

vinous

--Neal Martin 95 Neal Martin 2022 - 2040 Not Available Sep 2020
2018 Domaine Samuel **Billaud** Chablis Valmur Grand Cru

The 2018 Chablis Valmur Grand Cru is blessed with one of the finest aromatics of any 2018 Chablis that I tasted, featuring beautifully defined scents of Granny Smith apples, orange pith, wet limestone and light struck match. The palate displays exquisite balance and pitch-perfect acidity, reflecting the warmth of the vintage but maintaining superb tension from start to finish. There is something effortless about this Valmur that stands as Samuel **Billaud**'s best cuvée this vintage. Bravo!

--Neal Martin 94 Neal Martin 2022 - 2040 Not Available Sep 2020
2018 Domaine Samuel **Billaud** Chablis Les Clos Grand Cru

The 2018 Chablis Les Clos Grand Cru is one of the best expressions of this noble vineyard in this vintage. Limpid argent in hue, it has a taut, fresh, flinty bouquet that you might misconstrue as coming from a cooler growing season, a testament to **Billaud**'s winemaking skill. The palate is likewise underpinned by a fine line of acidity that keeps this Les Clos poised, refreshing and revivifyingly saline. There is just a light sour lemon note mixed with a tang of ginger on the finish, completing a very fine Les Clos that comes highly recommended.

-- Neal Martin 94 Neal Martin 2022 - 2040 Not Available Sep 2020
2018 Domaine Samuel **Billaud** Chablis Les Preuses Grand Cru

The 2018 Chablis Les Preuses Grand Cru, which comes from 60-year-old vines and spends 18 months on the fine lees, has a vibrant, energetic nose, presenting flint and smoke at first, then subtle dried white flowers soon after, but maintaining a sense of classicism at all times. The palate is very well balanced with peach and nectarine notes on the entry, razor-sharp acidity effortlessly counterbalancing the richness of this Les Preuses. It keeps its foot on the accelerator right to the end. An outstanding Les Preuses from Samuel **Billaud**.

-- Neal Martin 94 Neal Martin 2022 - 2040 Not Available Sep 2020
2018 Domaine Samuel **Billaud** Chablis Vaudésir Grand Cru

The 2018 Chablis Vaudésir Grand Cru is another scintillating wine that defies the vintage. Detailed scents of green apple mix with lemon peel and flint, and a hint of mirabelle emerges with time. This has a beguiling symmetry on the palate and gently fans out toward the persistent finish, its salinity urging you back for another sip. Glorious.

-- Neal Martin 94 Neal Martin 2023 - 2040 Not Available Sep 2020
2018 Domaine Samuel Billaud Chablis Montée de Tonnerre 1er Cru

The 2018 Chablis Montée de Tonnerre 1er Cru comes from a hectare of 45-year-old vines and was vinified in stainless steel vats and 450-liter barrels before aging for 18 months on the lees. It has a pretty nose of orange blossom, white peach and Japanese yuzu scents that are beautifully defined. The palate is very well balanced, with Granny Smith apples and pear on the entry, a vibrant thread of acidity, and quite a linear, taut finish that is perhaps more 2017 in style. Overall, this is a superb Montée de Tonnerre for those who like "classic" Chablis.

-- Neal Martin 93 Neal Martin 2021 - 2035 Not Available Sep 2020
2018 Domaine Samuel Billaud Chablis Séchet Vieilles Vignes 1er Cru

The 2018 Chablis Séchet Vieilles Vignes 1er Cru comes from 0.60ha of 80-year-old vines and spends 18 months on the fine lees. It bides its time in the glass. Discreet at first, it gradually unfurls to reveal quite intense marine aromas of shucked oyster shells and sea cave. This is very well defined but it clearly benefits from decanting. The palate is lively on the entry, presenting a lovely lick of salinity right from the start. Fine energy here, and great focus, with just a touch of spice coming through on the finish and aftertaste. A very fine Séchet from M. Billaud. Recommended.

-- Neal Martin 93 Neal Martin 2021 - 2035 Not Available Sep 2020
2018 Domaine Samuel Billaud Chablis Les Fourneaux 1er Cru

The 2018 Chablis Les Fourneaux 1er Cru comes from 1.25ha of 35-year-old vines and sees 12–18 months on the fine lees. It has a rich, extravagant bouquet of dried honey, cumin, fern and orange pith aromas. The palate is well balanced with a malic opening, dovetailing into a more typical 2018 midpalate, quite spicy with a detailed and linear finish. Good build here. A Fourneaux that finishes on a high note.

-- Neal Martin 92 Neal Martin 2021 - 2032 Not Available Sep 2020
2018 Domaine Samuel Billaud Chablis Mont de Milieu 1er Cru

The 2018 Chablis Mont de Milieu 1er Cru comes from 40-year-old vines and sees 18 months on the fine lees. It has a lilting bouquet of fresh Granny Smith apple, pear and light almond aromas. The palate is taut and fresh on the entry, displaying moderate weight and demonstrating fine salinity and spiciness toward the finish. There is a touch of conservatism to this Chablis, but it should still drink well for the next decade or so.

-- Neal Martin 91 Neal Martin 2020 - 2030 Not Available Sep 2020
2018 Domaine Samuel Billaud Chablis Vaillons 1er Cru

The 2018 Chablis Vaillons 1er Cru has a pale silvery hue. The bouquet is conservative for this particular vineyard, conveying subtle grass clipping and fresh pear tones, perhaps just missing the pizzazz of Billaud's other cuvées this vintage. The palate is well balanced with a pretty opening: lemon confit, a dab of lemongrass and an underlying salinity that enlivens the finish. A thoroughly enjoyable and well-crafted Vaillons that I suspect will offer most in its youth.

-- Neal Martin 91 Neal Martin 2021 - 2030 Not Available Sep 2020
2018 Domaine Samuel Billaud Chablis Village

The 2018 Chablis Village comes from 4 hectares of 35-year-old vines and spends 12–15 months on the lees. It conveys more fruit intensity than the Petit Chablis, as you would expect, scents of tangerine and clementine emerging with a couple of swirls. The palate is vibrant on the entry, displaying a fine bead of acidity that keeps this Chablis on its toes. What it lacks in complexity is compensated with joie-de-vivre. Enjoy this over the next 5–7 years.

-- Neal Martin 87 Neal Martin 2020 - 2023 Not Available Sep 2020
2018 Domaine Samuel Billaud Chablis Montmains 1er Cru

The 2018 Chablis Montmains 1er Cru was cropped at 50hl/ha and spends 12–15 months on the lees. This has a slightly Germanic, almost petrolly nose. The palate is spicy on the entry, a little bitter, and does not quite possess the same harmony on the finish as Billaud's other cuvées. I must admit that I could not work out this Montmains and will defer scoring for now.

-- Neal Martin ? Neal Martin Not Available Sep 2020
2018 Domaine Samuel Billaud Chablis Mont de Milieu 1er Cru

The 2018 Chablis Mont de Milieu 1er Cru is one of the stand outs in this range. Ample and creamy, the 2018 is so wonderfully inviting, even in the early going. All the elements just come together effortlessly. Orchard fruit, citrus confit, spice, wild flowers and a touch of new oak all grace this super-expressive Chablis. The 2018 was done 80% in tank and 20% in a 450-liter oak barrel.