

ROBERT GROFFIER

Morey-St.-Denis

Burgundy

Robert Groffier is one of the Côte d'Or's most affable characters, and also one of Burgundy's best vignerons. His wines, like the man, cannot be mentioned without the words "pleasing", "satisfying", "generous", or their cognates appearing in one's report. It is through their combination of forward, rich fruit with great style and elegance that these wines make their mark. Of course, it helps to have conscientiously-tended vines in some of the best terroirs of the region.

Surprisingly, while their domicile is in Morey, the Groffiers holdings are largely in Chambolle and to a lesser extent Gevrey. In fact, their 5-acre share of Les Amoureuses is nearly twice the size of the next largest, that of Comte de Vogüé (whose wines Vintner Select also has the shameless good luck of representing!). That being said, the major obstacle to appreciation of these great wines is that there is alas too little to go around.

Fortunately, even when the only wine in stock is Bourgogne, do not hesitate to indulge. It may be one of the most expensive Bourgogne rouge there is, but it is also one of the best, issuing from mature vines in the Vougeot area. And the Groffiers also do well with that oddity Passetoutgrain, a wine in which some old vines gamay is included with the pinot noir.

Since 1993, Greek oenological guru Kyriakos Kinigopoulos has consulted here and instigated a regimen of longer, warmer fermentations that takes the richness and amplitude of Groffier pinots to new heights. There has also been of late remarkably little in the way of year-to-year quality variation. In the difficult 1998 vintage, for example, the estate turned out some of the best wines in the Côte d'Or.



"We have followed the lovely wines of this domain for many years But the quality has improved considerably since 1993 the wines have a marvelously velvety texture."

Michel Bettane "*Le C lassem ent 99*"

"Robert Groffier is, like his wines, a man of considerable depth and charm. [He] is one of the best winemakers in the Côte."

Remington Norman,
The Great Domaines of Burgundy

Bourgogne Passetoutgrain
Bourgogne
Gevrey-Chambertin
Chambolle-Musigny 1er cru
Les Hauts Doix
Chambolle-Musigny 1er cru
Les Sentiers
Chambolle-Musigny 1er cru
Les Amoureuses

Bonnes Mares
Chambertin Clos de Bèze

Variety: *Pinot Noir*
Total acreage: *17 acres*
Average production: *ca. 2,500 cs.*