

WACHAU

GRÜNER VELTLINER
SMARAGD

AND

RIESLING
SMARAGD

Wachau



The Wachau is an Austrian enological zone in central Europe. More precisely, it is located in the subzone of Lower Austria. Since 2000 the Wachau is listed as World Heritage sites. In total, the Wachau is made up of about 1344 hectares of vineyards, including the cities of Melk and Spitz.

One of the determining factors of the landscape, but above all, of the quality of the wines produced here, is the presence of the Danube. The river is not only capable of reflecting the light and the heat in the cold months, but also helps to mitigate the temperatures in the colder season. As well as this aspect of fundamental importance, it is necessary to note that in the Wachau different

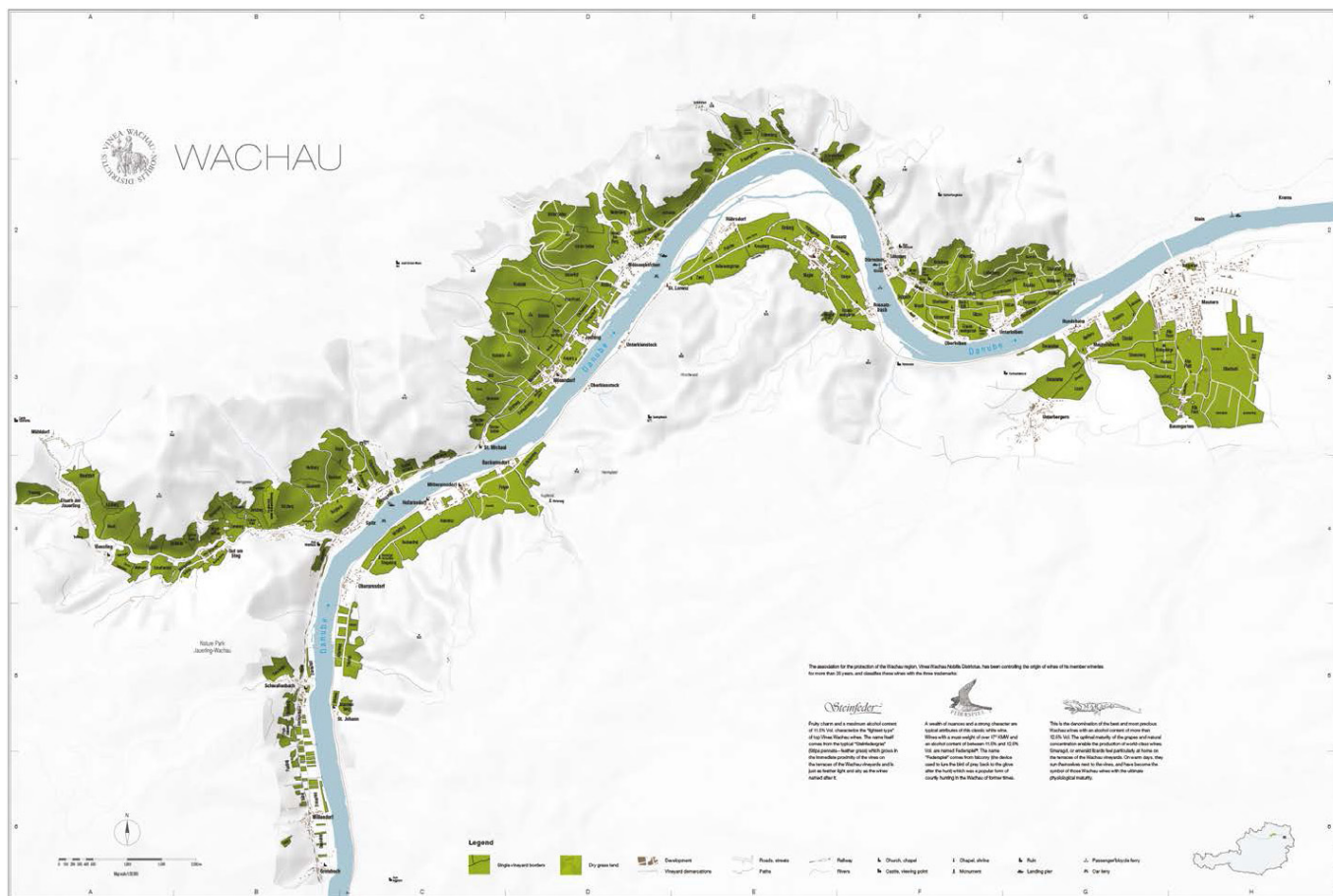
climatic aspects intersect each other (it is a generally continental climate with fresh winds from the Pannonia). The result is an alternation of warm and dry days with cool nights.

The geology of the area is rather varied, even if the most common structures are loam, kaolin, and gneiss. The terrain is very steep, so much so that often it must be terraced.

The principal varieties cultivated in the Wachau are:

- **Grüner Veltliner:** white berry married with the Traminer and not related to the Roter Veltliner or the Frühroter Veltliner. With reference to all Austrian vineyard soil, the Grüner Veltliner occupies 29% of the total surface. This grape

WINE RANKING



tends to produce a lot; therefore, it must be kept in check, by the vineyard.

- **Riesling:** late white berry that is not related to the Welschriesling. In the Austrian territory, the Riesling does not occupy many hectares, making up 4% of the land. However, in the Wachau, is the second most important grape in the area. Generally, in the cantina, these two varieties are fermented naturally in large barrels so old that they do not give up anything in terms of aromas, taste, or tannins.

Since the mid-1980s, most of the vintners are members of the regional association, called Vinea Wachau, that used its own classification system, divided into three categories: Steinfeder, Federspiel, and Smaragd.

Steinfeder: the name is derived from a type of grass that grows abundantly in the vineyards of the area. This type includes light wines, in which the alcohol grade never exceeds 11.5%.

Federspiel: the name comes from the practice of falconry and the hunting of a particular falcon that was very common in centuries past. The wines have an alcohol grade between 11.5 and 12.5%.

Smaragd: this category derives its name from a lizard of emerald color that is often encountered in among the vineyards of the area. It regards strong, rich, and complex wines that in many cases manage to age well for decades.

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd

GARDINI NOTES WINE RANKING

The targets are three: short (5-8 years), medium (10-15 years) and long (more than 15 years), which denote the aging potential of the wine.

 SHORT (5-8 years)

 MEDIUM (10-15 years)

 LONG (more than 15 years)

98+

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Ried Kreuzberg 2018

JOSEF FISCHER

Lemon zest, yellow plum, a mango touch at the nose, with a spicy - thyme - closing. Powerful and full-bodied at the mouth, crispness with salinity and persistence. Yellow plum notes returning on the finish.



97+

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Ried Vorderseiber 2019

WEINGUT GRUBER WACHAU

New, organic release still in the vat, but amazing already. Massive on the nose, recalling aromas of cedar zest, kiwi and thyme, closing with Mediterranean scrub. Taut, crunchy and wide in the mouth with a wonderful saltiness. A strong thyme touch returns on the finish.



97+

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Ried Achleiten 2018

WEINGUT JÄGER

Nice, expressing fruit in this involving, fulfilling Grüner version. Its nose opens on white-pulped fruit, mango and papaya. It stretches in the mouth in a kaleidoscopic of sensations whose basis remain thickness and palate richness.

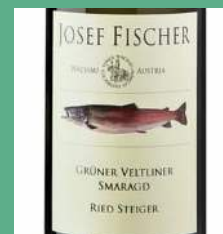


97+

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Ried Steiger 2018

JOSEF FISCHER

Another massive release. Its nose is citrusy, taut and vertical, with notes of grapefruit and chinotto, iodine at the end. The mouth is fresh, saline and spicy, deep and compact. Great persistence.



97

Wachauer Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Ried Kirnberg 2018

WEINGUT SIGL

This is a delicate interpretation of the varietal. Its nose reveals white-pulped peach, pineapple, a hint of lemon zest. It tastes very juicy, compact and complex. The finish is taut, herbaceous and harmonic.



TOP 17

96

**Grüner Veltliner Federspiel Ried Klaus Weissenkirchen 2018**

WEINGUT FJ GRITSCH

This one comes from the famous Klaus vineyard. Exotic fruit notes on the nose: pineapple and honeydew melon, a note of white pepper and fresh marjoram at the end. The mouth is taut, creamy and crunchy, with a spicy return.



95+

**Wachauer Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Ried Frauenweingärten 2018**

WEINGUT SIGL

Its nose opens on white-pulped fruit, mango and papaya, a note of fresh thyme at the end. The mouth is very elegant, with acidity and minerality that are not excessively saline. The good, mineral finish has notes of tropical fruit at the top.



95+

**Grüner Veltliner Ried Bachsatz 2018**

WEINGUT SCHWAIGER

A stunning winery that interprets this territorial in a classy way: its nose presents aromas of litchi, white pepper and hydrocarbons at the end. Whereas the mouth is wide, comforting and of a great fineness on the palate. It has a compact and equally full and round finish.



95

**Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Ried Frauenweingärten 2018**

JOSEF FISCHER

Impressive opening at the nose, that is pure and fresh, with notes of pink grapefruit, kiwi and a little ginger at the end. The mouth is taut, crunchy and salty. Nice persistence enhanced by balsamic closing.



94+

**Grüner Veltliner Wachauer Smaragd Limitierte Edition 2018**

WEINGUT JOHANN DONABAUM

Thin and refined nose from chinotto and yellow-fleshed apricot with a nice officinal closing of sage leaf. Beautiful spiciness. Fresh, taut, savoury mouth, with a citrus-bitter trace on the finish.



94

**Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Ried Mühlgraben 2018**

WEINGUT MAYER

Creamy and persuasive, its nose reveals chinotto, yellow-pulped plum and marjoram. Taut and wide in the mouth with balsamic notes. Elegant and very savoury closing, with a return of medicinal herbs.



TOP 17

94

⊕ **Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Ried Dürnsteiner
Kaiserberg 2018**

WEINGUT POMABL

Its nose reveals yellow-pulped fruit and melon, a touch of ginger at the end. Crispy at the mouth, with good minerality and balsamic notes. The finish is persistent, with a return of yellow-pulped fruit notes.

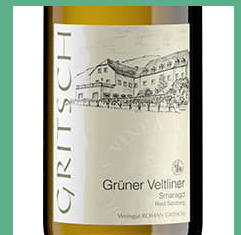


94

⊕ **Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Ried Setzberg 2018**

WEINGUT ROMAN GRITSCH

A very refined nose, playing between candied citron, yellow plum and closing with officinal trace, on the notes of thyme. Taut, compact and salty mouth. Fruity touch reappearing on the finish that it has also a charming almond touch.



93+

⊕ **Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 2018**

WEINGUT ROMAN GRITSCH

The nose presents notes of white pepper, white-pulped nectarine and eucalyptus. The mouthfeel shines with both fragrance and crunchiness, enhanced by a gentle and long-lasting finish. Crunchy and dense in the mouth with a good persistence.



93+

⊕ **Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Ried Singerriedel 2018**

WEINGUT FJ GRITSCH

This is an extremely balanced Grüner. The attack presents notes of honeydew melon and yellow apple, a touch of marjoram at the end. Taut and spicy mouthfeel with officinal taste coming back.



93

⊕ **Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Ried Spitzer Point 2018**

WEINGUT JOHANN DONABAUM

A bottle that shows a magnificent olfactory texture. On the nose, chinotto and white-fleshed nectarine with a nice closing of eucalyptus. Both taut and thick in the mouth with a nice saltiness ending with citrusy notes.

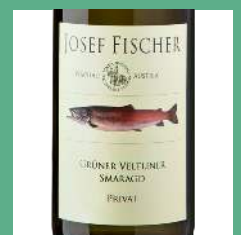


93

⊕ **Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Privat 2018**

JOSEF FISCHER

A vintage that presents saffron and persimmon notes at the nose, with herbaceous undertones at the end. Crunchy in the mouth, backed by a nice and sharp acidity. Saltiness and nicely persistent mouthfeel.



Riesling Smaragd

GARDINI NOTES WINE RANKING

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MEDIUM (10-15 years)



LONG (more than 15 years)

97+



Riesling Smaragd Ried Kreuzberg 2018

JOSEF FISCHER

A classic high-quality vintage. The nose recalls bergamot, yellow-pulped plum with cedar thyme closing. Salty mouth backed by great acidity and crunchiness. Return of citrusy/salty taste on the finish.



96



Riesling Smaragd Ried Kirnberg 2018

JOSEF FISCHER

Another gem from a great winery. This one is salty, fruity and persistent. On the nose, yellow plum, kiwi and a touch of thyme. Crunchy in the mouth, backed by a nice and sharp acidity. Saltiness and nicely persistent mouthfeel.



96



Riesling Smaragd Ried Klaus 2019

WEINGUT GRUBER WACHAU

A new, impressive, organic release still in the vat. Chinotto and apricot on the nose, displaying a complex texture of yellow flowers in the final olfactory profile. Crunchy and taut mouth with extraordinary firmness. Citrusy trace returning on the finish.



95+



Riesling Smaragd Ried Tausendeimerberg 2018

WEINGUT ROMAN GRITSCH

A taut version coming from a winery that dates back even to '600. Its nose is of astonishing freshness, white pepper and persimmon notes, with a balsamic touch at the end, evergreen resin. Crunchy in the mouth, backed by a nice and sharp acidity.



94+



Wachauer Riesling Federspiel Ried Kirnberg Rossatz 2018

WEINGUT SIGL

Greatly vigorous sharpness in this Riesling version. Its nose does not reveal only flowery notes, but also yellow tropical fruit and undergrowth ones. The mouth highlights a strong minerality. The finish is sharp, direct and intense.



93+

 **Riesling Smaragd Ried Achleiten 2018**

WEINGUT JÄGER

A cornerstone from the Achleiten vineyard, both sharp and clean. Fruity nose of apricot, vegetal notes, rosemary. The palate is well defined and balanced with a closing of long persistence.



93+

 **Riesling Smaragd Ried Kollmütz 2018**

WEINGUT SCHWAIGER

Greatly vigorous sharpness in this Riesling version. Its nose reveals white peach, spices and a definite herbaceous tone, with white flowers notes at the end. Freshness on the palate ending with aromatic and officinal herbs.



93

 **Riesling Smaragd Ried Dürnsteiner Lichtensteinerin 2018**

WEINGUT POMABL

Its nose shows white-pulped peach, pink grapefruit, nuances of marjoram. Juicy, fine fruity sweetness, elegant and balanced, fresh acid curve, pineapple in the aftertaste, long, sure development potential.



93

 **Riesling Smaragd Ried 1000-Eimerberg 2018**

WEINGUT FJ GRITSCH

Saffron and white-pulped peach notes are revealed from an important nose, with a touch of eucalyptus at the end. The mouth is taut and very definite. It has a long persistence and balsamic, spicy and comforting notes in the finish.



93

 **Riesling Smaragd Ried Steinriegl 2018**

WEINGUT JÄGER

A fresh, full-bodied vintage from a sixty-year-old vineyard. Unique tautness on the nose, with pink grapefruit, yellow-fleshed nectarine and a beautiful officinal trace from fresh laurel. It has a long persistence and balsamic and comforting notes in the finish.



92+

 **Riesling Wachauer Smaragd Limitierte Edition 2018**

WEINGUT JOHANN DONABAUM

Grapes from both 'top' locations Offenberg and Setzberg, with a small percentage of Botrytis Cinerea-affected berries, at the nose persimmon, kiwi and a bit of fresh sage, with a balsamic touch at the end. Crunchy in the mouth, backed by a nice and sharp acidity.



TOP 18

92+

 **Riesling Smaragd Ried Setzberg 2018**

WEINGUT ROMAN GRITSCH

Its nose reveals lemon, apricot and white-pulped peach, and closing with officinal trace, on the notes of rosemary, whereas its mouth presents a strong sharpness and a beautiful spiciness. Fresh, taut, savoury, with citrus trace on the finish.



92+

 **Riesling Smaragd Ried Setzberg 2018**

WEINGUT FJ GRITSCH

Intense straw yellow, deep and taut nose with nuances of pink grapefruit and kiwi. Excellent crispness in the mouth with salinity and persistence. Citrusy notes returning on the long-lasting finish.



92

 **Riesling Smaragd Ried Setzberg 2018**

WEINGUT MAYER

On the nose, yellow plum and apricot, with a final note from fresh marjoram. Taut and crunchy mouthfeel with officinal taste coming back and a good saltiness. Finish of great persistence.



92

 **Riesling Smaragd Ried Offenberg 2018**

WEINGUT JOHANN DONABAUM

Tropical fruits and white pepper at the nose, nice balsamic closing with notes of thyme. Thickness in the mouth, beautiful crispness. Iodized boost and fruity tones on the finish.



91+

 **Riesling Smaragd Ried Kalkofen 2018**

WEINGUT FJ GRITSCH

Its nose reveals white peach, spices - dried rosemary - and a definite herbaceous tone, while its mouth is clearly mineral, sapid and greatly juicy.



90

 **Riesling Smaragd Ried Setzberg 2018**

WEINGUT JOHANN DONABAUM

Its nose reveals golden apple at top, but it is also herbaceous and spicy, whereas the mouth is of great compactness and full-bodied. The vigorous tension leads to a taut and mineral finish.



90



Riesling Smaragd Ried Dürnsteiner Kaiserberg 2018

WEINGUT POMABL

Its nose reveals yellow-pulped nectarine, yellow flower and a touch of cedar thyme at the end. Good minerality at the mouth, crispness with salinity and persistence. Citrusy notes returning on the finish.



95

OCTOBER 2020

GRÜNER VELTLINER SMARAGD
AND RIESLING SMARAGD
WINE RANKING BY
LUCA GARDINI

TASTING PERIOD
MAY 2020

