

WACHAU

RAINER WESS
UNTERLOIBEN

OVERVIEW | Since its nadir during the dark days of 1985 the Austrian Wine Industry has re-invented itself with some of the most stringent rules governing quality. Yet, it remains out of the mainstream, known only to the Cognoscenti and a few adventurous souls.

The dry whites of Rainer Wess are the perfect antidote for jaded palates, all those refugees from yet another 'New World' Sauvignon or Chardonnay. Produced in the Wachau Region, in the heartland of Lower Austria, where the south-facing slopes besides the Danube produce these peerless wines.

The Grüner Veltliner is Austria's signature variety, giving a charming, zestful and bone-dry wine with an exotic, musky bouquet and balanced acidity. These precipitous slopes yield single vineyard Rieslings of intense minerality and body. Indeed, they certainly rival the best from the Rheingau in Germany.

Though only founded in 2003 the wines of Rainer Wess have already attracted considerable international interest and acclaim. This is only natural because Rainer, a Graduate of the local School of Oenology, served his apprenticeship in wine amongst the giants of the Industry including Châteaux Cheval Blanc and Angelus in Bordeaux and with Robert Mondavi in California.

For Rainer quality is the only consideration and he is consumed by a passion to gain acceptance and recognition throughout the world for these wines of style and finesse. A worthy ambition with which we are thrilled to be able to assist.

VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES | The vineyards are mainly located in the area of Unterloiben but the grapes also come from a great vineyard called Pfaffenberg which is located next to Loibenberg. The valley is about 30 kilometers long and at the eastern part it is influenced by the warm and dry pannonian climate, in the western part from the cooler Atlantic influenced climate.

There are cool winds coming down from the north which encourage longer grape hang-time and allow the grapes to gain rich and ripe fruit flavours. The main soil types are shiest, different types of granite and gneiss.

WINES | **WACHAUER GRÜNER VELTLINER** - The grapes for the Wachauer wines originate from flat sites in the towns of Unterloiben and Dürnstein. Here the alluvial soil is covered with some loess (windblown silt, clay and sand) layers. The grapes ripen early and are the first to be picked. These factors account for the aromatic, zesty, forward and uncomplicated character of Wachauer Grüner Veltliner and Rieslings. The wines have ample "cool" fruit in their bouquets and expressive citrus and stone fruits on the palate. The finishes are long and crisp.

GRÜNER VELTLINER TERRASSEN - "Terrassen" translates as terraced. The grapes for these bottlings come from several terraced Wachau sites, which are so typical of the region. Rainer Wess aims to merge the various microclimates to create a wine as complex and versatile as possible. The Terrassens have richer, chewier fruit but with firmer acidity, more mineral structure, and great aging potential. The Terrassens are the best values in the line, as they have almost the same level of complexity and depth of the top bottlings, yet they are immediately accessible.

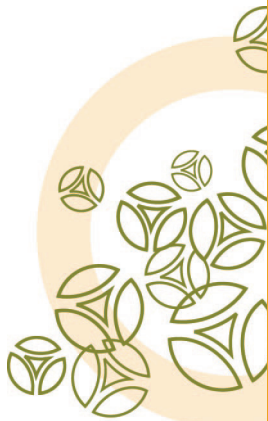
WACHAUER RIESLING - The grapes pressed for this wine come mainly from the so-called "Spitzer Graben", more exactly, from the Viesslinger Ried Bruck. Plenty of "cool" fruit in its bouquet, finesse, and the mineral nuances of this domain make it unique. A light and easy Riesling.

RIESLING TERRASSEN - Incorporates fruit from terraced sites of Lobenberg and Hollerin.

GRÜNER VELTLINER LOIBENBERG - A floral white, delicate and graceful, this combines apple, citrus and mineral flavours with a slim yet medium-bodied frame. Its silky texture and seamlessness reveal its pedigree.

PFaffenBERG RIESLING - Flint & smoke aromas introduce this dense, flavourful wine, whose elegant framework & firm structure set the stage for the peach, vanilla custard & mineral notes. Lovely resonant aftertaste.

ACHLEITEN RIESLING - The grand-cru-like Achleiten vineyard is located on a steep hillside on the western end of the Wachau region, on the Northern bank of the Danube. Viticulture here dates back to the 12th century. Its superb micro-climate is created by the rocky soil, the vineyard's ideal south-east exposure and the sunlight-reflecting Danube river. The hallmark of Wachau – the interplay between cooling winds and heat reflected from the river – reaches its pinnacle in the Achleiten, where some of the area's richest and most intense wines are produced. The soil is primarily granite, with some schist, which adds a counterbalancing mineral lift to the wine's body. Rainer Wess vinifies a parcel of 50 year old Riesling vines planted in the exact middle of the Achleiten site, (that is, in its warmest and best drained part) that give him about 60 cases yearly. It is made from 100% healthy (ie, non botrytised) fruit and aged in stainless steel on its lees until bottling in June without malolactic fermentation.



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