

WINESTATE

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND WINE BUYING GUIDE

CABERNET & BORDEAUX CHALLENGE

FEATURING

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ORGANIC
WINES
139 TASTED

DEMAND
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Wines of Austria

FEATURE TASTING • 122 TASTED

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HOW THIS
MARKET IS
RE-EMERGING

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AUSTRIA'S WINE
INDUSTRY IS
LOOKING TO
NATIVE GRAPE
VARIETIES TO
REGAIN ITS
REPUTATION
AS AN
INTERNATIONAL
PLAYER
IN THE WINE
WORLD.



A. J. Brendamour

Going Native



DAN TRAUCKI

WINESTATE has conducted the first significant Australian tasting of Austrian wines. Before you peruse the results of this landmark tasting, here are some interesting facts about Austrian wine.

The small, land-locked nation of Austria used to punch well above its weight in the international wine world - just like Australia has been doing in recent times. Lead by its amazing sweet ice wines and enhanced by Reidel, the world's leading wine glass manufacturer, their winemaking prowess was well recognised and appreciated around the globe. Then in 1985 Austria suffered a wine scandal which saw a few unscrupulous winemakers shatter its reputation and exports. It was a sad affair, with nearly 4000 years of history and reputation wiped out in one fell swoop.

After introducing the most stringent wine rules in the world, Austria has slowly been clawing its way back into the global spotlight thanks to the amazing job being done by the crew at the Austrian Wine Marketing Board (AWMB), coupled with the resurgence of interest in Austria's native grape varieties.

To put Austria into an Australian context, the country is only 22 per cent bigger than Tasmania, or roughly one-third the size of Victoria, and yet is home to some 8.6 million people (Tassie 500,000 and Victoria 5.3 million), making it an intensely farmed

and highly organised country which produces around 25 million litres (2.7 million cases) of wine a year.

Those few Aussies who have heard of Austrian wine think it is all about the classic European white wine varieties - riesling, sauvignon blanc and chardonnay as well as perhaps the star native white variety, gruner veltliner - however there is a lot more to Austrian wines than that, as these days around 30 per cent of Austrian wines are red.

In addition to gruner veltliner, Austria has a number of native varieties that are just starting to make their presence felt in the wine world. In the whites these include neuburger, rotgipfler, zierfandler and roter veltliner. The red native varietals are blaufrankisch, zweigelt, st laurent and blauer wildbacher. While many of these names are tongue twisters, the main thing to remember is that Austrian whites are generally light, bright, crisp to steely and are both enjoyable on their own or with food. The reds are elegant, complex, lighter in style (than Aussie reds), cool-climate wines that can be thought of as "being like a pinot noir that has been working out at the gym". The classic European varieties such as cabernet sauvignon and merlot merely play a supporting role in Austria, with eight times more blaufrankisch planted than cabernet. In the whites the skew is even more dramatic, with fifty-five times more gruner veltliner

“ The classic European varieties such as cabernet sauvignon and merlot merely play a supporting role in Austria. ”

planted that sauvignon blanc - the most planted “European” white varietal.

Austria has two official wine classifications - Klassic and Reserve. Klassic wines are released as soon as possible after vintage and contain under 13 per cent alcohol. They are more straight forwardly made and are less complex wines. Reserve is the designation for Qualitatswein (Quality) wines of more than 13 per cent alcohol. These wines are at least 12-months old when released and generally have been made in a more complex style such as longer oak maturation or matured on lees, etc. So if you see a wine Klassic you know that it will be lighter and fresher in style than one labelled Reserve, which will have greater depth and be more complex.

There are also strict rules covering prädikatswein (sweet wines), which cover the whole gamut from spätlese through to the world-class eiswein (ice wine), made from frozen grapes with amazing levels of grape sugar.

The 2015 vintage, which was harvested in September/October, is showing great promise as a classic year, with many exciting wines, despite isolated incidents of heavy hail. AWMB reported that: “The most important variety grüner veltliner consistently yielded very juicy, nicely rounded wines with a rather mild structure of acidity”. It went on to say that the reds were looking as good, if not possibly better, than the excellent 2011 vintage and that the vintage was shaping up superbly for sweet wines. Around the country 2015 was a superb vintage set to enhance






the reputation of Austrian wines across the globe and provide a great deal of drinking pleasure.

One of the interesting features of Winestate's tasting was the consistency of quality of both the gruner veltliner and riesling. While the style and taste of the 30 or so gruner veltliners and rieslings in the line-up varied depending on how the winemaker made the wine, as a Klassic or Reserve, the inherent flavour and quality of the wines was amazingly consistent.

The range of Austrian wines available in Australia is growing as more people become aware of them. There is also a small number of Australian wineries producing excellent wines from Austrian varieties, especially gruner veltliner. At present this focus is in the Adelaide Hills where wineries such as Hahndorf Hills, Hand Crafted by Geoff Hardy, Eccentric Wine Company, Longview and The Pawn Wine Company, are all producing superb gruner. Then there is Canberra's Lark Hill Winery which has won accolades in Austria for its gruner.

So, "seek and ye shall find" because Austrian wines are really worth the effort. 

Previous page: Wine list wood engraving, published c. 1876.

Opposite page: A view of buildings and vineyards in Krems, Austria during the summer months.

Top: Austrian vineyard at sunset.



122 TASTED
102 AWARDED

AUSTRIA

A very interesting tasting of very desirable Austrian wines that we had the pleasure of reviewing. Gruner Veltliner is an up and coming variety in Australia and here we saw how well it is made in the old country. Riesling also offers the Germanic style "trocken" flavours that are quite distinct with racy acidity. Some great wines to hunt down for alternative drinking!

SPARKLING

2 TASTED
1 AWARDED

One interesting example showing herbal spice characters.

**Reiterer Sekt Brut
Südsteiermark
Sauvignon Blanc
NV ★★1/2**

A simple consumer friendly rich fruity sparkling with fresh aromas and upfront muscat/spicy fruit flavours. \$N/A

OTHER WHITES

13 TASTED
10 AWARDED

The judges thought this a mixed group of interesting wines with 'dancing' flavours.

**Christ Bisamberg
Wr Gemischter Satz
DAC 2014 ★★★★★**

A lovely simple drink with full fruity fragrances and a pretty palate of ripe apples and citrus and some residual sweetness. €32 EU

**Leth Scheiben
Wagram Roter
Veltliner 2013 ★★★★★**

Beautifully aged wine bursting with super ripe apple and pear-like fruit and balanced by the lovely acid freshness. Drink now! €20 EU

**Muster Gamlitz
Grubthal Chardonnay
2012 ★★★★★**

Traditional style. Toasty oak dominates the nose with a lovely unctuous interplay on the palate between the fruit and oak. €26 EU

**Heinrich Hartl
Rotgipfler
2013 ★★1/2**

A full developed fruit-driven wine with interesting textural components and some residual sweetness. €5.90 EU

**Goldenits Bio Cuvée
Weiß Burgenland
Muskat Cuvee
2015 ★★★★★**

Muscat and marzipan sweetness to the nose and rich sweet boiled lolly palate. €5.50 EU

**Lenz Moser Prestige
Pinot Gris 2015 ★★★★★**

A simple easy drinking style with vibrant green fruits and fresh with racy acidity. \$N/A

**Muster Gamlitz
Klassik Muskateller
2015 ★★★★★**

Light floral/muscat bouquet and a sweet, light and simple palate. Easy drinking. €9 EU

**Heidi Schröck
Burgenland Pinot
Blanc 2014 ★★★★★**

Smells of poached pears with tight green/floral palate and long line of acidity. \$29.95

**Prieler Haidatz
Pinot Blanc
2013 ★★★★★**

Full ripe style with considerable oak and some honeyed bottle age. Needs food. €23 EU

**Tement Steinbach
Gelber Muskateller
2011 ★★★★★**

A huge fragrant muscat nose with more of the same of the pretty palate. Good acidity. €19.90 EU

SAUVIGNON BLANC & BLENDS

13 TASTED
9 AWARDED

"These are not your New Zealand style of sauvignon blancs," noted one judge. "They are textural, aromatic and pretty and different." Another judge found them more like young viogniers.

**Muster Gamlitz
Grubthal Sauvignon
Blanc 2013 ★★★★★1/2**

A good example of the variety with lovely ripe fresh gooseberry and melon aromas and oodles of melon/passionfruit flavours. Some bottle age and good acid balance. €26 EU

**Erich + Walter Polz
Czamilla Sauvignon
Blanc 2014 ★★★★★**

Jubey-like fruit aromas with a gentle herbal edge. The palate is zesty and refreshing and rich with pleasant varietal flavours. €17.65 EU

JUDGES



Geoff Hardy
Owner, Wines by Geoff Hardy and K1 Wines. Vigneron and grapegrower. Wine Industry consulting in both France and Australia.



Larry Jacobs
Co-owner of Hahndorf Hill winery. Gruner veltliner grower, winemaker and fanatic. Extensively researched the variety in Austria. Previously established Mulderbosch Vineyards in Stellenbosch.



Louisa Rose
Chief winemaker for Yalumba Wines with seventeen vintages completed. Regular senior judge on the capital city wine show circuit, including chair of the Royal Perth Wine Show in 2009.

**Rebenhof
Hartmut Aubell
Südsteiermark
Sauvignon Blanc
2013 ★★★★★**

Melons and green peaches lift off the nose with a very pretty zesty fresh palate; nice balance between the sweet fruit and texture. €11.50 EU

**Hannes Sabathi
Kranachberg
Südsteiermark
Sauvignon Blanc
2013 ★★★★★1/2**

Green melon bouquet with a muscat element. Lovely palate texture, some oak characters and a hint of sweetness. €24 EU

**Erich + Walter Polz
Hochgrasnitzberg
Sauvignon Blanc
2011 ★★★★★1/2**

Lovely and fresh and rich and showing great complexity and finesse at the same time. Holding up very well. €25.65 EU

**Muster Gamlitz
Reverenz Sauvignon
Blanc 2014 ★★★**

Nose of herbs and melons with mocha oak influence. Slightly developed palate; lingering flavours. €12.50 EU

**Tement Steirische
Klassik Sauvignon
Blanc 2014 ★★★**

Pale straw hue. A light simple varietal with zesty green fruit on the nose and long fresh flavours. €10.90 EU

**Tement
Grassnitzberg
Sauvignon Blanc
2014 ★★★**

Gentle green fruit fragrances with more of the same echoed on the vibrant acid palate. €17.50 EU

**Tement Zieregg
Sauvignon Blanc
2013 ★★★**

Attractive varietal fruit here with some yeasty/hair oil-like characters tending to dominate. €34.50 EU

**GRUNER
VELTLINER
2015**

9 TASTED
8 AWARDED

An excellent class of consistently fine quality wines. They are young and fresh and offering great drinking now.

**Bernhard Ott Am
Berg Gruner Veltliner
2015 ★★★★★1/2**

Fresh and young and with oodles of lovely fruit showing a citrus core surrounded by banana and peach characters. Long, even and refreshing palate. "Has staying power." €17.77 EU

**Domäne Wachau
Terrassen Federspiel
Gruner Veltliner
2015 ★★★★★1/2**

Lovely nose - smells like a fresh herb garden. Good balance between the citrus, stonefruit and tropical flavours with some sweetness and lovely natural acid to balance. \$25

**Nigl Gärtling
Niederösterreich
Gruner Veltliner
2015 ★★★★★1/2**

A rich crunchy fruit style with subtle stonefruit and herbal fragrances and a big burst of citrus and stonefruit flavours showing a hint of spice and a dash of white pepper. €21.18 EU

**Nigl Senftenberger
Piri Niederösterreich
Gruner Veltliner
2015 ★★★★★1/2**

Fresh and youthful aromas with subtle citrus and spice elements. Long and refreshing palate with good stonefruit flavours. A tad acid but great with food. €24.65 EU

**Stift Göttweig
Messwein
Gruner Veltliner
2015 ★★★★★1/2**

Clean peaches and citrus aromas with floral fragrances and a long creamy palate that's fresh and vibrant with orange peel and stonefruit flavours. €7.50 EU

**Jäger Ried Klaus
Federspiel Wachau
Gruner Veltliner
2015 ★★★★★**

Stonefruit and citrus on the young vibrant nose with a gentle mélange of grapefruit, pear and honeycomb flavours on the palate. \$N/A

**Leth Schafflerberg
Wagram Gruner
Veltliner 2015 ★★★★★**

Big, rich and a tad warm with generous citrus and ripe stonefruit characters. Great palate texture and fruit sweetness. €12 EU

**Rabl Langenlois
Gruner Veltliner
2015 ★★★★★**

A very pretty, fresh, wine with simple confectionery varietal characters on both the subdued nose and lively palate. "Early days." 3-5 €9 EU

**GRUNER
VELTLINER
2014**

22 TASTED
22 AWARDED

Another excellent group of high quality wines.

A year older than the previous class but still tight fine wines or richer well-textured style.

Great balance of acidity and fresh fruit flavours.

**Hiedler Spiegel
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★1/2**

Very strong varietal character on the nose; spicy, herbal and citrusy. Some bottle age evolving. Fresh and flavoursome palate with lively citrus fruit. \$N/A

**Hiedler Thal
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★1/2**

A long, delicious and pristine clean wine that has a soft citrusy bouquet and a full chewy palate with spicy peppery flavours that "dance in the mouth." \$N/A

**Laurenz V. Singing
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★1/2**

"Very different from the previous wines," according to one judge. Has powerful peppery characters on the nose and a more savoury, creamy and very graceful, style palate. \$N/A

**Laurenz V. Friendly
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★1/2**

Vibrantly fresh aromas with bright citrus and spice elements. The lively zesty palate is full of spices and citrus brightness with an excellent long crunchy texture. \$N/A

**Stift Göttweig
Gottschelle
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★1/2**

Full savoury nose with spice and some malo work. The palate shows retained citrusy vibrancy with nice spiciness and underscored by "electric"-like acidity. €22.90 EU

**Winzerhof Sax
Kamptal DAC
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★1/2**

A complex leesy wine with loads of lime fragrances and a dash of white pepper. Nicely textured palate has lovely citrus persistence and a great vibrant streak. €6.50 EU

**Winzerhof Sax Alte
Reben Reserve
Kamptal DAC
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★1/2**

Fresh citrus and some savoury elements on the nose with a hint of brioche. Simple zesty citrus-driven palate shows some aged characters developing. €8 EU

**Winzerhof Sax
Panzaun Reserve
Kamptal DAC
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★1/2**

Overt oaky nose with butterscotch-like characters. Very pretty palate has a creamy texture and attractive balance between the citrus and spices. Still very young. €10 EU

**Bernhard Ott Fass
4 Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★**

Fresh lemon rind fragrances and a very youthful crunchy palate with flashes of grapefruit flavours and a hint of caramel. €25.38 EU

**Hiedler
Schenkenbichl
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★**

A warm wine; high levels of alcohol. Has ripe stonefruit aromas and zesty stonefruit flavours with "an amazing spicy character." \$N/A

**Laurenz V. Charming
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★**

Gentle and spicy on the nose with soft ripe varietal fruit lifting out the glass. Excellent palate texture. Good varietal expression. \$N/A

**Leth Brunnthall, 1
ÖTW Wagram Gruner
Veltliner 2014 ★★★★★**

A classic Gruner style with a fine gentle nose that shows some botrytis development as does the palate that is more savoury than sweet. €16 EU

**Malterser Ritterorden
Weinviertel DAC
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★**

Floral fragrances resulting from early picked fruit and a young light-bodied palate with a crunchy texture and savoury elements. \$N/A

**Schloss Gobelsburg
Ried Steinsetz
Reserve Kamptal
DAC Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★**

Almost tropical on the nose with great varietal fruit length on the palate. More of a savoury style that's quite high in alcohol. \$32

**Schloss Gobelsburg
Ried Renner Erste
Lage Reserve
Kamptal DAC Gruner
Veltliner 2014 ★★★★★**

Quite a savoury nose with a hint of stonefruit peeping through. Warming palate has crunchy pear and honey ice-cream flavours. \$45

**Stift Klosterneuburg
Hengsberg Gruner
Veltliner 2014 ★★★★★**
Quite a 'worked', complex and very flavoursome wine. Nose a tad subdued, palate is full and creamy with good thread of acid. €9.80 EU

**Thierry-Weber
Kremser Sandgrube
Kremstal DAC
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★**

Savoury on the nose with delicate citrus notes. Palate has good balance between the savoury elements and the vibrant citrus fruit. €7.50 EU

**Winzerhof Sax
Zwillingslauser
Kamptal DAC Gruner
Veltliner 2014 ★★★★★**
Lovely aromas of tropical fruit and roses and an excellent youthful fruit palate with good balance between the fruit and acid. €7 EU

**Geyerhof
Steinhleithn Erste
Lage Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★**

Full ripe and very primary on the nose. Big and chewy in the mouth with nice balance of citrus and spice flavours. Needs food! €13.9 EU

**Hirsch Kammerner
Heiligenstein
Kamptal DAC
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★★★1/2**

A very ripe style with some yeastiness still evident and a long limey palate balanced with mineral-like elements. \$36

**Leth Scheiben, 1
ÖTW Wagram Gruner
Veltliner 2014 ★★★**

An attractive, richer, sweeter style with obvious orange blossom and apricot botrytis elements. €20 EU

**Rudi Pichler
Federspiel Wachau
Gruner Veltliner
2014 ★★★**

A good food wine with a great combo of stonefruit, gentle spices and savoury notes. \$N/A

**GRUNER
VELTLINER
2013 & OLDER**

18 TASTED
17 AWARDED

Yet another consistently recommendable class of nicely ageing wines that still remain fresh and lively. Some were showing secondary flavour character adding complexity.

**Rabl Käferberg
Gruner Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★**

Lovely powerful creamy aromas of orange peel and herbs and touches of caramel. Palate is a complex package of zesty fresh orange peel, dried apricot and herbal flavours. €19 EU

**Bernhard Ott
Rosenberg
Feuersbrunner
Gruner Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★1/2**

A rich, full, barrel worked style that's ageing very well. Has ripe fruit aromas and rich creamy flavours with a thread of citrus peel and a hint of sweetness. €49.49 EU



**Hirsch Kammerner
Grub Reserve
Kamptal DAC
Gruner Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★1/2**

A full on varietal with powerful natural acid. Smells of yellow stonefruits and spices. Delicious palate; lovely savoury fruit flavours; floral/peppery notes. \$75

**Hirtzberger Franz
Honivogl Smaragd
Wachau Gruner
Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★1/2**

Rich botrytis influences to the orange blossom fragrances. Big, rich and hot in the mouth with gravelly texture and rich with spicy fruit flavours. \$N/A

**Nigl Privat
Senftenberger
Pellingen Reserve
Kamptal DAC
Gruner Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★1/2**

A big warm and buttery style. The floral nose has a caramelized character and the palate offers a lovely mix of spicy, peachy, zesty lemon flavours. €60.05 EU

**Rudi Pichler
Kollmuetz Wösendorf
Smaragd Wachau
Gruner Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★1/2**

Nose is almost tropical in character. The palate is long, balanced and youthful with a 'tumble' of tropical fruit, spice and grapefruit flavours. \$N/A

**Rudi Pichler
Hochrain Wösendorf
Smaragd Wachau
Gruner Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★1/2**

Nose still has plenty of vibrant primary fruit characters. Palate is long, chewy and complex with great drying texture and a very nice flavour profile. \$N/A

**Thierry-Weber Gebling
Reserve Kremstal
DAC Gruner Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★1/2**

Fresh, long and lovely with a big spicy lift to the nectarine-like nose and well-balanced palate with great persistence of spicy primary fruit flavours. €16 EU

**Winzer Krems
Kremser Wachtberg
Reserve Kremstal
DAC Gruner Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★1/2**

Excellent nose - all ripe yellow fruits and herbs. An unctuous mouthfilling palate with a fabulous length of citrus and spice flavours. "Great texture." \$N/A

**Domäne Wachau
Achleiten Smaragd
Gruner Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★**

Aromas of dried peaches and herbs. Long drying palate with crunchy spicy Nashi pear flavours, some herbs and a phenolic note. \$51

**Nastl Steinmassl
Reserve Kamptal
DAC Gruner Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★**

Restrained floral fragrances; some development evident. Creamy in the mouth with good line of vibrant varietal fruit characters. €7.90 EU

**Nastl Gigant
Veltliner 2005 ★★★★★**
A tad hot and angular; still very vibrant for its age. Toasty/toffee-like bottle age on the nose and long, herbal stonefruit flavours. €11.90 EU

**Hirtzberger Franz
Rotes Tor Federspiel
Wachau Gruner
Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★1/2**

Gentle primary fruit bouquet and fresh, yet unctuous, palate with spicy citrus fruit and quite tart acidity. \$N/A

**Salomon Undhof
Von Stein Reserve
Kremstal DAC
Gruner Veltliner
2013 ★★★★★1/2**

Some wood obvious on the slightly savoury nose. Quite an austere and savoury palate with crunchy acidity. \$N/A

**Alzinger Steinertal
Smaragd Gruner
Veltliner 2013 ★★★**
Still closed and youthful on the nose with a great explosion of spicy stonefruit flavours. \$N/A

**Ebner-Ebnauer
Black Edition
Niederösterreich
Gruner Veltliner
2013 ★★★**

Smoky oak aromas. More oak influence obvious on the palate but has good fruit underneath. \$N/A

**F.X. Pichler
Dürnsteiner
Liebenberg Smaragd
Wachau Gruner
Veltliner 2013 ★★★**

Attractive green tea/stonefruit fragrances and flavoursome palate; some residual sweetness. \$N/A

RIESLING

22 TASTED
20 AWARDED

A great class; a few were marked down because of a touch of excess botrytis overtones. Overall a great range of riesling varietal flavours from the elegant to the rich flavoursome styles.

Rabl Langenlois Riesling

2014 ★★★★★
A beautiful classic riesling bouquet of fresh lifted limes with a floral edge. Gentle texture to a palate that is a vibrant and chewy mélange of citrus and dried apricot flavours. €7.50 EU

Rudi Pichler Achleithen Weissenkirchner Smaragd Wachau Riesling

2013 ★★★★★
A pure riesling varietal in the floral spectrum. Pleasant spiciness to the vibrant nose. Big and chewy on the mouth with oodles of lime and clove-like flavours and lots of texture. \$N/A

Thierry-Weber Gebling Reserve Kremstal DAC Riesling

2013 ★★★★★
Gentle spicy characters to the herbal/citrus aromas. A big full-bodied palate with some beautiful varietal fruit and excellent texture. "It has great verve," noted one judge. €16 EU

Schloss Gobelsburg Urgestein Niederösterreich Riesling

2015 ★★★★★1/2
A very elegant riesling. Nose not giving much away yet. The long lingering palate has gentle citrus and pear characters expanding along the palate. Great potential. \$28

F.X. Pichler Loibner Burgstall Federspiel Wachau Riesling

2014 ★★★★★1/2
A floral apricot bouquet with light botrytis notes. The racy "electric" palate has an intense citrus flavour profile. Very youthful and showing plenty of promise. \$N/A

Alzinger Loibenberg Smaragd Riesling

2013 ★★★★★1/2
A fresh and flavoursome wine. Interesting mix of floral and brioche-like aromas. Long mineral palate has great freshness and loads of citrus, pear and spicy flavours. \$N/A

Domäne Wachau Achleithen Smaragd Riesling

2013 ★★★★★1/2
Apricots and orange blossom fruits fill the glass with lovely aromas. The palate is long and graceful with ample texture and mouthfilling apricot/pear flavours. \$51

Salomon Undthof Metternich Pfaffenberger Estate Lage Kremstal DAC Riesling

2011 ★★★★★1/2
A pretty riesling with lovely aged characters developing. Some lanolin elements to the pear-like nose. Very flavoursome lemongrass/dried pear palate. \$N/A

Domäne Wachau Terrassen Federspiel Riesling

2015 ★★★★★
Super fresh and very appealing wine offering youthful zesty fruit. Has light floral/botrytis characters on the nose and sweet/sour flavours. \$25

Hiedler Heiligenstein Riesling

2014 ★★★★★
Smells of boiled lollies, citrus and crushed herbs. The rounded palate is layered with lime and apple flavours and quite grainy tannins. \$N/A

Schloss Gobelsburg Ried Heiligenstein Erste Lage Reserve Kamptal DAC Riesling

2014 ★★★★★
A fine and very pretty style of riesling with gentle citrus aromas, a hint of botrytis and a finely textured palate with mouthfilling flavours. \$75

Hirtzberger Franz Singerriedel Smaragd Wachau Riesling

2013 ★★★★★
A rich and complex riesling with some great fruit. Nose is restrained, the palate is long, full and spicy. Good level of residual sugar. \$N/A

Jäger Steinriegl Federspiel Wachau Riesling

2015 ★★★★★1/2
Nose still closed; just a hint of citrus and herbs. Lovely flavour profile reminiscent of a lemon tart with a dash of spice. \$N/A

Hirsch Zöbing Heiligenstein Reserve Kamptal DAC Riesling

2014 ★★★★★1/2
Showing some typical toasty/kero-like development on the floral nose and a long, full and interesting varietal palate. \$36

Stadt Krems Schieferterrassen Riesling

2014 ★★★★★1/2
A savoury style with clean varietal fruit and very good length of mouthfilling apple and lime flavours with a hint of spice. €14.90 EU

Stadt Krems Ried Grillenparz Riesling

2014 ★★★★★1/2
A great example of style with floral aromas and nicely textured palate with ample sweet/spicy fruit flavours. €25 EU

Stift Göttweig Silberbichl Riesling

2014 ★★★★★1/2
Steely flint floral fragrances and great persistence of varietal flavours. A simple and very pretty style of riesling. €22.90 EU

Hirsch Zöbing Kamptal DAC Riesling

2014 ★★★★★
Some yeasty characters on the simple citrus nose and an acid dominated, fresh citrus, palate. \$36

Geyerhof Goldberg Erste Lage Riesling

2014 ★★★★★
Quite an oily style with ripe citrus and pear-like fruit and a botrytis influence. €28 EU

F.X. Pichler Dürnsteiner Kellerberg Smaragd Wachau Riesling

2013 ★★★★★
A dry botrytised influenced style; rich and flavoursome with unctuous apricot/citrus fruit. \$N/A

ROSÉ

3 TASTED
2 AWARDED

Two light and lively wines for enjoyable quaffing.

Reiterer Exklusiv Schilcher Weststeiermark

2015 ★★★★★1/2
Floral jubey fruit fragrances and fresh vibrant red berry palate. A simple but very enjoyable quaffer. \$N/A

Umathum Rosa Cuvée Rot

2015 ★★★★★
A pretty wine. Soft and juicy and very quaffable with lively red fruit characters peeping through. €9.50 EU

BLAUFRÄNKISCH

9 TASTED
7 AWARDED

The judges expected more from this varietal. "Unhuggable (sic) wines that were too grippy with green tannins holding them back."

Prieler Johanneshöhe Blaufränkisch

2013 ★★★★★
Lovely nose - has aromas reminiscent of a warm blueberry pie. Huge tannic elements to the palate with enticing fruit cake flavours. €9 EU

Weninger Hochäcker Blaufränkisch

2013 ★★★★★
Spicy blueberries and cloves on the nose. Great varietal fruit on the palate with astringent tannins and good acid backbone. €12 EU

Weninger Horitschoner Blaufränkisch

2014 ★★★★★
Pepper and licorice-like bouquet with similar characters on the tight and astringent palate. €9 EU

Gesellmann Creitzer Reserve Blaufränkisch

2013 ★★★★★
Pretty spicy cherry fragrances. Very moreish mouthfilling red fruit/oak flavours. Good oak use. \$N/A

Heidi Schröck Kulm Burgenland Blaufränkisch

2013 ★★★★★
Lifted lolly fruit aromas and a pretty spicy herbal red currant palate with drying tannins. \$33.95

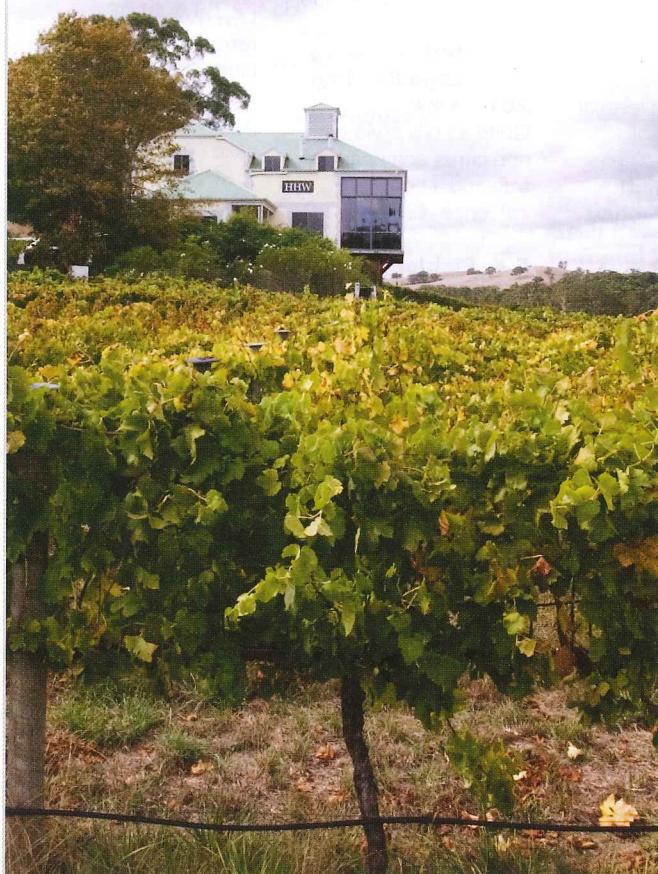
Triebaumer Ernst Ried Oberer Wald Burgenland Blaufränkisch

2013 ★★★★★
Attractive spicy blue fruits on the nose and ripe primary fruit palate with mouthwatering tannins. €20 EU

HHW

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Austrian-variety wines,
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Gruner Veltliner

Gold Medal – Berliner Wein Trophy 2015
Silver Medal – AWC Vienna International Wine Challenge 2015
Trophy and Gold Medal – Winewise Small Vigneron Awards 2015
Gold Medal – Royal Adelaide Wine Show 2015
Gold Medal – Australian Small Winemakers Show 2015

Blaufrankisch

Gold Medal – Berliner Wein Trophy 2015
Silver Medal – AWC Vienna International Wine Challenge 2015
Gold Medal – Winewise Small Vigneron Awards 2015
Gold Medal – Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show 2014

Zweigelt

Silver Medal – Australian Small Winemakers Show 2015
Silver Medal – AWC Vienna International Wine Challenge 2014

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Weninger Dürrau Blaufrankisch 2013 ★★★

Appealing mix of licorice and blue fruits on the nose which is echoed on the palate. €49 EU

PINOT NOIR

3 TASTED
0 AWARDED

A tired and oxidised group.

OTHER REDS

7 TASTED
5 AWARDED

Some worthy wines here which offered sweet mulberry fruit but, "watch for the hard tannins," warned the judges.



Gesellmann OP Eximium No 26 Cuvée Rot 2013 ★★★★★

Pepper and spice on the nose with smoky bacon notes. Palate is a very attractive mix of blueberry and fruit pie flavours. \$N/A

Goldenits Burgenland Blauer Zweigelt 2013 ★★★★★

A juicy jubey wine. Pretty spicy cherry fragrances and a rich mouthful of ripe red fruits and gentle spices on the firm grippy palate. €8 EU

Stift Klosterneuburg Reserve Sankt Laurent 2013 ★★★★★

Pretty sweet fruit nose; oak tends to dominate. Silky smooth palate. Ripe red fruit flavours; ample oak. €20 EU

Heinrich Hartl Reserve St Laurent 2012 ★★★★★

Rich mouthfilling style with attractive fruit characters and spices, some licorice and juicy acidity. €9.50 EU

Thiery-Weber Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 ★★★

Well-structured wine with red fruit/capsicum bouquet and a ripe and juicy red fruit palate. €20 EU

SWEET WHITE

1 TASTED
1 AWARDED

One very nice example that had incredible vibrancy and richness of fruit characters.

Heidi Schröck Beerenauslese Burgenland Cuvée Weiß 2014 ★★★★★1/2

Lovely rich botrytised bouquet and a delicious, unctuous, confectionery palate with flavours of apricots and guavas and good line of acid to balance the sweetness. \$59.95