Maison Edouard Delaunay is a very old négociant business in Nuits St. Georges that was founded all the way back in 1893. It had ceased to exist for some time, but Laurent Delaunay, the great grandson of the founder, decided to breathe life back into it in 2017. The Delaunay family was originally from the Nantais region of the eastern Loire Valley and offered some Burgundy wines as part of their négociant portfolio prior to 1893. However, Edouard decided to move the family business to Burgundy in that year and specialize in the wines of the Côte d'Or. In 1932, Jean and Marcel Delaunay, the sons of Edouard, moved the family's business offices to Dijon, while retaining cellars in both Nuits St. Georges and Gevrey-Chambertin. The négociant business lasted into the early 1990s, but eventually fell moribund a century after its founding. In 2017, Laurent and his wife, Catherine, both trained oenologists, decided to return to Burgundy from the Languedoc and reestablished Maison Edouard Delaunay. Christophe Briotet is the Chef de Cave for the maison. They have just begun to import their wines into the US and kindly arranged for me to receive a selection of their 2018s, as the 2019s have not yet been shipped into the market. I was very impressed with the range I tasted, which show lovely fidelity to their underlying soil tones, very good, bright fruit (particularly for 2018), classical stylistic sensibilities and a nice, understated framing of cedary oak for the red wines.

93+

CLOS DE VOUGEOT GRAND CRU 2018

The 2018 Clos Vougeot from Maison Edouard Delaunay is an excellent example of the vintage, delivering impressive purity and soil foundation on both the nose and palate and none of the slightly overripe fruit tones that can be found in some 2018s. The wine is again only 13.5 percent octane this year and delivers a superb aromatic constellation of plums, red and black cherries, woodsmoke, grilled venison, a fine base of soil, raw cocoa and a fine framing of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and nicely structured, with ripe, buried tannins, a fine core of fruit, impressive soil undertow and a long, poised and beautifully balanced finish. All this fine example of Clos Vougeot needs is time in the cellar to properly blossom. 2033-2090.

92

POMMARD PREMIER CRU LES FREMIERS 2018

Maison Delaunay's 2018 Fremiers is a fine example of the vintage, showing plenty of black fruit coupled to a fine base of soil. The wine comes in at 13.5 percent octane (which is quite reasonable for this torrid vintage) and offers up a fine aromatic constellation of black plums, dark berries, raw cocoa, roasted venison, a bit of cola, bonfire, a nice touch of spice tones and cedary oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite elegant in profile for young Pommard, with a good core and soil undertow, ripe, buried tannins and fine focus and balance on the long and complex finish. This is not an overly powerful example of Pommard, but in the context of the 2018 vintage, this is a strong attribute! Most impressive. 2030-2080.

91+

BEAUNE PREMIER CRU LES GREVES 2018

The 2018 Beaune "Grèves" from Maison Edouard Delaunay is a lovely example of the vintage, coming in at 13.5 percent octane and offering up a beautifully red fruity bouquet of cherries, strawberries, gamebird, a fine base of soil, gentle smokiness and a fairly generous serving of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and nicely transparent in personality, with a good core of fruit, fine focus and grip, fine-grained tannins and a long, complex and promising finish. This needs some bottle age to soften up its backend tannins, but it will be a fine bottle in due course. 2030-2075.

91

VOLNAY VIEILLES VIGNES LE VILLAGE 2018

The 2018 Volnay "Vieilles Vignes" from Maison Delaunay is an excellent wine. The bouquet is deep and complex, wafting from the glass in a mix of dark berries, black cherries, bonfire, pigeon, coffee bean, a fine base of dark soil and cedary oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and complex, with a lovely core of ripe black fruit, good soil undertow and grip, ripe, buried tannins and a long, tangy and very nicely balanced finish. This is a very good Volnay villages! 2026-2060.