Weingut Nikolaihof Baumpresse Grüner Veltliner Im Weingebirge 2013

Grüner Vetliner from Wachau, Niederösterreich, Austria

$336

$321ea in any 3+

$306ea in any 6+

Alc: 12.5%

Closure: Cork

Description

The love of wine yields pain and pleasure. The further down the rabbit hole you venture the harder it becomes to find wines that are exhilarating. I didn't expect an Austrian Grüner to be the most recent to achieve the feat.

In the 'Wine Decoded Tasting Revolution' available free to members, I explore the key elements of exceptional wine. This Grüner Veltliner from Nikolaihof exceeds every criteria.

There are two criteria specifically that take this wine to the upper echelons.

First development and freshness, with the overwhelming majority of wines they are released within 1-3 years and the job of achieving peak maturity is left to the consumer. Here the wine has seen significant age in foudre, 5 years. The Vinotek range from Nikolaihof often see 20 years. In that 5 year period Nikolaihof have given it the care a mother would their child. By the time it is released to us we're devouring a mature and wise child, the nectar retains the energy and vitality to have you walking away refreshed.

Second, overall beauty, style or personality if you wish. It is a rare beast that completely entrances with sheer beauty, balanced with a naughty edge so carefully placed that it doesn't detract from the intoxicating nature of a wine. To be wise to the world and present itself as humble, gracious, and complete, surpassing the highest of expectations is the holy grail.

Where Rheinhardt (Wine Advocate) notes a 'unique touch of oxidative style' I see the perfect development, there is not a hint of oxidation, only possible when you have exceptional fruit to work with.

Yes, the fruit here is ripe, yet it has been achieved at just 12.5% alcohol. This might sound like a technicality, the impact in the glass is significant. It's only possible to pick ripe fruit at this alcohol when you have old, balanced vines that have seen attention to detail not just across a year but across decades. Such intensity is typically seen at

much higher alcohol in Austria. Achieving flavour and phenolic ripeness at lower alcohol levels has the benefit of giving a wine freshness, energy, and a weightlessness, feather light feel not otherwise possible. I saw this time and time again making the wine at Yarra Yering. Our vintage would be finished before many were even halfway through picking!

Combining exceptional length and depth of fruit with a little funk in an insanely complex nose. Grace, purity, precision, pleasure! Savoury, salty, simply exceptional!