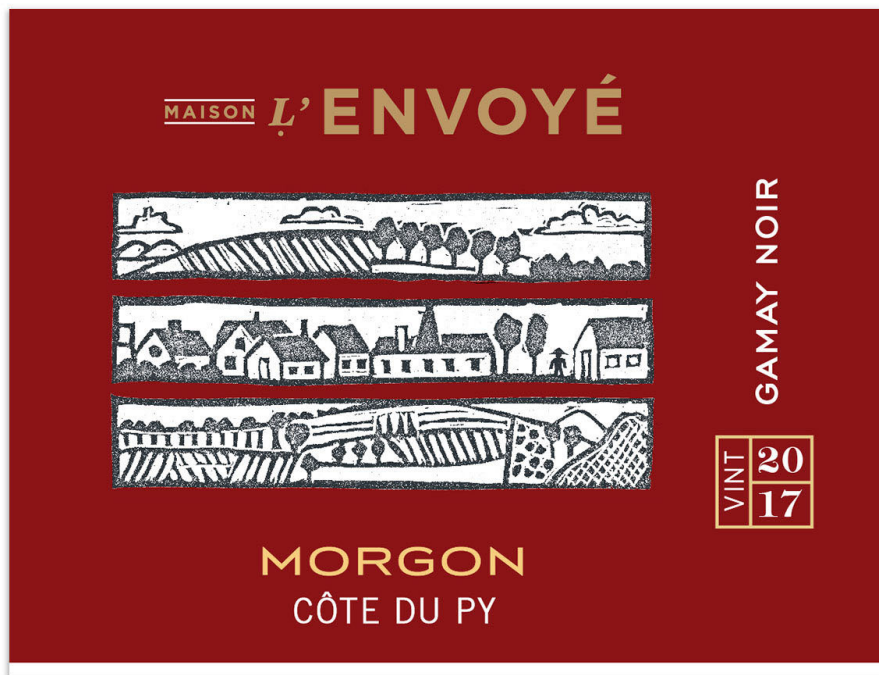
Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

While Beaujolais can be enjoyed year-round, the light-bodied, refreshing nature of Gamay makes these wines perfect for the summer, and a reintroduction to reds as the fall rears its head.

But the fact that they're easygoing doesn't mean there isn't great quality here. Beaujolais wines can offer great expressions of the region's plentiful *terroirs*. Many of the best wines hail from the 10 *crus*, four of which are represented here. However, vintners also explore unique areas within the Beaujolais and Beaujolais-Villages levels, and sometimes blend from sites in different appellations.

Today's selection highlights recently reviewed Beaujolais for \$25 or less. Some are from the region's better-known *crus*, Morgon and Moulin-à-Vent. Chénas, the smallest of the *crus*, is attracting established winemakers who believe it makes ageworthy Gamays grown in its granite, schist and alluvial clay soils.

Don't skip over the Beaujolais and Beaujolais-Villages tiers. The [Domaine de Fa](#) Beaujolais En Besset 2017 was made from grapes sourced from one of the highest-elevation vineyards in the general Beaujolais appellation, near the *crus* of St.-Amour and Juliéнас.



MAISON L'ENVOYÉ

Morgon Côte du Py 2017

Score: 90 | \$20

WS review: Mineral and smoke undertones detail the fresh blackberry and currant flavors in this supple red, with white pepper, herb and floral notes marking the lightly tannic finish. Drink now through 2023. 600 cases made, 600 cases imported.—G.S.



DOMAINE DE FA

Beaujolais En Besset 2017

Score: 90 | \$21

WS review: Light-bodied, with a fresh mixture of black cherry, raspberry and strawberry notes, accented by tea, spice and floral details. Light, glossy tannins add a nice texture through the long, herb-tinged finish. Drink now through 2022. 800 cases imported.—G.S.



CHÂTEAU DU MOULIN-À-VENT

Moulin-à-Vent Couvent des Thorins 2016

Score: 90 | \$25

WS review: Light-bodied but backed by focused acidity and streamlined flavors of pure cherry and raspberry, tangy and spicy, flanked by white pepper, tea and herb details. Drink now through 2024. 6,000 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—G.S.



CLOS DE LA ROULETTE

Fleurie 2018

Score: 89 | \$21

WS review: Bright black currant and blackberry notes are infused with wild herb, licorice and tea accents in this youthful, light-bodied red. Light tannins support the spice and cedar details on the finish. Drink now through 2022. 1,200 cases imported.—G.S.

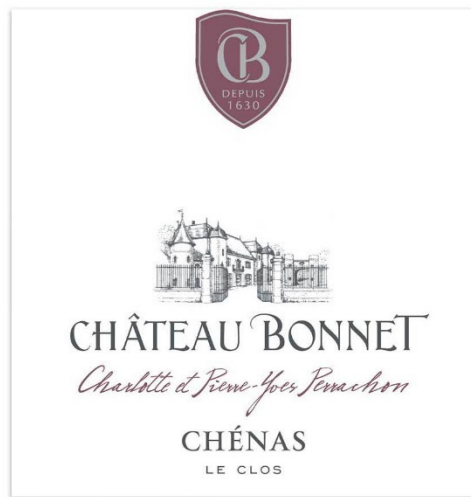


DOMAINE DE ROCHE-GUILLON

Fleurie Lieu-Dit La Tonne 2018

Score: 89 | \$23

WS review: Dusty tannins support cherry and ripe raspberry notes, matched to dried herb, black tea and fresh earth details through the finish, which is marked by graphite and spice hints. Drink now through 2024. 3,500 cases made, 600 cases imported.—G.S.



CHÂTEAU BONNET

Chénas Le Clos 2018

Score: 88 | \$22

WS review: Fresh picked black currant and raspberry notes are flanked with graphite, tea and dried herb undertones in this charming red with light tannins that show some grip on the lingering finish. Drink now through 2023. 2,500 cases made, 300 cases imported.—G.S.



JEAN-PAUL BRUN

Beaujolais Terres Dorées l'Ancien Vieilles Vignes 2017

Score: 87 | \$19

WS review: Currant and black cherry flavors are flanked by herb, fresh earth and white pepper details in this light-bodied red, with black tea and mineral notes lingering on the lightly tannic finish. Drink now through 2020. 2,300 cases imported.—G.S.



DOMAINE DES MARRANS

Beaujolais-Villages 2017

Score: 87 | \$18

WS review: Light, glossy tannins frame the supple cherry tart and raspberry puree flavors of this bright, light-bodied red, with underpinnings of floral and licorice coming through on the finish. Drink now through 2021. 300 cases imported.—G.S.

ALBERT BICHOT

Beaujolais-Villages Château de Varennes 2017

Score: 86 | \$13

WS review: Cherry and tangy raspberry notes mingle with herb and white pepper details in this bright, light-bodied red, with a tangy, lightly grippy finish. Drink now through 2020. 1,000 cases imported.—G.S.