



DOMÄNE
WACHAU



RIESLING SMARAGD® RIED ACHLEITEN 1996



Origin & Terroir

Achleiten is a legendary vineyard in the Wachau village of Weissenkirchen. It is famous for wines with inimitable mineral character. Dry stone walls dating back to the 12th century, which mount the steep slopes with their silicate-rich soil, dominate this vineyard's landscape. In the upper terraces, gneiss is the prevailing subsoil, the lower terraces are dominated by dark, schistous amphibolites.

Grape Variety

Riesling has four important origins worldwide – Germany, Alsace, South Australia and the Wachau. Responsible for the distinctive stone fruit aroma are so called “monoterpenes” – aroma molecules which can also be found in Gewürztraminer or Muskateller. Riesling is never characterised by opulence and power but by elegance, acidity and mineral character.

Classification

Smaragd is the top category of Wachau wines. The name Smaragd was derived from the magnificent emerald green lizard that can be found basking in hot and sunny spots in the vineyards. Smaragd wines are dry, full-bodied and complex wines with plenty of finesse and great aging potential. Smaragd® is a registered trademark of Vinea Wachau Nobilis Districtus e.V.

Vinification

Riesling from Achleiten is characterised by low yields due to the poor soil in this vineyard. After multiple selections the grapes for Riesling Smaragd Achleiten were carefully hand-picked. After several hours of maceration and gentle pressing, the wine fermented and matured in big wooden casks. Late bottling and therefore the long contact with the fine lees provides more precise nuances and gives additionally great finesse.

Tasting Notes

Straw yellow with golden reflections; very distinctive on the nose with hints of tangerine, citrus and melon; on the palate powerful, mouth filling and charming with an elegant acidity and a salty minerality, fine tobacco spices, dried fruits. A beautiful and long lasting wine with great ageing potential.

Enjoyment

Riesling Achleiten is counted among the most age-worthy wines of the Wachau. It remains fresh and racy even after a many years. Well chilled at 10°C, the wine perfectly accompanies the sophisticated international cuisine, fish, roasts, pigeon and quail as well as mature cheeses.

- **92 points | PARKER**

Alcohol: 13.0% | **Acidity:** 8.8‰ | **RS:** 2.9g/l

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