

EXPLOR



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WEINGUT SCHREINER 2019 WEISSBURGUNDER, BURGENLAND, AUSTRIA

Those of you that have been in our Explorers Club might notice this producer from several years back when we featured their red wine, the Blaufränkisch. What excited us most about their current offerings was the quality of wine this small family was producing as well as their prescience to bottle in the Liter format rather than the standard 750ml size. After all, 2020 definitely owes us that bonus glass of wine!

Gernot and Victoria Schreiner are a magnetic couple who have pursued their own singular way in wine since taking over their small family estate in their hometown of Rust in Burgenland, Austria. To say that this winemaking couple practices organic growing practices is an understatement as it amounts to more of an all-enveloping lifestyle for them affecting not only how they treat their vineyards and make their wine but also the way they eat, harkening back to a time of ultra-localism.

Bright, crisp, refreshing but with just enough roundness, this 100% Weissburgunder, more popularly known as Pinot Blanc outside of its homeland of Austria, is a downright crowd-pleaser of a white wine. Try pairing this wine with chicken or fowl based dishes.



SEPTEMBER 2020

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DOMAINE BENJAMIN TAILLANDIER 2019 "LAGUZELLE," MINERVOIS, FRANCE

Dark and earthy yet with a bright streak of red berry fruit, Benjamin Taillandier's wines speak of the juxtaposition of his region. Due to the east, his vineyards are flanked by the more famous towns in Provence.

In 2007, Benjamin Taillandier settled in his family's hometown of Caunes-Minervois, which sits between the ancient city of Carcassone and the Montagne Noir. He purchased 14 acres of Grenache Noir, Syrah, Cinsault, and Terret Gris and began working it organically, eventually converting all of it over to Biodynamics. Each year he has added a plot here and there and his estate has grown to 37 acres, all of which is harvested by hand and now fully Ecocert certified. His vineyards are located at 700 to 1300 feet in elevation and are surrounded by olive trees and cypress groves. He also runs a terrific wine bar downtown called Cantine du Curé which is open during the summer tourist season.

Benjamin feels that many of the wines in the Minervois AOC are too concentrated and alcoholic, and works hard to make wines that, while full flavored, are lighter, fresher and lower in alcohol than most average wines from the Languedoc. Indeed, there is a level of liveliness in his wines that you seldom see in the wines of the region. Benjamin is happily introducing people to the concept of Minervois "vin de soif". This particular bottling by Benjamin is a blend of Cinsault, Syrah, and Carignan from vines 30 years old on average. This red blend is aged in Stainless Steel for 6 months and bottled unfinned and unfiltered.



SEPTEMBER 2020

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HOURGLASS 2018 MERLOT BLUELINE ESTATE, NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Back in the 1970's Ned Smith specialized in being a realtor to today's biggest names in the region, lending a hand in the acquisition of land to famous names such as Schramsberg and Stag's Leap to name a couple. Alongside several farmers, Ned invested in the land by moving his family of seven to Napa when the region was just starting to make a name for itself.

There was one particular six-acre property two miles north of St. Helena that captured Ned's imagination in 1976. Where an outcropping of the Maycamas mountains jutted eastward, the Napa Valley floor was pinched to a near figure eight, and this unclaimed knoll of hillside lay precisely in the narrowest point. Over the past decade, Ned had developed an uncanny intuition about land. He knew at once that this lot, nestled in the crux of the hourglass-shaped valley, was something special. He wouldn't share it with his aspiring vintner clients; this parcel would be his.

Merlot is often planted on clay-based soils, yet there are none to be found at the BlueLine Estate. Instead, its soils are the gravelly remnants of ancient, upturned river beds (the product of the two BlueLine streams that formed them). These mineral-rich soils drive the exotic aromatics, density of fruit concentration and lifted tension in the wine and form the core DNA of this unique Merlot. Rich, decadent, and worthy of aging, this wine is the perfect accompaniment to your next steak night.

86% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Malbec, and 1% Petit Verdot. 28 year vines on average.
Aged 17 months in 70% new French oak.
Only 900 cases made.



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