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Decanter

Provence / rose

91 wines for
the summer

CRISP WHITES

Grüner Veltliner,
Furmint, Riesling –
and Australian fizz

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Austrian Grüner Veltliner

Affectionately known as GV and by far the country's most widely planted grape, this Austrian white speciality has risen rapidly in prominence. Rightly so, says Stephen Brook

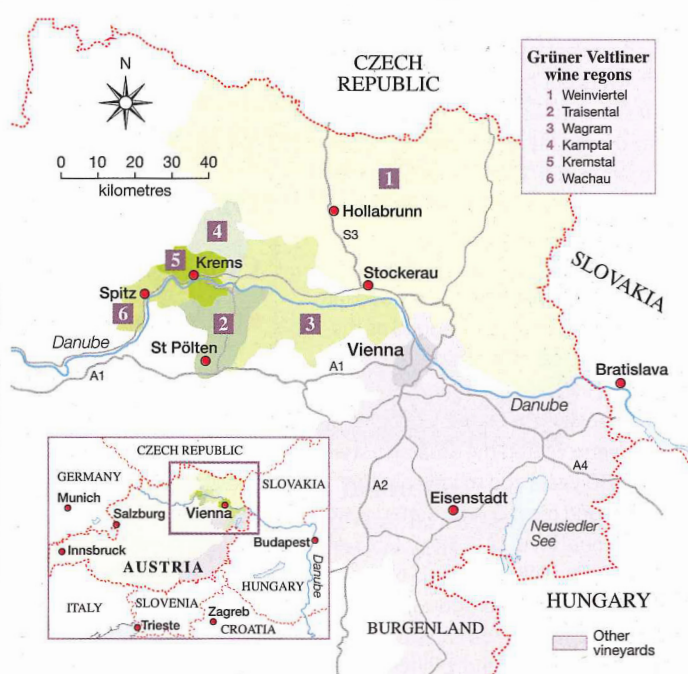
Some grape varieties – red Petit Verdot being a typical example – tend to have a single expression. Others, such as Chardonnay or Riesling, are infinitely varied: Chardonnay can be manipulated easily by winemakers, Riesling offers stylistic variations ranging from bone-dry to ultra-sweet.

Grüner Veltliner falls into the latter camp, which may explain why it has only recently attracted the attention it deserves. Like Riesling, it responds to the soils on which it is grown: in Austria, from loess to primary rock. Stylistically too, there can be some variation; usually vinified dry, it can in its Reserve category display some residual sugar, and ice wines are quite common in northern Austria's Weinviertel region.

In some regions, such as Wachau, Kamptal and Kremstal, it can produce powerful, bone-dry wines with remarkable ageing potential. Elsewhere it can offer an easygoing quaffing wine. With friends in Vienna back in the 1970s, our principal beverage was a litre bottling of Weinviertel Grüner Veltliner trundled back to the flat on a trolley in industrial quantities for our weekly consumption. It wasn't a great wine, but it was refreshing and moreish and quenched our thirst through long evenings.

Gaining ground

Blind tastings in 1998 and 2002 pitted more serious examples against the finest Chardonnays, and when Grüner Veltliners took the top rankings, the wine world began to take notice. Austrians had long known of the variety's versatility and potential. Bottlings from good sites from the 1970s could clearly age for 20 years or more, even with the high yields



common in that decade. Not that it was truly necessary to cellar them. Like many dry white wines, Grüner Veltliner can be enjoyed for its youthful zest as well as in its more complex old age. But its international reputation, once close to zero, soared.

It's the most commonly planted variety in the Weinviertel, an enormous region that stretches northwards to the Czech border. The somewhat restrictive DAC wine regulations insist that any wine from here labelled as DAC must be from Grüner Veltliner, although other varieties can thrive here too. These are essentially dry wines with high acidity, although the size and diversity of the region means that styles can and do vary.

Grüner Veltliner seems to flourish close to the Danube – it's not a prominent variety in the warmer Burgenland, for example – and there are excellent examples from the Traisental south of the river and, facing it on the north bank, the Wagram region. In Wagram the variety

GRÜNER VELTLINER: THE FACTS

Total Austrian plantings (2017) 14,422ha
By region (2015)
 Weinviertel 6,967ha
 Kamptal 2,018ha
 Wagram 1,332ha
 Kremstal 1,309ha
 Wachau 805ha
 Traisental 464ha

grows mostly on terraces on loess soils, giving supple, spicy wines that are best drunk relatively young, although the best will age.

Then to the west lies Kamptal, renowned for its primary-rock Helligenstein site as well as richer loess soils; Kremstal, which has a similar mix; and the Wachau, with its terraced vineyards overlooking the Danube. The Wachau wines are the steeliest of all, especially the Smaragd style, which requires high levels of ripeness but still gives an essentially dry style.

GRÜNER VELTLINER: KNOW YOUR VINTAGES

2018 Similar conditions to 2017, though rain in early September interrupted the harvest, and there was a good crop of full-bodied wines.

2017 A dry, hot summer refreshed by August storms, then an early harvest of elegant, spicy, fruit-forward whites.

2016 Considerable summer rain and some rot at harvest. Yet the whites proved elegant and structured thanks to cooler temperatures than in 2015.

2015 Extensive hail damage in May reduced yields, but a hot summer gave fully ripe and aromatic whites, though some had low acidity.

2014 A dreadful September wrecked hopes of high quality, although some appealing basic Veltliners were made.

2013 A hot and dry summer ended with rainfall before harvest that caused problems and brought down yields. But whites of high quality emerged.

White pepper is the marker for Grüner Veltliner, and many wines do indeed exhibit that character, but by no means all. Indeed, in my experience, a Grüner Veltliner Smaragd can be hard to differentiate from a Riesling Smaragd because of the high levels of extract and minerality, although keener palates may distinguish more easily.

Stephen Brook has been a contributing editor to *Decanter* since 1996 ➤

The verdict

Consistent scoring and plenty of Highly Recommendeds showed it's hard to go wrong with these classic Austrian whites, and there's a range of styles to explore, says Stephen Brook

This was a comprehensive tasting, focusing on specific regions where Grüner Veltliner is grown. There was a flight of wines from Lower Austria, which were mostly blends from various regions. Basic and inexpensive, they were nevertheless fresh and well made.

All three tasters agreed there was a sameness in profile and quality to the wines from Wagram, probably because the grapes are generally grown on deep loess soils. Such terroir gives an open fruitiness rather than deep structure, so tasted one after the other it was hard to detect nuances. But they had consistently good fruit and would give considerable pleasure in the short to medium term.

In Kamptal and Kremstal we were into more serious territory. Kamptal too has many loess and loam sites, but also primary rock vineyards such as Heiligenstein that can produce mineral and long-lived wines. Stefan Neumann MS preferred the Kamptal wines: 'They had great purity, and the Reserves were generally excellent.' The other tasters preferred the Kremstal wines overall – its diverse terroirs bring diverse styles, though they seemed to Stephen Brook and Peter Honneger to show more focused and mineral wines.

'Reserves' are a fairly recent innovation, and one that Neumann

had his doubts about. 'I don't think quality should be defined by ripeness and alcohol levels, and while many growers put their best efforts into the Reserve wines, they shouldn't automatically be considered superior to wines with less power. Sometimes they just seem an excuse for the growers to charge more for supposedly superior quality.'

The argument was extended into the Wachau, acknowledged as the source of the mightiest GV's, mostly grown in terraced primary-rock sites overlooking the Danube. 'When the growers created the Smaragd style over 30 years ago to indicate the ripest and most concentrated wines, an alcohol level of 12.5% or 13% was considered fully ripe,' said Neumann. 'Today, many Smaragd wines come in at 14% or 14.5%. You can say it's to do with global warming, but it's also, I think, a stylistic choice.'

Honneger concurred. 'Today Smaragd wines can come from lower slopes, simply because it's become easier to achieve the high ripeness that qualifies the wines for Smaragd status. So there's a range of styles from the overripe and over-alcoholic to the more energetic and mineral wines. It's a trend shaped by domestic demand. Austrian drinkers love the big super-ripe styles, even though they can obliterate the terroir that the Wachau is celebrated for.' Neumann

'GV can be enjoyed for its youthful zest, or in its more complex old age'

agreed, but added: 'The Wachau still shines for the freshness, poise and balance of the best wines, though I also think that they show best at between 13% and 13.5%.'

All the tasters lamented the Austrian predilection for wines that can be drunk on release. Neumann argued: 'Smaragds should need five years in bottle to develop complexity, and the same for Reserve wines from Kamptal and Kremstal. But today the wines seem to be fashioned to round out their minerality so as to give wines that are immediately accessible. That's a shame.'

Almost all the wines in the tasting were from the hot 2017 vintage, which also skewed our appreciation. The bracing acidity of which GV is capable may be more evident in a cooler vintage. But the tasting did show the versatility of the variety: from crisp and lively to powerful and structured.

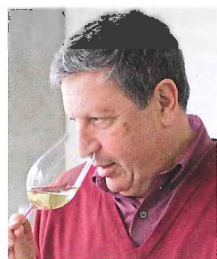
THE SCORES

104 wines tasted
Exceptional 0
Outstanding 0
Highly Recommended 37
Recommended 61
Commended 3
Fair 3
Poor 0
Faulty 0

Entry criteria: producers and UK agents were invited to submit their latest-release Grüner Veltliner whites from premium regions around Austria

THE JUDGES

Stephen Brook



Decanter contributing editor Brook is the author of almost 40 books on travel, wine and more, and has won numerous awards for his writing on wine. His works include *The Complete Bordeaux*,

now in its third edition, *The Wines of Germany* and, most recently published, *The Wines of Austria* (Classic Wine Library, 2016).

Peter Honneger



Honneger launched specialist importer Newcomer Wines with his partner Daniela Pillhofer in 2014. Initially on-trade only, they opened the Newcomer Wines shop and bar in

northeast London in 2016, and now work with growers across Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary and northern Italy.

Stefan Neumann MS



Austrian-born Neumann is director of wine at Dinner by Heston Blumenthal, a two-star Michelin restaurant in the Mandarin Oriental, Hyde Park. He also previously worked at

The Fat Duck in Bray, Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons near Oxford, Restaurant Hotel Obauer in Salzburg, and Steirereck in Vienna.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED 90–94pts

Weingut Familie Proidl, Ried Ehrenfels 1ÖTW, Kremstal Reserve 2017

Decanter average score: 92/100pts
Individual judges' scores: Stephen Brook 94
Peter Honegger 91 Stefan Neumann MS 91

£27.90 GK Wine House

Powerful, poised and pungent, yet accompanied by an alluring vibrance and freshness. Impressive, weighty and long, with lots of potential. **Drink** 2020–2029 **Alcohol** 14%



Weingut Högl, Ried Schön, Wachau Smaragd 2017

92 SB 93 PH 92 SN 91

£39.99 Alliance Wine, Carruthers & Kent

Enticing and sleek yet taut in structure, this is still youthful and assertive though with evident concentration and purity. Will become more nuanced with age. **Drink** 2019–2028 **Alc** 14%



Winzerhof Sax, Alte Reben, Kamptal Reserve 2017

92 SB 93 PH 93 SN 91

N/A UK www.winzersax.at

Rich but lively apricot aromas lead to a concentrated and zesty palate brimming with mouthwatering minerality and a welcome tanginess. Complex and long. **Drink** 2019–2028 **Alc** 13.5%



Brandl Zobing, Ried Kammerner Lamm 1ÖTW, Kamptal Reserve 2017 91 SB 92 PH 89 SN 93

N/A UK www.weingut-brandl.at

Opening with a lean, lemony nose, this has delicacy and finesse while boasting an admirable clarity and purity of fruit. Concentrated, yet sleek and luminous. **Drink** 2019–2026 **Alc** 13.5%



Josef & Philipp Bründlmayer, Ried Moosburgerin, Kremstal Reserve 2017 91 SB 92 PH 92 SN 88

£24.20 Stannary Street Wine Co

Full-bodied and weighty, this has real concentration, heft and evident oak, but with ample acidity to foster balance, tension and length. **Drink** 2020–2027 **Alc** 13%



Malat, Crazy Creatures, Kremstal 2017 91 SB 92 PH 91 SN 89

£17.50 Castelnau Wine Agencies, Spoonful Barnes, Tasting House

Tangy, youthful and lively, this shows herbal and citrus nuances alongside a crisp minerality. Should gain complexity with time. **Drink** 2019–2025 **Alc** 12.5%



Rudolf Rabl, Langenlois, Kamptal 2017 91 SB 90 PH 90 SN 92

£14.15–£15.99 Exel, Hallgarten Wines,

Novel Wines, Strictly Wine

Spicy nose, with Grüner's hallmark note of white pepper; lean yet sprightly, this offers precision, delicacy and flair. A joy to drink now. **Drink** 2019–2023 **Alc** 12.5%



Weingut Allram, Ried Gaisberg 1ÖTW, Kamptal 2017

91 SB 92 PH 88 SN 93

£30 ABS Wine Agencies, Richard Kihl

An expressive yet poised style, offering a near-perfect balance of ripe stone fruit and citrusy freshness; solid and stately, this has excellent balance and ageing potential. **Drink** 2019–2025 **Alc** 13.5%



Weingut Eder Wachau, Süssenberg, Wachau Federspiel 2017 91 SB 90 PH 93 SN 90

N/A UK www.eder-wachau.at

A lifted and refreshing style full of charm, raciness and an underlying minerality, yet without any pretensions to grandeur. Elegant yet energetic, this gives a lot of pleasure. **Drink** 2019–2024 **Alc** 12.5%



Weingut Familie Proidl, Ried Hausberg, Kremstal 2017

91 SB 92 PH 91 SN 91

£18.90 GK Wine House

Vibrant and aromatic, this boasts a superb intensity and purity of citrus fruit, though without being overbearing. Lots of potential for further development here. **Drink** 2019–2026 **Alc** 13%



Weingut Högl, Ried Schön, Wachau Federspiel 2017

91 SB 92 PH 89 SN 91

£21.99 Alliance Wine, Carruthers & Kent

A zesty nose unveils a rich and full-bodied palate that delivers classy acidity and real presence. Long, charming and harmonious. **Drink** 2019–2025 **Alc** 12.5%



Weingut Leindl, Ried Seeberg 1ÖTW, Kamptal 2017

91 SB 91 PH 89 SN 92

N/A UK www.weingutleindl.at

Rich and full-bodied, a weighty style that may lack a little acidity but offers a lot of substance and density of fruit; certainly enough here to give it a future. **Drink** 2019–2025 **Alc** 13.5% ➤

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (Continued) 90–94pts



Weingut Nigl, Privat Ried Pellingen 1ÖTW, Kremstal 2017
91 SB 94 PH 88 SN 90

N/A UK www.weingutnigl.at

Vibrant, bracing and very concentrated, there's ample fruit here though its minerality dominates for now. A classic, exemplary Grüner with plenty of life ahead. **Drink** 2020–2027 **Alc** 13.5%



Weingut Schmelz, Ried Pichl Point, Wachau Smaragd 2017
91 SB 90 PH 92 SN 92

N/A UK www.schmelzweine.at

Rich and juicy, though there is also tension, bite and ample acidity, with minerality creeping onto the long and tangy finish. Best kept for a few years. **Drink** 2019–2025 **Alc** 14%



Weingut Stadt Krems, Ried Wachtberg 1ÖTW, Kremstal Reserve 2017 91 SB 92 PH 91 SN 90

N/A UK www.weingutstadtkrems.at

Fresh, lively and sleek yet admirably understated, while offering ample minerality and extract. Invigorating, long and full of flair. **Drink** 2019–2026 **Alc** 13.5%



Weingut Tegernseerhof, Ried Schütt, Wachau Smaragd 2017
91 SB 92 PH 90 SN 91

POA H2Vin

Rich and full-bodied, this is textured and opulent without being overblown, while being mobilised by finely poised acidity and a mineral bite on the finish. **Drink** 2019–2028 **Alc** 13.5%

‘The Kamptal wines had great purity, and the Reserves were generally excellent’

Stefan Neumann MS



Franz Hirtzberger, Rotes Tor, Wachau Smaragd 2017
90 SB 93 PH 87 SN 91

£45 Clark Foyster Wines

Rich and sleek, this is concentrated but refreshing, with enough extract to give grip and weight. Long and complex, with good potential. **Drink** 2019–2027 **Alc** 13.5%



Franz Hirtzberger, Honivogl, Wachau Smaragd 2017
90 SB 92 PH 86 SN 92

£76.50 Clark Foyster Wines

Rich and swaggering, this offers a creamy texture and fine weight of fruit; perhaps lacks a little zest and freshness, but it's impressive and assertive. **Drink** 2019–2025 **Alc** 14%



Josef & Philipp Bründlmayer, Kaiserstiege, Kremstal 2017
90 SB 91 PH 89 SN 90

£19.40 Stannary Street Wine Co

Nose still a little inexpressive; fresh and limpid in the mouth, this is very ripe but has ample acidity and considerable drive. Still youthful though, needing time. **Drink** 2019–2023 **Alc** 13%



Rainer Wess, Weinzierlberg, Kremstal Reserve 2017
90 SB 92 PH 90 SN 88

N/A UK www.weingut-wess.at

Fresh and vibrant yet powerful and imposing, this offers a sturdy grip and a pronounced mineral edge. Robust and still youthful. **Drink** 2019–2026 **Alc** 13.5%



Weingut Alzinger, Ried Steinertal, Wachau Smaragd 2017 90 SB 92 PH 88 SN 90

POA Alpine Wines

A heavy, concentrated and exotic style yet with plenty of liveliness and freshness, this marries power with poise and elegance. **Drink** 2019–2027 **Alc** 14%



Weingut Birgit Eichinger, Ried Strasser Gaisberg 1ÖTW, Kamptal 2017 90 SB 90 PH 90 SN 90

N/A UK www.weingut-eichinger.at

A weighty, riper style combining stone fruit with exotic fruit, as well as an appealing creaminess. Rich and svelte, if a little low in acidity. **Drink** 2019–2023 **Alc** 13.5%



Weingut Birgit Eichinger, Ried Kammerner Lamm 1ÖTW, Kamptal 2017 90 SB 91 PH 89 SN 91

£32 Armit

Rich, dense and concentrated, offering spicy stone fruit and tropical nuances alongside a light touch of oak. A little plump, but textured and characterful. **Drink** 2019–2024 **Alc** 13.5%

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (Continued) 90-94pts



Weingut Buchegger, Pfarrweingarten, Kremstal 2017
90 SB 90 PH 89 SN 90

N/A UK www.buchegger.at

A nimble, aromatic, fruit-driven style: raciness and purity rather than great complexity, though there's a welcome touch of minerality on the finish. **Drink** 2019-2024 **Alc** 13%



Weingut Eder Wachau, Süßenberg, Wachau Smaragd 2016
90 SB 89 PH 92 SN 90

N/A UK www.eder-wachau.at

Citrus-laden nose is lifted and precise, while the palate boasts concentration and freshness, yet is still somewhat pinched on the finish. Seems very young still, but shows potential. **Drink** 2019-2026 **Alc** 13.5%



Weingut Hiedler, Ried Schenkenbichl 1ÖTW, Kamptal Reserve 2017
90 SB 91 PH 89 SN 89

N/A UK www.hiedler.at

Rich and full-bodied, this shows just a hint of sweetness but there's also sufficient spice and tang for balance. Vibrant and persistent. **Drink** 2019-2026 **Alc** 13.5%



Weingut Jurtschitsch, Stein, Kamptal 2017
90 SB 92 PH 90 SN 88

£13.80 Newcomer Wines

Somewhat herbaceous in style, concentrated but not over-ambitious, with an admirable complexity and verve. Still youthful and with ageing potential. **Drink** 2019-2024 **Alc** 12.5%

‘Wachau still shines for the freshness, poise and balance of the best wines’

Stefan Neumann MS



Weingut Jurtschitsch, Ried Käferberg, Kamptal 2017
90 SB 90 PH 91 SN 88

£28.25 Newcomer Wines

Suave and juicy, this is in a more rounded style and while it doesn't exhibit a lot of vigour, it does show solid fruit and agreeable extract. **Drink** 2019-2024 **Alc** 12.5%



Weingut Schloss Gobelsburg, Langenlois, Kamptal 2017
90 SB 88 PH 90 SN 92

£20 Clark Foyster Wines

Refreshing and vibrant, offering a satisfying energy and drive, this is featherlight but with a wonderfully persistent citrus-imbuéd quality. **Drink** 2019-2023 **Alc** 12.5%



Weingut Schloss Gobelsburg, Ried Renner 1ÖTW, Kamptal 2017
90 SB 90 PH 88 SN 93

£27 Clark Foyster Wines

Broad and juicy, this is an upfront, fruit-driven style revealing concentration and weight. Intriguing, if a little modest in acidity. **Drink** 2019-2024 **Alc** 13%



Weingut Schmelz, Ried Steinertal, Wachau Smaragd 2017
90 SB 89 PH 88 SN 92

N/A UK www.schmelzweine.at

Rich, sumptuous and exotic, this boasts a velvety texture and a satisfying weight of fruit, though it's still a little youthful and reticent. There's definite potential here. **Drink** 2019-2025 **Alc** 14.5%



Weingut Stift Göttweig, Further Ried Gottschelle 1ÖTW, Kremstal Reserve 2017
90 SB 92 PH 89 SN 90

£33 OW Loeb

Rich, forceful and highly concentrated, this unveils an impressive weight of mineral-infused fruit and a creamy texture. Imposing yet tense and persistent. **Drink** 2019-2027 **Alc** 13.5%



Weingut Tegernseerhof, Ried Höhereck, Wachau Smaragd 2017
90 SB 93 PH 90 SN 88

POA H2Vin

Lush and full-bodied, this has heft yet without excessive concentration or power, but plenty of nutty extract. Juicy, complex and harmonious. **Drink** 2019-2028 **Alc** 14%



Weingut Weszeli, Käferberg 1ÖTW, Kamptal Reserve 2013
90 SB 92 PH 88 SN 89

£37 Bancroft Wines

Rich, fleshy and assertive, this has excellent weight of fruit, culminating in an exotic and complex finish with notes of honey and quince. **Drink** 2020-2027 **Alc** 13.5% ➤

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (Continued) 90-94pts



Wein Hofmeisterei Mathias
Hirtzberger, Ried Kollmütz,
Wachau Smaragd 2017

90 SB 88 PH 90 SN 91

£47 Clark Foyster Wines

Plump and juicy, in a supple style, offering enticing notes of apple, pear and quince. Energetic and intriguing, yet not revealing its all just yet. **Drink** 2019-2025 **Alc** 14%



Winzer Krems, Kremser
Wachtberg, Kremstal Reserve
2017 90 SB 88 PH 90 SN 92

£18.99 Ehrmanns

Broad, weighty and creamy, yet with beautiful ripeness and intensity. Textured flavours of tangerine and orange peel. Joyful now, but should keep well too. **Drink** 2019-2024 **Alc** 14%



Winzerhof Sax, Zwillingslauser,
Kamptal 2017 90 SB 92 PH 89 SN 90

N/A UK www.winzersax.at

Quite restrained and light on its feet, yet fresh and precise, nimble acidity fuelling a persistent citrus-imbued finish. **Drink** 2019-2025 **Alc** 12.5%

RECOMMENDED 86-89pts

Wine	Score	SB	PH	SN	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Emmerich Knoll, Ried Loibenberg, Wachau Smaragd 2017	89	89	90	87	Lush and opulent, creamy and broad, this is a fleshy style; lacks some flair though it shows ample fruit.	13.5%	2019-2023	POA	Fields Morris & Verdin
FX Pichler, Ried Liebenberg, Wachau Smaragd 2017	89	89	89	90	Fresh and assertive, compact and very ripe, with a touch of residual sugar and discernible alcohol on the finish.	14%	2019-2025	£59.99	Carruthers & Kent, Liberty Wines, The Wine Reserve
Geyerhof, Ried Steinleithn 1ÖTW, Kremstal 2016	89	88	90	90	Rounded and easygoing, this is a straightforward yet vibrant and energetic style, for early drinking.	13%	2019-2023	POA	Savage Selection
Hirsch, Ried Gaisberg 1ÖTW, Kamptal 2017	89	88	91	88	Rich and concentrated despite its modest alcohol, this is a creamy style with only moderate acidity, offering heft and weight.	12%	2019-2023	N/A UK	www.weingut-hirsch.at
Josef Fischer, Frauenweingärten, Wachau Smaragd 2017	89	88	90	90	This unveils a lovely intensity of ripe exotic fruit accompanied by a touch of minerality, yet the high alcohol is evident on the finish.	14.5%	2019-2025	N/A UK	www.huchenfischer.at
Mantlerhof, Gedersdorfer Ried Spiegel 1ÖTW, Kamptal 2017	89	88	89	89	Rich and forthright on the attack, though its acidity is modest, making for a soft and mellow finish. Lacks a little in persistence.	13.5%	2019-2023	POA	Bibendum PLB
Mantlerhof, Weitgasse, Kremstal 2017	89	90	90	88	A lightweight, refreshing style, with bracing acidity mobilising flavours of lemon, lime and green apple. Precision over complexity here.	12%	2019-2023	POA	Bibendum PLB
Petra Unger, Ried Oberfeld 1ÖTW Alte Reben, Kremstal Reserve 2017	89	88	89	89	Weighty, rich and very ripe in character, this offers plenty of power and poise yet with only moderate acidity. Not for the faint-hearted.	15%	2019-2025	N/A UK	www.ungerwein.at
Pichler-Krutzler, Ried Kellerberg, Wachau 2016	89	89	90	88	Broad and plump, this is an exotic and weighty style, dishing up notes of banana and guava; while reasonably long, it lacks a little in precision.	13.5%	2019-2022	£45	Raeburn Fine Wines
Rudolf Rabl, Ried Käferberg, Kamptal Reserve 2017	89	89	90	89	A powerful, hefty style, this unravels with a great richness of fruit, offering extract and vinosity, albeit with only modest acidity.	13.5%	2019-2025	£24.99	Hallgarten Wines
Stagård, Ried Kreuzberg, Kremstal Reserve 2017	89	91	88	89	Vibrant and precise, with racy acidity to enliven notes of green pepper and just-ripe asparagus, while a slight spritz adds lift and drive.	13%	2019-2026	N/A UK	www.stagard.at
Weingut Bründlmayer, Ried Berg-Vogelsang, Kamptal 2017	89	88	92	88	A tight, linear style yet already accessible, with a pronounced citrusy aspect joined by floral touches. Perhaps best drunk young.	12.5%	2019-2022	£18	Fields Morris & Verdin, Waitrose
Weingut Buchegger, Leopold, Kremstal 2017	89	87	89	91	A riper style yet with a fresh attack, revealing a pleasant sweet orange character that rounds out the palate. Nicely done, if a little short of tension.	13%	2019-2022	N/A UK	www.buchegger.at
Weingut Hiedler, Ried Thal, Kamptal 2017	89	88	90	90	A juicy, forward style yet fairly rich and concentrated, showing a satisfying interplay between stone fruit and citrus characters.	13%	2019-2022	N/A UK	www.hiedler.at
Weingut Markus Huber, Ried Alte Setzen Erste Lage, Traisental 2017	89	86	90	90	Aromatic and expressive, bracing citrus aromas ceding to a palate punctuated by a distinct tropical sweetness. Evened, though a touch one-dimensional.	13.5%	2019-2024	£24.50	Astrum Wine Cellars
Weingut Nigl, Herzstück Ried Kirchenberg, Kremstal 2017	89	91	88	89	Suave, rounded, some sweet notes of honeycomb and quince but sufficient acidity to provide tension and zest. Long and lively, and has charm too.	14%	2019-2025	N/A UK	www.weingutnigl.at
Weingut Salomon Undhof, Lindberg Erste Lage, Kremstal Reserve 2017	89	87	90	89	Sumptuous and broad, satisfying vibrancy and power while imparting notes of quince and ripe pear. Great now but worth revisiting in a few years.	14.5%	2019-2023	£33	Lea & Sandeman
Weingut Stift Göttweig, Messwein, Kremstal 2017	89	88	90	88	Straightforward, light and crisp, with little depth or complexity, but a good entry-level style with mineral touches on the fairly long finish.	12%	2019-2023	£16	OW Loeb
Weingut Weszeli, Schenkenbichl 1ÖTW, Kamptal 2016	89	90	89	88	Lush and richly textured, and while it's a touch overripe with a sweet-fruited finish, it manages to seduce with its tropical richness.	12.5%	2019-2024	£26.50	Bancroft
Wein Hofmeisterei Mathias Hirtzberger, Spitaler, Wachau Smaragd 2017	89	89	87	90	Supple and rounded, another riper style with notes of pear combining with hints of marmalade; a little too forward perhaps, but retains some freshness.	14%	2019-2025	£38	Clark Foyster Wines
Anton Bauer, Ried Gmirk, Wagram 2017	88	86	89	88	Supple and juicy, there's a soft and mellow sweetness running through this, culminating in a light finish. Pleasant, if a little simple.	12%	2019-2023	£17	Top Selection

RECOMMENDED (Continued) 86–89pts

Wine	Score	SB	PH	SN	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Anton Bauer, Ried Rosenberg, Wagram 2017	88	87	88	89	Crisp and refreshing, though straightforward in style, with some exotic fruit and a mellow, slightly sweet finish.	12.5%	2019-2023	£22	Top Selection, Thirty Nine 10
Domäne Wachau, Ried Achleiten, Wachau 2017	88	88	88	88	Rich and rounded though a touch lacking in acidity, yet it does show some mineral character on the finish. For immediate drinking.	14.5%	2019-2023	£30	Carruthers & Kent, Cellar Door Wines, The Fine Wine Co
Domäne Wachau, Ried Kellerberg, Wachau 2017	88	90	88	87	Rich and svelte, this is a touch soft and overly creamy, but has an agreeable concentration of exotic fruit and some mineral tang on the finish.	14%	2019-2025	£30	Gonzalez Byass
Eschenhof Holzer, Wagram, Wagram 2017	88	87	87	89	Light in texture but fresh in attack, this has a concentrated core of citrus, but lacks a little in the way of complexity.	12%	2019-2022	£15	Widely available via Red Squirrel Wine
Eschenhof Holzer, Ried Altweingarten, Wagram 2017	88	87	88	90	A pleasing, weighty style, exotic fruit intermingling with a chalky mineral character. Cheerful, if not very complex.	12.5%	2019-2022	£16	Appellation Nation, Corks Out, Hack & Veldt, Last Drop Wines, Red Squirrel, Seven Cellars, The Grocery
Kurt Angerer, Ried Schreckenstein, Kamptal Reserve 2017	88	87	89	89	Plump but concentrated, this offers an ample weight of fruit and an evident ripeness, if not a lot of precision or tension. Soft and mellow.	13.5%	2019-2025	£31	Noel Young
Loimer, Ried Käferberg IÖTW, Kamptal 2016	88	87	89	89	Supple, broad and fleshy, a riper style exhibiting notes of honey, mango and sweet golden apple, though it does lack some zest.	13%	2019-2023	£28-£47.99	Alliance Wine, Carruthers & Kent, Liberty Wines, Nysa Wine & Spirits
Malat, Ried Gottschelle IÖTW, Kamptal 2016	88	87	89	88	Very rich, textured and a little cloying, dishing up notes of honey and sweet apple. Will need more time, though could be a popular style.	13%	2019-2025	£44.50	Castelnau Wine Agencies
Müller Grossmann, Großer Satz, Kremstal 2017	88	89	88	87	Fruit-forward, juicy and quite lush, while not being too broad or heavy; it's not that complex either, but is harmonious, enjoyable and moreish.	12.5%	2019-2024	£12.30	Tanners
Pichler-Krutzler, Ried Loibenberg, Wachau 2016	88	89	89	85	A ripe, aromatic style, offering notes of honey and caramelised nuts, heightened by some piquant acidity on the finish.	13.5%	2019-2023	£36	Raeburn Fine Wines
Rainer Wess, Krems, Kremstal 2017	88	88	90	86	Rich and plump, a juicier style with weight rather than lift; there's no flatness, but it lacks a little drive. Plays safe.	13%	2019-2024	£23	Bottle Apostle
Stagård, Handwerk, Niederösterreich 2017	88	88	88	88	Rich and suave, unravels with an appealing creamy texture, while poised acidity flows onto a broad, languid finish. A touch soft but drinking well.	13%	2019-2021	N/A UK	www.stagard.at
Ueberacker, Brunnthal, Wagram 2017	88	86	88	89	Plump and rounded, with plenty of upfront fruit yet only modest acidity, in a straightforward, easy-drinking style.	13.5%	2019-2022	N/A UK	www.ueberacker.at
Weingut Alzinger, Ried Loibenberg, Wachau Smaragd 2017	88	88	87	89	Voluptuous and broad, exotic and stone fruit nuances against a dense, creamy backdrop. A touch heavy, but certainly concentrated and powerful.	14.5%	2019-2024	POA	Alpine Wines
Weingut Ecker Eckhof, Ried Schlossberg, Wagram 2017	88	85	88	90	Plump, ripe and exotic, the acidity here is on the low side, making for a rounded, weighty style.	13%	2019-2023	£14.99	Widely available via Vindependents
Weingut Ecker Eckhof, Ried Mordthal, Wagram 2017	88	86	88	90	Rich, full-bodied and creamy, this is a bold, mouthfilling style with noticeable sweetness on the finish.	13.5%	2019-2022	£21.99	Define Food & Wine, Le Vignoble, Noel Young, Vindependents
Weingut Markus Huber, Ried Berg Erste Lage, Traisental 2017	88	86	88	89	Full-bodied yet bright and fruit-driven, with exotic highlights complementing an underlying chalky quality.	13.5%	2019-2024	£39	Astrum
Weingut Salomon Undhof, Ried Wachberg IÖTW, Kremstal 2017	88	88	89	88	Rich, lush and opulent, this is an appealing fleshy style, expanded by a neat herbaceous character on the finish.	13%	2019-2024	£19.95	Lea & Sandeman
Weingut Sepp Moser, Ried Schnabel, Kremstal Reserve 2017	88	87	89	89	Concentrated and svelte, yet soft and mellow, with a woody note engraving apple and pear fruit. Solid, if a touch on the heavy side.	13.5%	2019-2023	£25	Boutinot
Weingut Stadt Krems, Ried Weinzierlberg, Kremstal 2017	88	87	90	87	Crisp and lively, revealing admirable acidity and just a hint of sweetness; it's enjoyable but only moderate in length.	12.5%	2019-2023	£17.63	Clark Foyster Wines
Weingut Steininger, Grand Grü, Kamptal Reserve 2017	88	86	89	89	Supple and rounded, with floral and herbal touches, this is a solid effort but the acidity is modest and it doesn't soar from the glass.	13.5%	2019-2023	N/A UK	www.weingut-steininger.at
Weingut Steininger, Ried Lamm, Kamptal Reserve 2017	88	87	89	89	Richly textured and full-bodied, with flavours of citrus, orange and tangerine peel, though its low acidity makes for a rather lacklustre finish.	14%	2019-2023	N/A UK	www.weingut-steininger.at
Weingut Türk, Kremser Sandgrube, Kremstal Reserve 2017	88	87	88	90	A powerful and intense style, brimming with flavours of mango and pineapple, though it's low in acidity and seems quite evolved.	13.5%	2019-2024	POA	New Generation Wines
Winzer Krems, Danaris, Niederösterreich 2017	88	90	87	88	Crisp, bright and pretty, this boasts finely poised acidity and still has a touch of welcome spritz; while not ambitious, it's nicely evened and moreish.	12%	2019-2021	£10.99	Laithwaite's
Grüber Roschitz, Weinviertel 2017	87	88	86	87	Rich and suave, showing generous fruit and reasonable concentration; there's not a lot of complexity here but it's direct, harmonious and fairly long.	13.5%	2019-2021	£13.45	Amathus Drinks
Grüber Roschitz, Ried Muhlberg, Weinviertel 2016	87	87	88	87	A weighty, full-on style, and while it's rather low in acidity, there's abundant fruit and traces of spice on the finish.	12.5%	2019-2022	£26	Amathus Drinks
Nikolaihof Wachau, Im Weingebirge, Wachau Federspiel 2010	87	82	90	89	Powerful and textural: honeyed notes, slight hints of botrytis. Seems to have been matured a long time on the lees, and is revealing itself in baby steps.	11.5%	2019-2026	POA	Fields Morris & Verdin
Pfaffl, Hommage, Weinviertel 2017	87	87	85	88	Rich and bold, this offers a satisfying weight of fruit and a suave texture, though there's a touch of heat on the finish.	14%	2019-2022	£20	Astrum, Carruthers & Kent, Daniel Lambert, Enotria&Coe, Peter Osborne, The Maidenhead Wine Co, Villeneuve Wines
Weingut Allram, Ried Renner IÖTW, Kamptal 2017	87	86	87	87	Rich and fleshy, though still reserved, lime cordial and floral nuances against a backdrop of dense peach and apricot fruit. Ample, if a little heavy-handed.	13.5%	2019-2022	N/A UK	www.allram.at
Weingut Bründlmayer, Langenloiser Alte Reben, Kamptal 2017	87	86	89	87	Bracingly aromatic, and linear in style, with notes of citrus adorning a stony minerality, though it's a little lacking in persistence.	12.5%	2019-2021	£35	Fields Morris & Verdin

RECOMMENDED (Continued) 86-89pts

Wine	Score	SB	PH	SN	Tasting note	Alc	Drink	Price	Stockists
Weingut Sepp Moser, Ried Breiter Rain, Kremstal Reserve 2017	87	85	87	88	Full-bodied, mellow and creamy, this shows lees ageing and oak influence on both nose and palate, doling out notes of lime and toast.	13.5%	2019-2024	£25	Boutinot
Weinrieder, Ried Schneiderberg, Niederösterreich 2017	87	89	87	86	Grippy and concentrated, this has some heft and power, although its acidity is moderate. Not for long cellaring, but a serious style nonetheless.	13.5%	2019-2021	£14.80	Gauntleys
Bioweingut Diwald, Ried Goldberg, Wagram 2016	86	84	88	85	Soft, plush and rounded, this has a lovely texture but low acidity means it lacks some bite, with a rather abrupt finish.	13%	2019-2024	£23	Butlers Wine Cellar, Red Squirrel, The Grocery, Vino Wines
FX Pichler, M, Wachau Smaragd 2017	86	85	88	85	A ripe and aromatic style, imparting notes of honey and saffron, although it seems heavy and a little lacking in energy.	12%	2019-2022	£78.99	Carruthers & Kent, Liberty Wines
Geyerhof, Gutsreserve, Kremstal 2011	86	85	89	85	Clearly showing some age, with touches of botrytis and a certain sweetness; it's rather soft but healthy and rounded, though needs drinking soon.	12.5%	2019-2021	POA	Savage Selection
Müller Grossmann, Silberbichl, Kremstal 2016	86	83	87	87	Concentrated yet soft and rounded, divulging notes of overripe quince and orange along with a slight touch of petrol, though it lacks some zest.	13.5%	2019-2021	£22	Tanners
Pfaffl, Zeisen, Weinviertel 2018	86	88	85	86	Ripe and juicy but quite concentrated and mineral; while not very complex, it does have zest, vigour and decent length.	12.5%	2019-2021	£15.75	Astrum, Carruthers & Kent, Daniel Lambert, Enotria&Coe, Peter Osborne, The Maidenhead Wine Co, Villeneuve Wines
The Dot, Austrian Pepper, Niederösterreich 2018	86	86	86	86	Vivacious, crisp and refreshing, this is a lightweight style for attractive early drinking, showing notes of pear drop and yellow apple.	12%	2019-2021	£10-£10.99	Astrum, Daniel Lambert, Enotria&Coe, Peter Osborne, The Maidenhead Wine Co, Villeneuve Wines
The Dot, Austrian Apple, Niederösterreich 2018	86	85	87	87	Ripe and juicy, this is a straightforward style propelled by perky acidity and ripe stone fruit. Attractive, though light in texture and depth.	12%	2019-2021	£10-£10.99	Astrum, Daniel Lambert, Enotria&Coe, Peter Osborne, The Maidenhead Wine Co, Villeneuve Wines
Weinkellerei Lenz Moser, Selection, Niederösterreich 2018	86	86	86	87	Lean and zesty, this is a simple wine but with radiant acidity and a refreshing finish. Excellent summer drinking.	12%	2019-2021	POA	Inverarity Morton

COMMENDED 83-85pts

■ Bioweingut Diwald, Alte Weingärten, Wagram 2015 85, 12%, 2019-2020, £30 Red Squirrel
 ■ Weinrieder, Klassik, Niederösterreich 2017 85, 12.5%, 2019-2020, £13.35 Gauntleys ■ Nikolaihof Wachau, Hefcabzug, Wachau 2017 84, 12%, 2019-2022, £24.50 Fields Morris & Verdin

FAIR 76-82pts

■ Weingut Johann Müllner, Ried Sandgrube, Kremstal 2016 80 ■ Martin & Anna Arndorfer, die Leidenschaft, Niederösterreich 2017 79 ■ Weingut Johann Müllner, Spiegel, Kremstal 2017 77

Next month's panel tastings

Global traditional-method Blanc de Blanc, & Rosso di Montalcino

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