

Bacchus-Vinothek

Weinhandlung Grimm



WÖLFFER ESTATE
VINEYARD



Oberndorfer Str. 2 · D-78628 Rottweil
Tel. 0741 / 1 72 06 · Fax 0741 / 1 72 07
info@bacchus-vinothek.com
www.bacchus-vinothek.com



Christian Wölffer gründete Wölffer Estate auf Long Island vor allem aus Liebe zu den großen Bordeaux von St.-Emilion. New York liegt auf dem Breitengrad von Bordeaux. Warum also nicht auch in den Hamptons Merlot und Cabernet Franc anbauen?

Aber sich einfach einen Oenologen aus Bordeaux einzustellen, um "nur" eine Bordeaux-Kopie zu erzeugen, war ihm zu wenig individuell. Es sollte ein Oeologe/winemaker sein, der ganz unverkrampft an diese Aufgabe heranging. Vielleicht braucht es genau diesen Mut und eine große Vision, um am Ende so erfolgreich zu sein? Nicht ohne Grund gab dem gebürtigen Hamburger sein Erfolg als international aktiver "businessman" die finanzielle Möglichkeit, hier in den Hamptons auf Long Island seinen Traum vom eigenen Weingut und Gestüt zu realisieren.

Den winemaker fand er in Roman Roth, einem Jugendfreund von mir aus Rottweils Nachbarschaft. Wir sangen zusammen bei den Rottweiler Münstersängerknaben und sein Vater Remigius war 1. Küfer in der Kuferei meines Großvaters Severin Grimm in Rotweil. Die Kuferei existiert nicht mehr und ich habe das singen auf Anraten meiner Familie abgegeben. Nicht so Roman. Gerard Perse auf Chateau Pavie beschallt seine Barriques mit klassischer Musik von Händel, Beethoven und Mozart. Aus der Konserve. Roman jedoch besingt seine Weine im Fasskeller noch selbst mit seinem tiefen Bariton.

Seit 1992 ist Roman winemaker und mittlerweile Teilhaber auf Wölffer Estate. Zu Beginn wurden die Anstrengungen von der Weinwelt eher mit einem Lächeln und mit Achselzucken kommentiert. Weine

von Long Island? Ha! Dann verkostete Howard Goldberg von der "New York Times" die Weine von Wölffer Estate und schrieb so begeistert, dass nicht nur die Restaurants und Weinliebhaber von New York aufmerksam wurden, sondern auch die Kritiker von Wine Spectator und Robert Parker.

Und heute? Mittlerweile zählen die Weine von Roman und Wölffer Estate nicht nur als die "**Besten Weinen der Ostküste**" (Die WELT 4.8.2016), sondern mit zu den besten der USA. 2003 wählte die Jury der "American Sommelier Society" Roman Roth zum "**WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR**" und sein eigener Merlot – Grapes of Roth – zählt laut Winespecator zu den 100 beste Weinen der Welt.

Roman stellte uns die Weine von Wölffer Estate bei einem Besuch seiner Eltern im Frühjahr 2005 vor. Noch im selben Jahr besuchten wir Roman auf Long Island, um uns einen Eindruck von Lage, Weinbergen und Keller zu vermitteln. Und seit jenem Jahr 2005 sind wir Importeur von Wölffer Estate.

Art.	Jahr	Wein	Einh.	EUR/FI. netto	EUR/FI. brutto
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Pink GIN

0,375

29,41

35,00



Mark Squires (on Parker Wine Advocate): „...*One of Long Island's best wineries, with one of its best wine-makers (Roman Roth), this estate is located on the South Fork, with the Hamptons' vibe. That means you have to be really motivated to get here if you are on a wine tasting tour. The South Fork is pretty, glitzy and exciting, but also heavily congested. Meanwhile, virtually all the top wineries are on the more down-to-earth, calmer North Fork. Between the Forks is a drive of roughly an hour or a couple of ferry rides. Make this winery (and add Channing Daughters) a destination and it will be worth the effort. At Wölffer (and its sibling, the separately listed Grapes of Roth by Wölffer Estate, which is their highest scoring red this issue), there are some claims to fame. They have some old vines now. The big reds age beautifully. The sparklers and top whites age, too. The winery is also one of the few on Long Island that really takes Rosé very seriously. For my money, they are Long Island's best Rosé producer. And the prices overall are pretty fair, notwithstanding the majestic appearance of the winery's impressive estate in the glitzy playground of the rich and famous. It's hard to go wrong here. The new renovations to the tasting room make it even more attractive. You could easily spend the day tasting and enjoying the vibe.*

4779	2016	Wölffer Sauvignon Blanc	0,75	16,72	19,90
10987	2015	Wölffer Chardonnay	0,75	15,04	17,90
4847	2015	Wölffer Chardonnay Perle – 90 Parker	0,75	24,37	29,00

Parker (89): „... The 2015 Chardonnay Perle was aged for about 30 weeks in French oak (only 16% new). Although this bottling seems restrained and understated, it ages well (as the winery demonstrated when it showed me a 1997 a couple of years ago). Roman Roth said that he expects it will last 20 years, although exercise some caution there. Let's take that in stages. It handles its wood well, but needs another year to pull the wood in more and let the underlying structure show. If you are not an oak-a-phobe, it still drinks well now. Granting that I did not have them side-by-side, some more recent bottlings seemed to do better in mid-palate concentration. This may well be entitled to an uptick, but it is worth being just a bit conservative now “

2217	2015	Summer in a Bottle - White	0,75	19,91	23,70
2882	2016	Summer in a Bottle - Rosé	0,75	19,91	23,70

57% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 12% Chardonnay, and 11% Gewürztraminer

7779	2015	Classic Red	0,75	15,88	18,90
10564	2014	Cabernet Franc	0,75	16,72	19,90
5884	2013	Merlot	0,75	15,88	18,90
2847	2014	Pinot Noir Landius	0,75	32,77	39,00
1856	2014	Fatalis Fatum	0,75	29,41	35,00

Parker (91): „... The 2014 Fatalis Fatum is a mostly equal blend of Cabernet Franc and Merlot, with dollops of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot, aged for 20 months in 20% new French barriques. It comes in at 13.5% alcohol. Sterner and drier than the 2013 (and perhaps more typical), without its vivid flavors, this is still lovely. It is refined, sophisticated, precise and elegant. Not quite ready, it is still approachable, but you'd be better served giving this two or three years in the cellar. It should age well, perhaps 20 years or more, but let's take that in stages. There were 463 cases produced”

7960	2014	CAYA Cabernet Franc	0,75	27,73	33,00
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Parker (90): „... The 2014 Cabernet Franc Caya (from 1991 plantings) also has 17% Merlot. It was aged for 20 months in 30% new barriques and comes in at 13.5% alcohol. Full in the mouth, this retains its finesse and adds smooth texture and black fruit more than herbs. Sophisticated and refined, this will be approachable young and age pretty well. It is pretty tasty, too, and a perfect, understated food wine. There were 487 cases produced.“

6692	2004	Premier Cru	0,75	57,98	69,00
7058	2005	Merlot Christian's Cuvée	0,75	57,98	69,00
6364	2012	Merlot Christian's Cuvée – 92 Parker	0,75	63,03	75,00

Parker (92): „... The 2012 Christian's Cuvée Merlot, sourced from the winery's 1990 vines, also has 3% Cabernet Sauvignon and less than 1% Petit Verdot. It comes in at 13.5% alcohol and was aged for 19 months in French oak (60% new). Fresh, young and viscous, but also a creature of its vintage, this doesn't necessarily show impressive depth. However, the intensity of flavor and the beautiful craftsmanship in its structure makes it a winner. The fruit is hammered into the palate by the acidity. The lingering finish is very pleasing, to say the least. This should age beautifully, but be approachable fairly young. It would still be nice if you could give it a few years in the cellar for better results. There were 2,610 bottles produced, but 48 magnums”

8666	2013	Merlot Christian's Cuvée – 94+ Parker	0,75	66,39	79,00
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Parker (94+): „... The 2013 Christian's Cuvée Merlot was aged for 22 months in French oak (20% new). Sourced mostly from the winery's 1990 Merlot plantings (over 92%), this takes the beautiful performance of the Lambardo and doubles down. It adds a layer or two of depth and more intensity, but it remains beautifully balanced. Consistent with this issue's theme, it is rather seductive and leans more to expressive fruit than tannins, but it is still the most unevolved of the wines here this issue. As the others opened up, this shut down. It is still remarkably elegant and brilliantly crafted, not so bad now. I held it for three hours instead of one and watched it go through some ups and downs. At the three-hour mark, I was wondering how many people would think it was a classified growth from St. Emilion (and I was very glad I did not taste it too quickly). It will be much better around 2020, when it starts to acquire complexity. This is a potential superstar. As I was drinking it, I kept

thinking of the fun I could have sticking this into a blind Bordeaux tasting. (Making idiots of your friends always makes the wine taste much better and fully justifies the pricey purchase!) It may eventually be entitled to an uptick, but it is admittedly a bit hard to read just now. Let's start here and see what happens. I tend to think wines like this have to grow into their greatness in the cellar and prove what they've got. Let's get on with it“

Mark Squires (on Parker Wine Advocate): „...*One of the biggest proponents of the vintage, the winery calls 2013 an "epic vintage." Hype or reality? Here, it is reality. I've been eager to see the reds. Here they are—including the White Horse selection series and the upper-level flagship, Christian's Cuvée (the gold horse's face).*

What they are, well, they do seem somewhat different. In some years, they could be leaner and emphasize more structure and power. This year, they seem ripe and lush with more seductive, sweet fruit. They are rather sexy (relative to a cool-climate region) and surprisingly approachable as a group. On opening, they did not seem as well-defined as they often are. I was not quite as ready to offer unqualified plaudits. With an hour's air, however, their finesse, balance and structure joined with the fruit to make them seem brilliant. They are instant classics in the region. Few would guess "Long Island" on any of them if they were to be put in a blind tasting. This is not completely a cool-climate style this year, but it never approaches fat and sweet, either. It isn't warm-climate richness, in other words. They are still full of old-school finesse: elegant, graceful and surprisingly persistent. Remember to give them some air if you open them now. They are deceptive in their youth, very approachable on first taste, but dramatically better an hour later.

I've been rather liberal in saying that most of these can be approached young. They can be. That doesn't mean they should be. Every one of them will improve with a few years in the cellar, sometimes fairly dramatically.”



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