

CRUASIA

UNCORKED FLAVOURS

a monthly newsletter on WINE!



Discover the Richness of Austrian Red Wines!

WELCOME AGAIN

Welcome to our latest newsletter, dedicated to the captivating world of Austrian red wines. While Austria is often praised for its stunning white wines, its red wines are equally deserving of attention. With their unique varietals, distinct terroirs, and passionate winemakers, these wines are a testament to Austria's rich winemaking heritage and its commitment to excellence.

Join us as we delve into the unique characteristics, notable regions, and top varietals that make Austrian red wines a true delight for wine enthusiasts.

THE TERROIR AND CLIMATE

The diverse Austrian landscape, with its varying altitudes from the hills of Burgenland to the alpine foothills of Styria, provides an ideal environment for cultivating red wine grapes. Distinct soil types, microclimates, and temperature fluctuations all allow winemakers to create wines with a remarkable range of flavours and styles. From the approachable and versatile Zweigelt of Carnuntum to the elegant and aromatic St. Laurent wines of Styria to the robust and structured Blaufränkisch wines of Burgenland, each glass of Austrian red wine tells a story of the land from which it hails.



MAJOR RED GRAPE VARIETIES



BLAUFRÄNKISCH

Blaufränkisch is a flagship red grape variety that thrives in Burgenland. Rich black fruit is contrasted by peppery flavors and boisterous acidity in this food-friendly Austrian red. Its versatility allows winemakers to produce elegant, age-worthy wines as well as approachable, fruit-forward options. Blaufränkisch is a parent grape of both Gamay and Zweigelt.

ZWEIGELT

This is the most widely planted red grape variety in Austria. Created in the 1920s by crossing Blaufränkisch and St. Laurent, Zweigelt is a true Austrian success story. Known for its approachability, it offers red fruit flavors, a hint of spiciness, and a smooth texture. It's a perfect choice for those exploring Austrian reds for the first time.

ST. LAURENT

With its origins traced back to France's Pinot Noir, St. Laurent has found a comfortable home in Austria. As you can imagine, it can produce wines that are similar to Pinot Noir in terms of elegance and complexity. The wines exhibit a charming balance of red and dark fruit flavors, often accompanied by floral and herbal nuances.



PINOT NOIR

Known as "Blauburgunder" in Austria, Pinot Noir has gained a foothold in some regions including Burgenland, Styria, and Lower Austria. Austrian Pinot Noirs tend to be lighter in body compared to many New World expressions of Pinot Noir, showcasing a balance between red fruits, acidity, and subtle tannins. Earthy and mineral undertones also add complexity to the wines.



Burgenland: This region, bordering Hungary, is a haven for red wine enthusiasts. Known for its complex Blaufränkisch wines, Burgenland offers a range of styles, from powerful and tannic to elegant and refined. The subregions of Mittelburgenland and Eisenberg are particularly notable.

Carnuntum: Situated near Vienna, Carnuntum produces expressive red wines with a focus on Blaufränkisch and Zweigelt. The unique climate here results in wines with depth, concentration, and well-defined character.

Styria: While famous for its white wines, Styria also offers some exceptional reds, often made from the St. Laurent grape. These wines display a fresh and aromatic profile that stands out in the Austrian red wine landscape.



REGIONS TO WATCH



Featuring
wine estate

WEINGUT FAMILIE
PITNAUER

The Pitnauer family winery is located in the small town of Göttlesbrunn in Lower Austria placing it in the very heart of the wine-growing region of Carnuntum – an area which has been used for wine production ever since the Celts settled in the region.

Weingut Pitnauer is the most distinct wine producer in the area, having won several different awards, he led the 10th generation family business to the top ranks amongst Austria's winemakers.



RM158

**RUBIN CARNUNTUM 2020
ZWEIGELT DAC**

"Rubin Carnuntum" is made from 100% Zweigelt from the entire wine-growing region of Carnuntum. These wines correspond to a style typical of the region and must meet the requirements of a strict tasting jury.

TASTING NOTES: Ruby red, fruity, spicy of cherries. Plenty of lively fruit on the palate, with enough substance and a lasting finish with a fine balance.



RM208

**BIENENFRESSER GÖTTLESBRUNNER 2020
ZWEIGELT RESERVE**

This colourful exotic bird Bienenfresser (Bee-Eater) represents one of Austria's most famous wines. The Bienenfresser Zweigelt Reserve is the lifetime achievement of Hans Pitnauer. Harvested by hand, carefully vinified and matured in small oak barrels, this extraordinary Zweigelt is as special as its namesake.

TASTING NOTES: Dark ruby red colour, very full flesh on the nose, intense cherry, underlaid with chocolate and nut nougat; creamy texture, juicy and supple, yet well-structured tannins. Ripe and juicy until the long, mild finish.

UPCOMING
at Christoph's

Discovering Zweigelt
6:00 pm, Sept 9th (sat)
RM138

About Negroni & More!
6:00 pm, Sept 23rd (sat)
RM138

in next issue
Sustainable Austria



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