

BEAUJOLAIS

**DESIGNES
MORGON**

OVERVIEW | Louis-Claude Designes and his daughter Claude-Emmanuel, 7th and 8th generation vigneron, produce some of the finest Morgons in the appellation. Their vineyards lie in the center of Morgon, where the fruit is far superior to that in the outlying areas of the appellation. They have several plots located on the best exposition of the hill, with soil of decomposed schist.

VINEYARD AREA: 13 hectares

ANNUAL PRODUCTION: 2100 cases

TOP SITES: Javernieres

SOIL TYPES: clay, granite, and schist

GRAPE VARIETIES: gamay

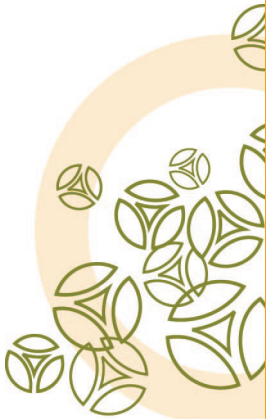
The vineyards are on the Montagne de Py in the center of Morgon, which boasts far superior quality fruit to that produced in the outlying areas of the appellation. If there were a classification of vineyards in Morgon, Côte-du-Py would be a premier cru and Javernières a grand cru. They are located on the best exposition of the hill, with soil of decomposed schist, and Javernières is a plot within the Côte-du-Py with a little more clay.

Morgon, along with Moulin-à-Vent, is the most age worthy of the Cru Beaujolais and Designes wines are fine examples. The wines age well and take on the character of Pinot Noir, or pinotize (the term used in Beaujolais). When young, the character is of dark cherry, raspberry and blackcurrant. With age, the wines become more earthy, velvety with cocoa and coffee tones.

VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES | Designes used to pick the fruit later than other Morgon vigneron in an effort get fruit of optimal ripeness, but as the growing conditions have seen warmer vintages, he is picking more in line with his neighbors now. The wine is vinified by the traditional cru Beaujolais method employing carbonic maceration and keeping the cap submerged. The fermentation is now longer and more controlled than in the past in order to extract the color and material that are the most obvious virtues of the Designes wine.

WINES | **Morgon Cote du Py** - The Designes farm only 2 hectares of Morgon's most famous site - the Cote du Py. And with their big reputation in France, most is sold at the domaine's door to loyal customers who make the pilgrimage every year to collect their allocation.

Morgon Javernieres - Made and matured in large old oak, the Designes 3 hectares of Javernières vines are located on some of the steepest old schist slopes of the Côte Du Py in Beaujolais.

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