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Domaine Roger/Joseph Belland (Santenay)

2017	Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois" 1er	white	89
2017	Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru	white	93
2017	Meursault "Santenots" 1er	white	87
2017	Puligny-Montrachet "Les Champs Gain" 1er	white	89
2017	Santenay "Beauregard" 1er	white	88
2017	Santenay "Comme Dessus"	white	86

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 11th 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. 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 whites were bottled between August and November 2018. I found the quality of these 2017s to be essentially in-line with what I found elsewhere in the Côte de Beaune. (T. Edwards Wines, www.tedwardwines.com, NY, USA; Berkman Wine Cellars, www.berkman.co.uk, Berry Brothers & Rudd, www.bbr.com, Lay & Wheeler, www.laywheeler.com, Liberty Wines, 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, MD, USA).

2017 Santenay "Comme Dessus": A ripe and exotic nose features notes of white peach, apricot and lychee along with a hint of volatile acidity. The very rich and borderline oily flavors are nothing if not opulent though the finish is noticeably warm. As the description suggests, this very forward effort is slightly awkward. 86/now+

2017 Santenay "Beauregard": There is a touch of menthol character sitting atop the equally exotic nose that speaks of peach, dried apricot and lychee. The impressively dense medium-bodied flavors possess a creamy mid-palate mouth feel before concluding in a vibrant and lingering finish where a touch of wood influence can be discerned. To enjoy young; indeed this could be enjoyed immediately. 88/2020+

2017 Chassagne-Montrachet "Clos Pitois": An openly exotic nose is composed by notes of yellow orchard fruit, melon, petrol and citrus. The exceptionally rich and enveloping flavors coat the palate with dry extract while the balance is aided by a noticeably saline-inflected finish where a hint of bitter lemon appears. This too could easily be enjoyed young. 89/2021+

2017 Puligny-Montrachet "Les Champs Gain": A slightly fresher but still overtly exotic nose blends both white and yellow orchard fruit aromas with those of floral and citrus. There is good vibrancy to the lush and opulent medium-bodied flavors that exude a subtle minerality onto the mildly tangy finish that also evidences a hint of bitter lemon. 89/2022+

2017 Meursault "Santenots": (from a .25 ha parcel of 50+ year old vines in Les Plures). There is a whiff of unabsorbed SO₂ on the dried yellow orchard fruit, floral and softly spicy nose. The seductively textured flavors also possess an opulent mid-palate texture before culminating a slightly flat finish that is slightly warm. To be clear, this isn't heavy but I wouldn't be inclined to age it for more than a few years. 87/2021+

2017 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet: (from a .62 ha parcel of 25 to 40+ year old vines). A much fresher and spicier nose is at once more restrained and less obviously exotic. There is much better vibrancy as well to the intense, detailed and sappy large-scaled flavors that possess excellent depth and persistence on the balanced and palate coating finish. This is a very good Criots that should amply repay extended cellaring. 93/2027+