

WACHAU

RIESLING

SMARAGD

GardiniNotes.

THE WINE KILLERS

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.

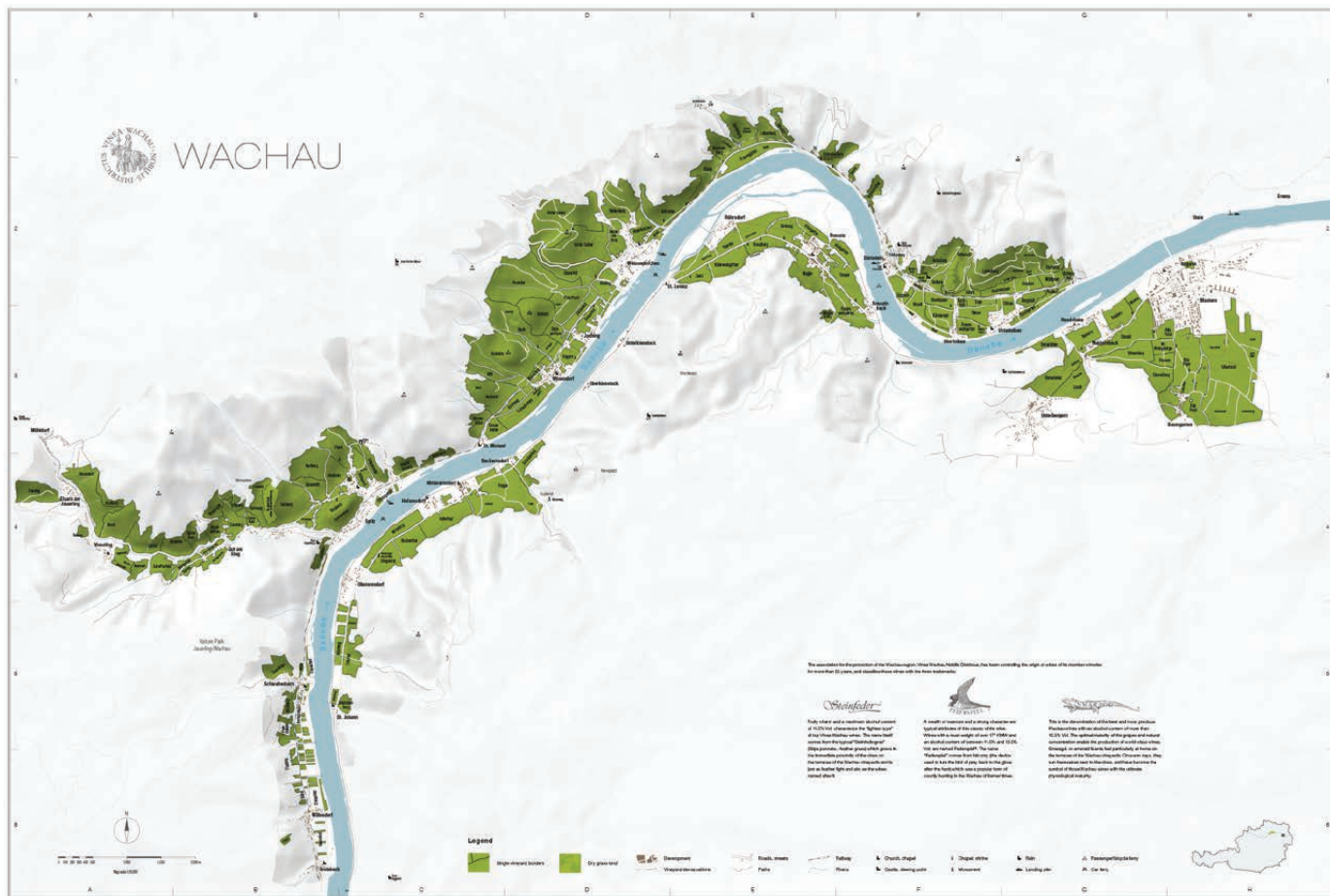
The geology of the area is rather varied, even if the most common structures are loam, kaolin, and gneiss. The terrain is very steep, so much so that often it must be terraced.

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 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

WINE RANKING



second most important grape in the area. Generally, in the cantina, these two varietals 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.

Wachau Riesling 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)

96



Riesling Smaragd Ried Steiger 2017

JOSEF FISCHER

This excellent riesling of structured elegance returns the salty Danube air. Its nose reveals kiwi, peach and orange aromas. Its mouth is rich, plentiful and wide, with the same compactness, density and intensity of a dramatic and greatly interpreted film. It is characterized also by a vivid sharpness and a great flavour, like in a perfect scenery or in a romantic picnic by the riverside.



95



Riesling Smaragd Ried Kollmitz 2017

FRANZ PICHLER

Not only wide, full-bodied and luxurious, but also straight, vertical and persistent. It is a blend of acacia honey, pink grapefruit with a lightly smoked nose. It tastes sapid on the palate, but mostly generous and plentiful, as a comforting hug. To conclude, its drink is of a memorable cleanness.



94+



Riesling Smaragd Ried Achleiten 2017

WEINBAU SCHNEEWEISS

With citrus striations, this one is chalky and calcareous both by smelling it and by tasting it. The taste sensation stands on iodated tones, held by the tannic body and the fruit compactness. The drink is balanced, sweet, powerful. Without a blink. Excellent.



94



Riesling Smaragd Best of 2017

WEINGUT SCHMELZ

Its nose reveals pink pepper and pineapple aromas. A spicy and light smoking expands the sensory impression. The drink discloses much generosity and persistence, then a sharp and salty profile of great resilience, which extends the finish to infinity.



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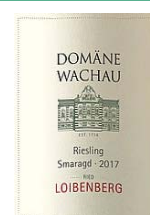
LONG (more than 15 years)

94

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Loibenberg 2017**

WEINGUT KONRAD

This excellent product comes from unspoiled ground. Initially, its nose is characterized by full minerality and light toasting. Just after, lemongrass and wild leaves notes can be made out. The mouthful is generous, compact and very elegant, outlining a definite and fascinating fruit.



93+

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Achleiten 2017**

WEINGUT JÄGER

From an ancient maison and from one of the most well-known parcels in Wachau, this one is a vine variety interpretation of great potential. Its nose reveals white peach, spices and a definite herbaceous tone, while its mouth is mineral, sapid and greatly juicy.



93

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Stiegelstal 2017**

WEINGUT MARIA HICK

This riesling, coming from the splendid Buchental valley, presents a nose of a velvet fineness, tenuous and delicate, and that seems lightly close, initially. After, you can perceive scents of apricot and litchi, while its wide mouthful shows up its great minerality and absolute persistence.



92+

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Steinriegl 2017**

WEINGUT JÄGER

From a sixty-year-old vine variety and a subsoil rich in silicon, this one represents a mineral experience of great complexity and appeal. Fresh, sharp, full-bodied, very vibrant, this wine has even an intense and stimulating nose. Then, on the very wide palate, scents of exotic fruit resonate as an harpsichord.



92+

**Riesling Smaragd Ried 1000-Eimerberg 2017**

ROMAN GRITSCH

Saffron, evergreen resin and apricot notes are revealed from an important nose. This wine tastes like silk, and is complex and very definite in the mouth, as an alabaster slab. It has a long persistence and balsamic and comforting notes in the finish.



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92+

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Steinporz 2017**

WEINGUT LAGLER

Its nose is of astonishing freshness, with flavors of melon and watermelon. In the mouth, this wine is remarkably generous, mineral and of great sharpness, enabling an absolutely memorable and extremely long persistence.



92+

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Singerriedel 2017**

WEINGUT HOFSTÄTTER

Organically-run vineyard in the case of a riesling coming from a very plump and impressive fruit : its nose reveals candied citrus, apricot and white-pulped peach, whereas its mouth presents a strong sharpness, a bitter aftertaste of great appealing and ultimate power.



92

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Kollmütz 2016**

ALFRED SCHWAIGER

Vineyards collocated by the mountains whose ground is full of chalk and iron sediments, to describe a riesling of unusual nuances to the nose. This one has a great flowery power and is resinous and balsamic. Then, the wine tastes pure and greatly full-bodied in the mouth, with the finish tapering on acacia honey notes.



92

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Weitenberg 2015**

WEINGUT MANGHOF

Its nose is of a great minerality, with saffron and white-pulped fruit notes. Just as much pulpy in the mouth, where minerality is expressed by remarkably fine taste intensity. The finish is coherent with the opening, of great appeal and material intensity.



91+

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Kirnberg 2017**

WEINGUT SIGL

This is an incisive riesling interpretation that benefits from one of the most complex grounds of Wachau. Mineral and spicy to the nose, with scents of white-pulped nectarine, this wine is majestic, very clear in the mouth and of a great and very long persistence.



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91+

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Setzberg 2017**

ROMAN GRITSCH

This is a simple and drinkable riesling version coming from a winery that dates back even to 1,600. Its nose reveals mango and fresh spices (thymus), whereas it is full-bodied on the palate. Then, the experience becomes similar to an aromatic and fruity journey in apricot aroma and minerality. The very pleasant journey, of extreme dryness, is not eager to please.



91+

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Klaus 2017**

WEINGUT JOSEF JAMEK

From a winery of a great tradition, solid history and the local vine variety master, we introduce you to this combination of expressiveness and vigour. Its nose reveals white-pulped fruit notes, but it is also herbaceous and spicy, whereas the mouth is of great compactness and full-bodied. The vigorous tension leads to a full-bodied and epic finish.



91+

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Achleiten 2016**

WEINBAU SCHNEEWEISS

Material, mineral and compact. Orange peel and bitter tone to the nose, then a deeply iodated body, definitely vertical and compact. The finish is impressively sharp, direct and intense.



91+

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Kirnberg 2016**

JOSEF FISCHER

Its nose reveals orange flowers and nectarine, and even if it is very clear-cut, it remains fine. The mouth is remarkably material, very iodated and mineral. The persistence and the palate cleanness definitely cause further spilling and tasting.



91+

**Riesling Smaragd Ried Kaiserberg 2016**

WEINGUT POMASSL

Greatly vigorous sharpness in this riesling version, produced in terraces that can be legally considered more "heroic" than arduous. Its nose does not reveal only flowery notes, but also undergrowth ones. The mouth highlights a strong minerality which is, nevertheless, rich and compact. The finish is impressive.



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WACHAU RIESLING SMARAGD
WINE RANKING BY
LUCA GARDINI
THE WINE KILLER

TASTING PERIOD
DICEMBRE 2018

