

HANDOUT | MASTERCLASS

THE ORIGINAL WORLD CHAMPION SAUVIGNON BLANCS (CONCOURS MONDIAL DU SAUVIGNON) FROM SOUTHERN STYRIA

Who are the Weltmeister-Winzer?

In 2023, seven South Styrian winegrowers joined forces under the umbrella brand 'Welt Meister Winzer', each of whom has won one or more trophies at the Sauvignon Selection by CMB (formerly Concours Mondial du Sauvignon). Since 2016, 8 titles have been awarded to the South Styrian winemakers. Together, the winegrowers also offer limited wine editions in elegant boxes - from regional wines, village wines and the 'Signature Edition' to the 'Weltmeister Edition' with current Sauvignon Blancs straight from the world champion vineyards. The following winegrowers/wineries are participating:

- Winery Muster.gamlitz - Winemaker Reinhard Muster
- Winery Skoff Original - Winemaker Walter Skoff
- Winery Kodolitsch - Winemaker Mario Weber
- Winery Dreisiebner Stammhaus - Winemaker Hannes Dreisiebner
- Winery Riegelnegg-Olwitschhof - Winemaker Roland Riegelnegg
- Winery Peter Skoff - Domäne Kranachberg - Winemakers Markus & Peter Skoff
- Winery Adam-Lieleg - Winemaker Florian Lieleg

Winery Muster.Gamlitz

- Winemaker Reinhard Muster
- Was the first South Styrian to win the Concours Mondial du Sauvignon in 2016 with the 'Sauvignon Blanc Grubthal 2013'
- Overall winner of the Sauvignon Selection 2024 with the 'Sauvignon Blanc Ried Grubthal Südsteiermark DAC 2020'
- Winery Muster.Gamlitz has only participated in two 'Sauvignon Selections' so far and won a trophy both times
- Winery has grown over the years in the municipality of Gamlitz and cultivates top vineyards such as Ried Grubthal



- Grubthal is an accumulating hot basin location, low altitude leads to massive low cooling, soil shell limestone and sandy loam, formed around 12 million years ago and strongly influenced by the last ice age around 10,000 years ago
- Illyrian climate zone is an important keyword for Reinhard Muster in the whole process. The Illyrian climate is characterised by high daytime temperatures, cool nights, lots of precipitation and cool, alpine winds as well as numerous hours of sunshine - a separate wine line of the winery therefore bears the name 'Illyr'

Winery Skoff Original

- Winemaker Walter Skoff runs the traditional winery together with his wife Eva Liebau-Skoff (opera singer)
- Overall winner of the Concours Mondial du Sauvignon in 2017 with the Sauvignon Blanc Kranachberg 2015 (Denis-Dubourdieu-Trophy)
- Grand Gold Medal at the Sauvignon Selection by CMB with the Sauvignon Blanc Royal 2021
- Fourth generation of the family to run the winery on the Eckberg in Gamlitz in the heart of southern Styria
- 13 top vineyards within a radius of 15 kilometres around the winery enable a wide variety of varieties thanks to the diverse terroir - a total of 60 hectares of vineyards are maintained
- The world champion vineyard Kranachberg is located at 420 metres above sea level and is characterised by water-permeable, sandy gravel soils, with a southern exposure and microclimatic conditions that ensure long maturation and storage potential for the wines
- The winery blends traditional and tried-and-tested vinification methods with new approaches such as ageing in granite stone barrels or organic vinification
- Winemaker Walter Skoff has won numerous awards over the past 30 years, including Grand Gold at the Sauvignon Selection 2024 (Sauvignon Blanc Royal 2021), Gold Award Winner at the Hong Kong International Wine & Spirit Competition 2022 (Sauvignon Blanc Royal 2013)

Winery Kodolitsch

- Winemaker & cellar master Mario Weber
- Overall winner of the Concours Mondial du Sauvignon 2018 with the 'Sauvignon Blanc Ried Rosengarten Reserve T.M.S. 2015'

- Vinification: Late harvest, fermentation in 500-litre and 1,000-litre wooden barrels, 18 months on the yeast, subsequent filtration and bottling in September 2017
- Kodolitsch winery has been owned by the Kodolitsch family for over 300 years - taken over by Christa and Nikolaus Kodolitsch in 1993 and developed into a model winery with high quality standards - the combination of art and wine is a key focus at the winery
- Winemaker & cellar master Mario Weber joined the winery at the age of 19 - today he looks after around 18 hectares of vineyards, including the Ried Rosengarten monopole vineyard
- Ried Rosengarten lies at 280-360 metres above sea level, with sandy loam soil on coral limestone
- The name Rosengarten goes back to a time when a rose bush was planted in front of each row of vines as an indicator of mildew; half of the vineyard is planted with Sauvignon Blanc vines
The term 'T.M.S.', which can be found on many of the winery's wine bottles, stands for 'Trink ma sölber', which can be interpreted as 'a wine, we prefer to drink ourselves, because it's so good'

Winery Dreisiebner Stammhaus:

- Winemaker Hannes Dreisiebner
- Winner of the 'Revelation Unoaked Sauvignon' at the Concours Mondial du Sauvignon 2019 with 'Sauvignon Blanc Ried Hochsulz 2017'
 - Vinification: matured in steel tanks, 6 months on the fine yeast
- Vinification of the wines from Ried Hochsulz: 2 thirds of the grapes are fermented in steel tanks and labelled as Ried Hochsulz, 1 third of the highly ripe grapes are fermented in small wooden barrels, stored for 1 year on full yeast and aged for another year in steel tanks on fine yeast (Ried Hochsulz Alte Reben, wines are bottled 2 years after the harvest)
- Traditional family-run winery with a long history dating back to the 1890s
- Family runs a winery and a traditional local wine tavern, a so called Buschenschank - Hannes Dreisiebner also likes to refer to the combination as a "tourism winery"
- Ried Hochsulz & Ried Zoppelberg are cultivated - offering a wide range of varieties from Sauvignon, Muscat and Chardonnay to Pinot Blanc, Gelber Traminer (yellow Traminer) and Welschriesling
- Ried Sulz is one of the oldest vineyards in southern Styria, mentions on maps date back to the 12th century - family-owned since 1998, the name Hochsulz was first used by the previous owner around 1950 (400 - 500 metres above sea level, south-facing - basin location with calcareous marl soil)

- Cellar master Hannes Dreisiebner's philosophy: straightforward, crystal-clear and precise vinification with a focus on single-vineyard wines and character wines true to the region
- Hannes Dreisiebner has achieved numerous top placings in wine competitions (e.g. Austrian Wine Challenge; A la Carte, Styrian regional winner etc.)

Winery Riegelnegg-Olwitschhof:

- Winemaker Roland Riegelnegg
- Winner of the 'Tonnellerie Sylvain Trophy' (Concours Mondial du Sauvignon) in 2021 with the 'Sauvignon Ried Sernauberg Exzellenz 2018', matured in wooden barrels
- The winery is a family business run by two generations - Roland and his wife Martina are in charge
- 14 hectares are cultivated, divided into vineyards Ried Sernauberg and Ried Welles near the South Styrian Wine Route
- Ried Sernauberg is a site with extremely steep slopes, multi-layered soils with sand, loam, shell limestone and blue opok, a solidified loam with a high clay content and low lime content
- The assortment includes Welschriesling, Pinot Blanc, Riesling, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Muscat, Traminer, and in suitable years, ice wine is also produced.
- Roland Riegelnegg is the cellar master responsible for vinification and has won numerous awards - including 10 awards at the Salon Österreich, winner of the Falstaff Sauvignon Blanc Trophy, winner of the Styrian regional wine tasting and many more.

Winery Peter Skoff – Domäne Kranachberg

- Family-run winery, managed by brothers Peter and Markus Skoff and father Peter Skoff
- Winner of the 'Tonnellerie Sylvain Trophy' for the best 'Oaked Sauvignon' at the Concours Mondial du Sauvignon 2022 with the 'Sauvignon Blanc Kranachberg Reserve 2015'
 - Vinification: 2 years on fine yeast in used 300-litre or 500-litre wooden barrels
- The winery has been family-run since 1833 - 30 hectares are cultivated, the winery and the accompanying local wine tavern, a so called Buschenschank itself are located on the steep and high Kranachberg in southern Styria
- Vineyard Ried Kranachberg Rottriegl lies at 450-490 metres above sea level, a protected basin location with the oldest vines; wines from this vineyard are characterised by strength and warmth, and capture the essence of the Kranachberg

- Vineyard Hoch Kranachberg lies at 460-510 metres above sea level and comprises the highest vineyards on the Kranachberg; the soil is a sand-gravel conglomerate - wines with a salty, mineral note are produced from the world champion vineyard
- Numerous awards, e.g. Revelation Austria Trophy Concours Mondial Sauvignon 2021, State Winner Styria, Trophy Winner wein.pur and many more

Winery Adam-Lieleg

- Winemaker Florian Lieleg, responsible for the cellar work
- Overall winner of the Concours Mondial du Sauvignon 2023 with the ‚Sauvignon Blanc Eichberg Sieme Südsteiermark DAC 2021‘
 - Vinification: Ortswein (village wine), matured for six months on the yeast in steel tanks
- Family-run winery with guest rooms - has existed since 1893; with Florian Lieleg and brother Mathias, the fifth generation has been at work on the farm since the business was founded; three generations currently work here and contribute their knowledge
- Vineyards such as the Obere Kranachberg or the monopole vineyard Ried Gottscheber allow for a wide range of varieties - from Sauvignon Blanc to Gelber Muskateller, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc and Chardonnay to Welschriesling
- Ried Gottscheber, where most of the grapes for the world champion wine come from, is located at a very high altitude of around 560 metres above sea level and is influenced by the alpine climate of the Koralpe; the soil is a gravel soil with a high proportion of highly calcareous conglomerates
- Award-winning winery, including at the AWC Challenge 2022, Styrian regional winner, Vinaria, Salon 2022, Decanter World Wine Awards etc.