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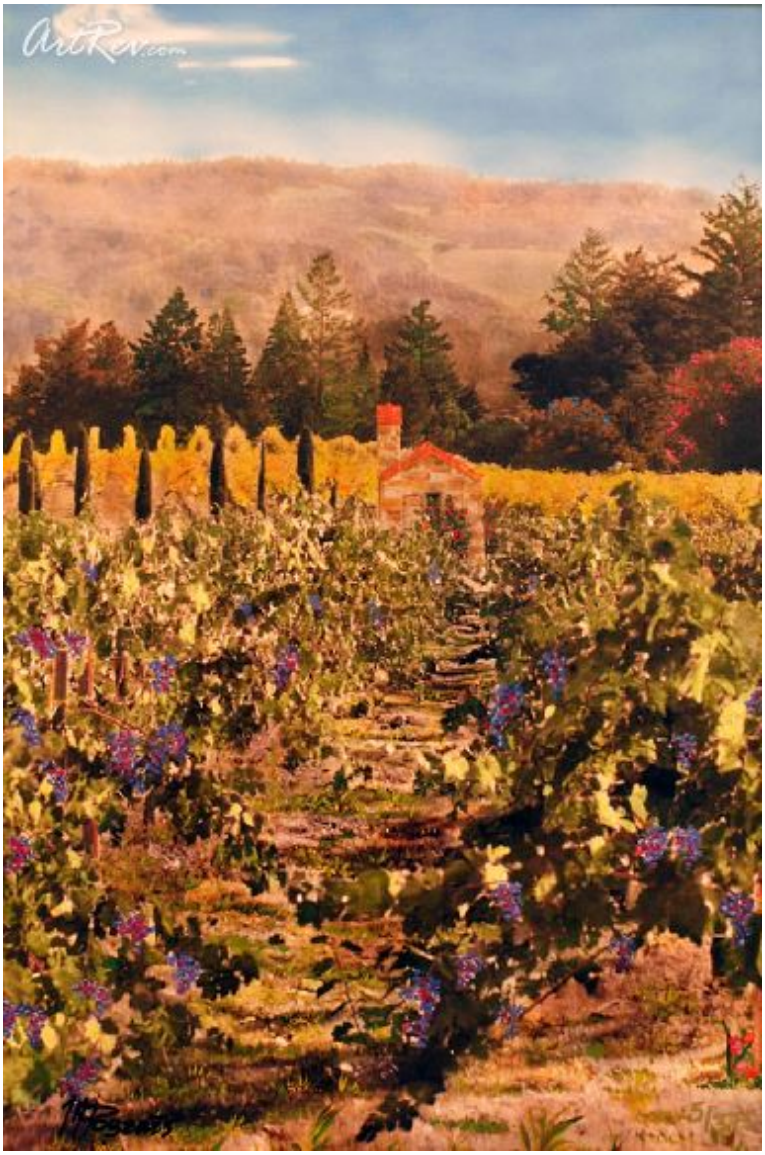
# Little Vineyard *by* Martin Roberts

Giclee on Canvas - Main Subject: Scenic



**Item Number**
5911451656

**Retail Value**
$400

**ArtRev.com Price**
$199
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**Dimensions (As Shown)**
13.25W x 19.75H Inches
33.66W x 50.16H cm

**Medium**
Giclee on Canvas

**Edition**
- Limited Edition of 375
- Hand-Signed
- Numbered

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## About Martin Roberts

Martin Roberts began his artistic career as a boy with a brownie box camera. Today, he is one of the most collected and owned artists in the country, with his works in such spectacular settings as the Venetian and Bellagio Resorts, the Vatican or in simple stores of main streets across America. His works capture the rustic detail and atmosphere of Mediterranean landscapes.

Martin s work is visually appealing with a detail unimaginable because he is a mixed-media artist. His work is collected as a fine art paintings, which in fact they are...but they have all started with extraordinary black and white photographs over which he layers acrylics, watercolors, and oil paints. The result is exquisite, three dimensional, extremely informal and relaxing, with cascading flowers, foliage and textured colored walls.

Mediterranean, Provence and Tuscany subjects are his specialization with series featuring Venice and quaint English Cottages as well. One of his most well known pieces entitled Cardinal at the Vatican was produced for Cardinal Hamer of the Vatican. His exhibitions have included the Leica Gallery in Manhattan; a distinction so rarely given to American artists.

I want to create a work of art with a composition so compelling that my collectors say that this is something that they must own. Not because of the financial rewards it brings me, which in fact is nice&but it is so extremely flattering that people whom I have never met have my work hanging in their homes.

Not long after the beginnings of photography in the mid-1800s, hand-tinted colors were applied to black and white photos to enhance the image and create the appearance of color. This process continued to grow in popularity until the emergence of color film. A renewed interest in hand-tinting came about in the 1960s and appears, once again, to be gaining popularity.

While some people indulge in photo tinting for fun these days, adding color to black and white Photos has been a passion of Orange County artist/photographer Martin Roberts for more than 25 Years.

"I'm the only person I know who shoots black and white film in the tropics," he said.

Roberts describes his work as hand-painted, rather than hand-tinted. He uses acrylics, watercolors, gouaches and oils--often on the same piece to create different shades and textures.

"I consider my work hand-painted since I use a variety of paints, layering and adding color until the work becomes an art itself," he said. "The colors vary between the different mediums. That's why I use many types of paint." I look for what is going to give the best color. My goal is to emulate a striking realism in the work. I want the colors to be believable."

His interest in painting and photography has over the years become a successful career--his prints are sold throughout the world and have enabled him to be represented in some of the most prestigious galleries in the world.

"Essentially, hand-tinting is a process that attempt to turn black and white photo into a color photograph, said Roberts."

Some people go for the surreal look; neon green grass, purples, sky colors that aren't found naturally."

Most beginning hand-tinters use photo oils, specially prepared colors (available in most art supply stores) designed to tint photographs, rather than the paints Roberts prefers. However, he says, no amount of hand-tinting or painting can "save" a poor quality photo. The strength of the work comes from the strength of the image.

"The image is only as strong as the photograph," he said. "You want something that will emotionally move people. The photo has to be able to stand on its own without any paint on it. I don't just pop out of a car and shoot a cow and paint it purple. I'm trying to shoot the perfect image. Something magical. No amount of paint or effort will save an image that's not substantial."

Lucky timing has blessed some of his photos, but sometimes a more direct approach has served him. While shooting an archway in the Vatican, Roberts noticed a priest proceeding in the direction he was going to shoot.

"I approached the gentleman, explained that I was a professional photographer and asked him if he would mind walking through the portico so I could have him silhouetted against a statue at St. Peter's Basilica.

"He looked at me and said, "I'm not going that far." "But you'll do it for me won't you?" I asked. "He smiled and nodded and then proceeded through the archway. Just before he reached that point, he took off his hood and I saw the red cardinal's cap. The gentleman was Cardinal Hammer, one of 13 cardinals who live at the Vatican.

"That shot is one of my most popular and in fact, an original hangs in the Vatican today."

## Giclee on Canvas

Giclee [zhee-clay] is a French term meaning a 'squirt or spray of ink'. This process utilizes sophisticated printing techniques whereby an industrial 8-Color to 12-Color inkjet printer sprays a staggering four million droplets of ink per second onto archival fine art paper or canvas. Requiring highly sophisticated printers and special pigment inks for an extremely wide color gamut, this blend of fine art and state-of-the-art technology produces exceptional fine art prints. Giclee prints are usually coated with a high quality gloss or varnish to minimize abrasion and increase resistance to image fading. Additionally, protective coatings protect expensive prints against moisture.

Giclee prints render deep, saturated colors and retain minute detail, subtle tints and blends. The quality of the giclee print rivals traditional silver-halide and gelatin printing processes and is commonly found in museums, art galleries, and photographic galleries.

The giclee printing process provides better color accuracy than other means of reproduction. The prints may be hand embellished by the artist using paint, ink and gold foil stamping for a mixed media effect. Giclee prints are sometimes mistakenly referred to as Iris prints, which are 4-Color ink-jet prints from a printer pioneered in the late 1970s by Iris Graphics.

Numerous examples of giclee prints can be found in New York City at the Metropolitan Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Chelsea Galleries. Recent auctions of giclee prints have fetched as much as $20,000.

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