

# 2019 Lucien Le Moine • Clos Saint-Denis Grand Cru

Rating

(94 - 96)

Release Price

NA

Drink Date

NA

Reviewed by

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The 2019 Clos Saint Denis Grand Cru has a primal, animally bouquet with broody dark berry fruit - bouquet with intent, yet tightly coiled and broody. The palate is very precise with touches of balsamic and spice. It unfolds in the glass and leads naturally toward the long finish that fans out beautifully. Excellent. It is always a pleasure to visit the indefatigable Mounir Saouma at his hideaway winery just off the Beaune periphique. He is a winemaker you can jest with, and he is often victim of my sardonic Essex humor (for example, when enthusing about obtaining one of five barrels of a premier cru, I dryly enquired whether the other four were sold off for distillation - I would not say that to Aubert de Villaine.) And I appreciate Mounir's wines. They used to taste a little too fat and almost over-powering in their youth, but I think he is fine-tuning his reductive winemaking style, achieving more freshness and vitality. I tasted his 2019 reds since the whites were still undergoing malolactic. Among the tidal wave of opinions, one that he emphasized was that to capture the quality of the vintage under cork, the wines should be bottled late, and not in spring when Burgundy will resound to the clinking of glass. Mounir also told me that he paid 50% more from wines in 2018 than in 2019, but that he intends to keep prices within increase.