



KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

## DOMAINE MÉO-CAMUZET

Country: France

Region: Burgundy

Appellation(s): Bourgogne, Hautes Côtes de Nuits, Marsannay, Morey St-Denis, Fixin, Chambolle-Musigny, Gevrey-Chambertin, Nuits-St-Georges, Vosne-Romanée, Richebourg Grand Cru, Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru, Corton Grand Cru, and Échezeaux Grand Cru

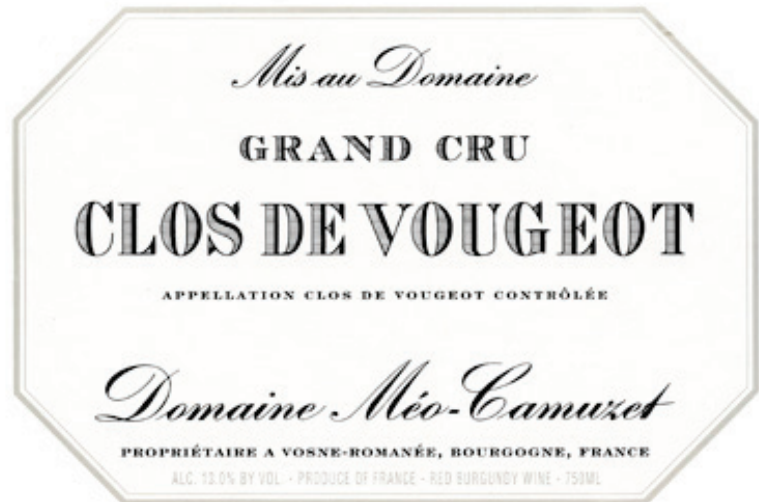
Producer: Jean-Nicolas Méo & family

Founded: 1902

Annual Production: N/A

Farming: Lutte raisonnée & Organic

Website: [www.meo-camuzet.com](http://www.meo-camuzet.com)



Méo-Camuzet is one of the most celebrated domaines of the Côte d'Or, located in the heart of prestigious Vosne-Romanée. The domaine boasts fourteen hectares of land in some of the most spectacular appellations and *crus* of Burgundy. The vineyard land in Burgundy is highly parceled out among families, which makes it rare for anyone to have enough vines to be able to bottle one *grand cru*, let alone the four that the Méos have. The early beginnings of the domaine left it in the hands of *métayers*, or share-croppers. The last twenty years have brought substantial changes that have fostered a new chapter for the Méo family.

Founder Étienne Camuzet was not only a passionate *vigneron*, but a full-time politician, and spent most of his time in Paris, representing the Côte d'Or. In order to keep his land in use, he offered it to capable share-croppers to farm. By the time his daughter had inherited the estate, she found herself with no successors, so the estate was passed down to her closest relative, Jean Méo. Jean was also deeply involved in national politics—he served as a member of Charles DeGaulle's cabinet. Consequently, he, too, had to direct the domaine from afar. In the early 1980s, as many of the *métayers* were starting to retire, it became clear that the domaine needed a new direction. Jean's son, Jean-Nicolas had also spent most of his life in Paris. By 1985, it was his turn to take the helm. In lieu of continuing to rent out their highly-pedigreed vineyards, he made the bold decision to slowly start reclaiming the land for the domaine's own bottlings. He called upon the resident expert, one of Burgundy's greatest winemakers of all time, Henri Jayer, for guidance. Henri had spent over forty years farming parcels from Méo-Camuzet under his own label, while enjoying celebrity status in the Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant portfolio. For three years, he mentored Jean-Nicolas during the transition and finally decided to retire in 1988. Though Jayer passed away in 2006, his legacy endures to this day.

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Jean-Nicolas has since directed the cellar and sales. He has put the vineyards in the capable hands of Christian Faurois, son of one of domaine's *métayers*, who has dedicated himself to these vineyards since 1973.

Domaine Méo-Camuzet bottles four astounding *grands crus* (Richebourg, Clos de Vougeot, Corton Clos Rognet, and Échezeaux, with two more Cortons soon on the way), ten *premier crus* (from the communes of Vosne-Romanée, Nuits-St-Georges, Chambolle-Musigny, and Fixin), several village wines, one Bourgogne *Rouge*, and only one white. Jean-Nicolas aims for balance and purity of fruit, which he accomplishes with terrific success. Though delicate and fine, even in their youth, the paradoxical concentration and intensity of these wines make them ideal for long cellar aging. These rare, stunning achievements are a Burgundy lover's dream.

## DOMAINE MÉO-CAMUZET

<u>Wine</u>	<u>Blend</u>	<u>Vine Age</u>	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Vineyard Area*</u>
<b>Hautes Côtes de Nuits Blanc</b> <i>Clos St-Philibert</i>	Chardonnay	Planted in early 1990s	Clay, Limestone, Gravel	3.5 ha
<b>Nuits-Saint-Georges Rouge</b>	Pinot Noir	> 50 years	Clay, Limestone	.6 ha
<b>Nuits-Saint-Georges 1<sup>er</sup> Cru Rouge</b> <i>Aux Boudots</i>		Planted in mid 1950s, 1960s	Fragmented Clay and Limestone	1 ha
<b>Nuits-Saint-Georges 1<sup>er</sup> Cru Rouge</b> <i>Aux Murgers</i>		Planted between 1965 and 1972	Clay, Limestone, Sand, Gravel	N/A
<b>Vosne-Romanée Rouge</b>		25-30 years, 60 years	Clay, Limestone	1.4 ha
<b>Vosne-Romanée 1<sup>er</sup> Cru Rouge</b> <i>Les Chaumes</i>		Planted in the 1950s, 1970s	Clay, Limestone	2 ha
<b>Vosne-Romanée 1<sup>er</sup> Cru Rouge</b> <i>Aux Brûlées</i>		Majority of vines planted in 1930s	Clay, Limestone, w/larger rocks	N/A
<b>Vosne-Romanée 1<sup>er</sup> Cru Rouge</b> <i>Au Cros Parantoux</i>		Planted in 1950s	Steep with Clay, Limestone, Gravel	.3 ha
<b>Richebourg Grand Cru</b>		Planted in 1950s	Clay, Limestone	.34 ha
<b>Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru</b>		Vines from 1920s, 1960s, 1980s, 1990s	Clay, Limestone	3 ha
<b>Corton Clos Rognet Grand Cru</b>		Planted in 1920s	Clay, Limestone	.45 ha
<b>Échezeaux Grand Cru</b>	Planted in late 1940s	Clay, Limestone	.44 ha	

\* "ha"=hectares; one hectare equals roughly two and a half acres



## MÉO-CAMUZET FRÈRES ET SŒURS

This, the *négociant* entity of the family domaine, works closely with local growers to source the best fruit available in some of Burgundy's finest *terroirs*. Vines are tended with the same best practices that the family espouses. The Méos oversee vineyard management, and they care for the wines in the cellars with the same attention to detail and respect of *terroir* that they do those of the domaine.

<u>Wine</u>	<u>Blend</u>	<u>Vine Age</u>	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Vineyard Area*</u>
<b>Bourgogne Rouge</b>	Pinot Noir	N/A	Clay, Limestone	N/A
<b>Marsannay</b>		60 years		
<b>Fixin</b>		25 years, 50 years		
<b>Fixin 1<sup>er</sup> Cru</b>		50 years		
<i>Clos du Chapitre</i>				
<b>Morey St-Denis</b>		Middle-aged vines		
<b>Chambolle-Musigny</b>		Middle-aged vines, very old vines		
<b>Chambolle-Musigny 1<sup>er</sup> Cru</b>		Younger vines		
<i>Les Cras</i>		Younger vines		
<b>Chambolle-Musigny 1<sup>er</sup> Cru</b>				
<i>Les Feusselottes</i>				
<b>Gevrey-Chambertin</b>		Middle-aged vines, very old vines		
<b>Nuits-Saint-Georges 1<sup>er</sup> Cru</b>		40 years		
<i>Aux Argillas</i>	50 + years			
<b>Nuits-Saint-Georges 1<sup>er</sup> Cru</b>				
<i>Les Perrières</i>				

\* "ha"=hectares; one hectare equals roughly two and a half acres

## VITICULTURE / VINIFICATION

### In the vineyards:

- Soils are ploughed regularly by horse to keep the ground soft
- Vines are treated without synthetic chemicals of any kind. Méo-Camuzet is moving in the direction of organic farming, with thoughtful experimentation performed to test the methodology
- Yields are limited through pruning rather than a green harvest
- Vines are trained to grow higher than the norm, and leaves are eliminated at the base of the vine to allow the grapes better ventilation (useful in the prevention against rot)
- The harvest, all by hand, usually occurs in late September

### In the cellar:

- Bunches are gently carried to the winery, and then rigorously sorted on conveyor belts, with anywhere from 5-20% of the crop discarded to better ensure quality
- Grapes macerate on their skins from 3-5 days at low temperatures



## KERMIT LYNCH *WINE MERCHANT*

### DOMAINE MÉO-CAMUZET (continued)

- Fermentation occurs in temperature-controlled concrete vats, lasting for 2-3 weeks
- Only small doses of sulfur are used
- Punch-downs occur only at the end of the vinification process
- Barrel Regime: Careful consideration is given to the barrels and the percentage of new oak used: the percentages vary according to the *terroir* and the vintage. Méo-Camuzet works in close association with coopers Maison François Frères to find the best diversity of local oaks within the same forest—a necessity in capturing the nuances of each cuvée. Méo has also experimented with the occasional integration of Hungarian oak into their collection.
- Wines are racked and blended in vats 3-4 weeks before bottling
- Wines are bottled (unfiltered) by gravity about 17 months after the harvest

#### **Individual Cuvées:**

For specific information with regard to each wine, we encourage you to read further on Méo's extensive and highly informative website, which is written both in English and French:

[www.meo-camuzet.com](http://www.meo-camuzet.com)