

DOMAINE ROBLET-MONNOT

Wine Advocate Reviews by William Kelley

January 2021

My tasting with Pascal Roblet was one of my most stimulating visits on the Côte de Beaune this year, so it is with some consternation that I see that this nine-hectare domaine, based in Bligny-lès-Beaune, hasn't been covered in these pages for over a decade. Certified organic, Roblet is a viticultural pioneer: in 2002, just two years after Lalou Bize-Leroy, he stopped "rognage" (i.e. trimming) of his vines to avoid cutting their apical shoots; in his holdings in the Hautes-Côtes, where lower planting densities and higher-trained vines permit it, he works in permaculture. Once considered eccentric—and indeed still at odds with the dominant approach to viticulture, which sometimes seems to owe more to 18th-century geometric garden design than to any understanding of vines' physiology—Burgundy has at last evolved enough for such initiatives to be thought *avant grade* (even if at this address they have been in place for the better part of two decades).

If work in the vineyards is forward-thinking, winemaking is founded on very traditional principles: long cuvaisons and long élevage. Destemming or not, depending on the vintage and cuvée, Roblet works only with pigeage, doing nothing for the first two weeks of cuvaision and punching down for the following two. In the cellar, élevage lasts between 18 and 24 months, and the presence of new oak these days is minimal—one of the most notable evolutions since this domaine was last reviewed in *The Wine Advocate*—with Roblet increasingly favoring 400-liter barrels in lieu of 228-liter pièces. The results are superb: deep, concentrated and complex wines, with considerable aging potential, built around beautifully powdery tannins. Quite why this high-quality domaine languishes in comparative obscurity escapes me; but when the wines are this good, it is only a matter of time until people start paying attention, so I encourage readers to acquaint themselves with Domaine Roblet-Monnot while they still can.

2017 Domaine Roblet-Monnot Volnay 1er Cru Les Taillepieds

Wafting from the glass with aromas of wild berries, baking chocolate, rose petals, rich soil tones, espresso roast and spices, the 2017 Volnay 1er Cru Les Taillepieds is medium to full-bodied, layered and multidimensional, with a velvety attack that segues into an ample, concentrated mid-palate. Long and penetrating, this is a decidedly serious example of the vintage, and it comes warmly recommended. 2025 - 2045
94 points

2018 Domaine Roblet-Monnot Volnay 1er Cru Les Pitures

The 2018 Volnay 1er Cru Les Pitures is showing very well, wafting from the glass with notes of cherries, rose petals, orange rind and plums. Medium to full-bodied, rich and fleshy, it's sapid and enveloping, with a seamless profile and a lively finish. This has a long future ahead of it. 2025 - 2045
93+ points

2019 Domaine Roblet-Monnot Volnay 1er Cru Les Taillepieds

Soaring from the glass with scents of violets, rose petals and orange rind that complement a deeper-pitched substate of raspberry and plum, the 2019 Volnay 1er Cru Les Taillepieds is medium to full-bodied, fleshy and textural, its enveloping attack segueing into a layered, concentrated mid-palate that's framed by lively acids and powdery tannins. Bright and perfumed, it's a serious, elegantly muscular Taillepieds that will repay extended bottle age.
(94-96 points)

2019 Domaine Roblet-Monnot • Volnay 1er Cru Les Brouillards

The 2019 Volnay 1er Cru Les Brouillards is a beautiful wine in the making, wafting from the glass with aromas of black raspberries, sweet spices, baking chocolate, loamy soil and peonies. Medium to full-bodied, rich and layered, it's lively and concentrated, with velvety tannins and a saline finish.
(92-94 points)



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2019 Domaine Roblet-Monnot Volnay 1er Cru Les Pitures

The 2019 Volnay 1er Cru Les Pitures is pretty and perfumed, wafting from the glass with notes of petals—rose and peony—mingled with red berries, plums and orange peel. Medium to full-bodied, lively and enveloping, with powdery tannins and bright acids, it's pure and elegantly ethereal. A tiny cuvée, this is well worth seeking out.

(92-94+ points)

2019 Domaine Roblet-Monnot Volnay Saint François

2019 Volnay Saint François is superb, mingling notes of cherries, raspberries and cassis with nuances of rose petals, dark chocolate, baking spice and violets. Medium to full-bodied, bright and mineral, it's deep and layered, with a vibrant, elegantly enveloping core of fruit. This cuvée is a blend derived from Roblet's holdings in Sur Roches, Famines, Buttes and Pasquiers.

(90-92+ points)

2019 Domaine Roblet-Monnot Volnay 1er Cru Les Vignes de Madeleine

Roblet's 2019 Volnay 1er Cru Les Vignes de Madeleine, derived largely from Robardelle, mingles aromas of wild berries and blood orange with notes of peonies, raw cocoa and spices. Medium to full-bodied, ample and perfumed, it's bright and lively, with powdery tannins and a long, mouthwatering finish.

(92-94 points)

2019 Domaine Roblet-Monnot • Pommard Chanlin-Haut

The 2019 Pommard Chanlin-Haut opens in the glass with notes of cherries, raspberries, sweet soil tones, peonies and spices. Medium to full-bodied, layered and lively, it's deep and concentrated, with powdery tannins, lively acids and a long, saline finish. From a higher-altitude, later-ripening site, this is a brilliant Pommard in the making.

(90-92 points)

2019 Domaine Roblet-Monnot • Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes

Aromas of wild berries, peonies, orange rind and spices introduce Roblet's 2019 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes, a medium-bodied, lively and perfumed wine with a charming core of fruit, bright acids and powdery structuring tannins, concluding with a mineral finish. This is a very fine regional wine indeed and comes warmly recommended.

(88-90 points)

2019 Domaine Roblet-Monnot • Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Beaune

The 2019 Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Beaune wafts from the glass with aromas of raspberries, cherries, peonies and spices. Medium-bodied, bright and precise, it's pure and perfumed, concluding with a mouthwateringly mineral finish.

(88-90 points)