

Domaine Matthias & Emile Roblin

Sancerre



The Wines

- *Sancerre blanc Origine*: This, their classic bottling, stays on its lees until January or February after the harvest, and is bottled roundabout May after a light fining and filtration. Some 80+% of the vines for this wine grow in Kimmeridgian; the remainder in Portlandian limestone (which has less clay than Kimmeridgian but more than Oxfordian). The annual production averages 5,800 cases.
- *Sancerre blanc Les Ammonites*: This is the top white, coming from their best parcels of *Terres Blanches*, where shellfish fossils, such as Ammonites, are often found. Les Ammonites is normally not yeasted, but this depends on the vintage and on the vat. The wine stays on its lees until bottling in October or November following the subsequent harvest, and is never fined or filtered. It is made only in the top years, and the yield is kept between 45 and 55 hectoliters per hectare (the AOC rules permit up to 68 ha/he for Sancerre). Annual production averages 800 cases.
- *Sancerre rouge Origine*: Pinot Noir that is normally made with native yeast and aged in a large upright oak vat. Annual production averages 750 cases.
- *Sancerre rouge Grande Côte de la Vallée*: This is a west-facing slope that had been planted to Pinot Noir at the beginning of the twentieth century. Then phylloxera wiped out the vineyards, and this slope wasn't widely replanted because of the unevenness of the hillside, despite the fact that it was especially well suited to Pinot in Sancerre. Much of this slope is the face of a wedge of Portlandian Limestone, a type not near as prevalent as older Kimmeridgian or the oldest of all, Oxfordian Limestones. Portlandian has more clay than the latter but less than the former, and a fair amount of silty topsoil. The Roblins have 0.6 hectares (1.5 acres), and the wine is made entirely in demi-muids (new or one-year-old, depending on the vintage). Annual production averages 165 cases.
- *Sancerre rosé Origine*: Tank fermented Pinot Noir rosé. Nice stuff! Annual production averages 400 cases.