

DOMAINE ROBLET-MONNOT

Volnay has enjoyed fame far longer than most of the communes in Burgundy. In the 1300's it was the most famous wine of Burgundy thanks to the Knights of Malta, vineyard owners since 1207. In kingly fashion, Louis XI added the entire vintage of 1447 to his personal cellar leaving none for the less worthy. Due to its history of renown there are more descriptions of ancient Volnay than almost any other Burgundy. Perfume and finesse are the hallmarks of Volnay wines displaying Pinot Noir in its most seductive manner.

Pascal Roblet may not be able to trace his roots in Volnay to the 1300s but four generations there seems pretty long to most of us. His first harvest was when he was 6 years old. Thereafter, he worked each vintage with his father and grandfather until he was 18, when he went off to Paris to study accounting. Two years of study was enough to tell him that he wanted to return to Volnay. In the late 1990s Pascal took over the family domaine from his father, François. At age 20, Pascal did his first solo vinification.

Pascal lives in the town of Volnay. His small rustic cellar is ten minutes away in the tiny hamlet of Bligny-les-Beaune. The majority of the Domaine Roblet-Monnot holdings are in Volnay (6 hectares) and with the 2017 vintage 1er Cru Pitures will make its own wine. Additional vines became available in 2018: 35 rows in Pommard "Chanlin Haut" as well as 4.45 hectares of 60 year old vines nearby.

Pascal's conversion to biodynamic viticulture in 1997 along with his high density planting (12,000 vines per hectare) and very low yields (30-35 hectoliters per hectare) are part of what has transformed his domaine into one of the leading sources of wine from these communes.

In the Vineyard

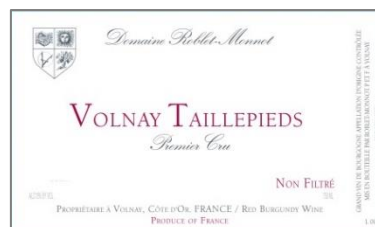
As one of the earlier pioneers of biodynamic practices in Burgundy, Pascal goes to the extent of using horses to plow his vineyards to reduce the compaction of the soil that a tractor would cause. In his Volnay Taillepieds vineyard he refrains from "rogner" (clipping of foliage) to avoid stress on the vine and increase the vines foliage.

In vintages with uneven ripening of the rows of vines, Pascal will select only the grapes at their optimum ripeness and return again and again to the vineyard for selection. Sorting of grapes begins in the vineyard for Pascal. He believes pristine grapes should never come in contact with their rotten or mouldy brethren. In addition, at the door of the cellar is a vibrating *sorting table* to cull out any leaves or twigs, or grapes deemed unworthy of being part of a Roblet-Monnot wine.

The heart of his production lies in Volnay where Pascal produces one village and five premier cru cuvees. His Bourgogne Rouge comes entirely from Volnay. The St. François bottling is a blend of several vineyards in Volnay, some of which are premier cru. Rich and dense on the palate, this wine offers tremendous value. Brouillards sits on the Pommard border, which is reflected in the wine's full, powerful structure. Santenots, which is actually located in Meursault, produces a rich, round wine with long aging potential. The domaine's top Volnay is produced from the Taillepieds vineyard, which lies in the best section of the village. Pascal's plot of Taillepieds is the heart (center) of the vineyard. The top soil known as "tete de moine" is a mere 50cm deep with large stones. Deep, rich and very complex, Roblet-Monnot's bottling of Taillepieds is a stunning example of Volnay.

In the Cellar

After Pascal's sorting of grapes in the vineyard and at the cellar door, he uses a very light touch in the cellar. With few stems employed (10% or so), restrained extraction, and no more than 25% new oak, He prefers infusion of flavor from the fruit rather than extraction. He uses long maturation in barrel to make the wines more stable before bottling and naturally clarified. He bottles his reds unfinned and unfiltered. Pascal creates wines of purity, intensity, fragrance, finesse and structure. He strives for wines of finesse rather than overt fruitiness or power.



WINES

Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes
Bourgogne Haute Cote de Beaune Pinot Noir
Monthelie Village Rouge
Pommard Chanlin Haut
Volnay St. François
Volnay Brouillards 1er Cru
Volnay Taillepieds 1er Cru
Volnay Pitures Dessus 1er Cru
Nerthus Bourgogne Haute Cote de Beaune Chardonnay