

STIFT GÖTTWEIG

*DAS WEINGUT DER
BENEDIKTINER*

History

Perched high on the hillside opposite the city of Krems, on the south bank of the Danube, the Benedictine abbey Stift Göttweig lies 449m above sea level. Because of its exceptional location on the Göttweiger Berg, it is sometimes referred to as the 'Austrian Montecassino'.

Göttweig Abbey was founded in 1083 by St Altmann, Bishop of Passau, and handed over to the Benedictine Order in 1094. Since then, forestry & viticulture have provided its economic foundation, and made the abbey the focal point where development of viticulture in the region was decisively formed.

In the early 16th century in particular, winegrowing south of the Danube reached its initial peak through the pioneering work of Stift Göttweig, where its measures taken to ensure quality also meant commercial success. The annual income from winemaking operations was so great that after the major fire in 1718, the new construction of the abbey by Lukas von Hildebrand was financed almost entirely by the income from the wine business.

When the NSDAP annexed Austria to Germany's Third Reich in 1938, the monks of Göttweig had to go into exile and the city of Krems took over provisional administration of the entire abbey – which amounted to an expropriation. In 1945 the city of Krems returned the completely looted & vandalised monastery to the Benedictines. Until 1987, the twenty-six-hectare wine operation was run by the abbey itself under subprior Father Albert Dexel and managed by oenologist Josef Brückelmayr. In 1987, Stift Göttweig decided to lease out the winery for economic reasons.

Wine enthusiast Dr Wolfgang Unger took over the operation and ran the estate with full vigour until his sudden death. After that, his widow and daughter continued the work until 2005, when they finally gave up the lease.

Since 2006, the abbey's vineyards have been leased to the newly founded Weingut Stift Göttweig, a company whose shareholders are all wine aficionados, and it is managed by Fritz Miesbauer. He is supported in his endeavours by Franz-Josef Gansberger, Peter Rethaller, Peter Mandl, Jürgen Peter, Lisa Glassner, Lisa Tersch and Kathrin Bründlmayer-Szing.



The wines are vinified in the Stadt Krems facility at Stadtgraben 11 in Krems an der Donau. In 2020, Stift Göttweig was named Winegrower of the Year by Falstaff Magazine.

Climate / Geology / Vineyards

The area under cultivation has now grown to thirty hectares of vineyards and is located beneath the Göttweiger Berg. The only exception to this are parcels in the legendary vineyard Pfaffenberg, which sits enthroned on a steeply terraced hillside on the Krems side of the Danube in Stein, the gateway to the Wachau.

With 67% of the vineyard area, Grüner Veltliner is the primary grape variety, followed by Riesling, which has a share of 15%. Some Chardonnay, Pinot Noir & Zweigelt are also cultivated.

Almost fifty separate parcels are located at elevations of 200–300m, scattered around the region between Furth and Mautern on the border with the Wachau. Temperature fluctuations exert an appreciable influence upon viticulture in this area. The climate can warm up quite dramatically during the day, but is tempered at night by cooler air masses flowing in from the Waldviertel. The Danube River provides a significant & calming influence, ensuring adequate circulation of air, most noticeably on the Pfaffenberg.

The soils on the Göttweiger Berg have also been moulded by the Danube; interspersed with gravel on the high plateau between Mautern & Furth are alluvial deposits, which evolved in several stages. Atop this, the gravel is covered by layers of loess several metres deep. These are particularly fertile soils for growing Grüner Veltliner & Riesling.

On the Pfaffenberg, the texture of the ground is appreciably different, because the soil is only 60cm deep. Directly beneath, one encounters various types of rock such as Gföhler gneiss, amphibolite and patches of slate. Riesling copes wonderfully with these conditions, and flourishes here.



<i>Ried</i>	Gottschelle 1.ÖTW	Silberbichl 1.ÖTW	Pfaffenberg 1.ÖTW
<i>Grape Variety</i>	Grüner Veltliner	Riesling	Riesling
<i>Soil</i>	Löss, Lehm	Donau Schotter, Glimmer	Gföhler Gneis, Amphibolit
<i>Microclimate</i>	Warm Pannonian climate, many hours of sunshine	Warm Pannonian climate, many hours of sunshine	Windy & dry, warmth stored in the stone walls of its terraces
<i>Elevation</i>	216 - 272 m	206-252 m	199-378 m
<i>Incline</i>	Max. 33° / Ø 4,4°	Max. 22° / Ø 3,6°	Max. 58° / Ø 19°
<i>Orientation</i>	NE	N	SE
<i>Area/ cultivated by Stift Göttweig</i>	35 ha / 3.7 ha	46 ha / 6.7 ha	14 ha / 0.6 ha
<i>Origin of the name</i>	1341 as »Gotschalich« = heading sharply to the crest of the hillside	1562 as »Silberpiegl« = silver (mica schist) hillside	1230 as 'Mons Clericum' = hillside belonging to the church

Style of wine

In addition to fine fruit, varietal typicity and clearly discernible character of origin, the literal wholesomeness of the wines is the most prominent feature of the Weingut Stift Göttweig portfolio. Our wines should be enjoyable to drink, present themselves as the perfect accompaniment to pleasures of the table, and still exhibit nerve & vivacity, even after a few years of bottle aging.

This characterisation might sound obvious, but we live in times in which wines are becoming ever more powerful. Those wines might well dominate tastings & competitions, but they are far too seldom truly enjoyable to drink.

In order to do justice to our centuries of viticultural history, wines from Weingut Stift Göttweig are vinified in a timeless fashion. A puristic way of viticulture & vinification has established itself. Hand-harvesting, careful selection of the best grapes and patient aging in stainless steel tanks and wooden casks with extended time on the fine lees – these are the influences at work in the creation of our wines.



Member estate of the Österreichische Traditionsweingüter



The same level of quality cannot be assumed in all places where vines are planted. It is ancient wisdom that there are vineyards that consistently produce exceptional wines every year, while elsewhere nearby – with comparable care & vinification – only decent or middling wines may be obtained.

With this in mind, we have defined the quality of our wines across three levels of origin. These are, in ascending order of quality, *Gebietswein* (regional wine), *Ortswein* (village wine) and *Lagenwein* (from individual vineyards). These quality levels are legally prescribed in the wine law of the Kremstal DAC (Districtus Austriae Controllatus) statutes.

In addition, our wines bear the designations of the ÖTW vineyard classification – 1.ÖTW Lage & G.ÖTW Lage – on the label, which refer to the absolute top of the quality pyramid, the single-vineyard wines. Wines with these designations represent the pinnacle of our assortment.

The standards upon which this classification is based are:

- Member estates of the Österreichische Traditionsweingüter are either certified ‘Sustainable Austria’, earn the minimum standard EU organic seal ‘Organic grape production’, or its equivalent
- There is a ban on herbicides & insecticides in the cultivation of 1.ÖTW sites
- The maximum yield per hectare from 1.ÖTW sites is 60 hectolitres per hectare
- Grapes for wines from 1.ÖTW sites must be harvested by hand
- The grape must has to remain unadulterated in every respect and may not be concentrated
- White wines from the 1.ÖTW vineyards are first released to the market in September of the year following the harvest



Recognition

We are particularly grateful for having been named *Falstaff Winemaker of the Year for 2020*.

Current ratings of our wines (July 2022)

95 2020 Ried Pfaffenberg 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Riesling
94 2020 Ried Gottschelle 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Grüner Veltliner
93 2020 Ried Silberbichl 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Riesling

A LA CARTE
Das Magazin für Genießer www.alacarte.at

94 2020 Ried Pfaffenberg 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Riesling
93 2020 Ried Silberbichl 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Riesling
94 2020 Ried Gottschelle 1.ÖTW Kremstal Grüner Veltliner
91 2021 Furth Kremstal DAC Riesling
91 2021 Furth Kremstal DAC Grüner Veltliner
90 2021 Grüner Veltliner Messwein

falstaff

94 2020 Ried Pfaffenberg 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Riesling
94 2020 Ried Silberbichl 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Riesling
93 2020 Ried Gottschelle 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Grüner Veltliner
89 2020 Furth Kremstal DAC Riesling


eRobertParker.com
The Independent Consumer's Guide to Fine Wines

96 2019 Ried Pfaffenberg 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Riesling
94 2019 Ried Silberbichl 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Riesling
94 2019 Ried Gottschelle 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Grüner Veltliner
90 2017 Furth Kremstal DAC Riesling
90 2017 Furth Kremstal DAC Grüner Veltliner
88 2017 Grüner Veltliner Messwein

 **WINE ENTHUSIAST**
MAGAZINE

94 2019 Ried Pfaffenberg 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Riesling
95 2019 Ried Silberbichl 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Riesling
95 2019 Ried Gottschelle 1.ÖTW Kremstal Grüner Veltliner

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17,5 2020 Ried Pfaffenberg 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Riesling
17 2020 Ried Silberbichl 1.ÖTW Kremstal DAC Riesling
17 2020 Ried Gottschelle 1.ÖTW Kremstal Grüner Veltliner
15,5 2020 Furth Kremstal DAC Riesling
15,5 2020 Furth Kremstal DAC Grüner Veltliner

GAULT & MILLAU

