

THE GREAT SAUVIGNONS BLANCS OF POLZ

When we at WineWise established ourselves as Austrian pioneers in California, way back in the last millennium, one of the first producers in our portfolio was Polz, then as now deemed one of the “Big Three” of Styria. We were therefore overjoyed to re-connect with this marvelous family last year and to be appointed their first-time California direct importer. In the succeeding years, the brothers Erich and Walter have handed over the reins to Erich’s son Christoph, who has gone from strength to strength. They have also expanded into other sectors of Steiermark besides their native Südsteiermark region, have bought the famed Tschepp winery with its remarkable Sekt-making facilities and attached superb hotel-restaurant, and even taken over an estate in the Thermenregion, which they have conferred to the care of another son, Erich Jr., whom some of you may remember meeting when he was an amazingly poised 15 year-old accompanying his Aunt Maria on a tasting tour.

Through all these changes and expansion, the quality-concentration that is at the estate’s core has only become stronger. Last year, we introduced a range of wines designed to showcase Polz’s remarkable performance at the entry-to-mid range of the market. This year, we have decided to boldly go where none before have ventured and bring to you the simply extraordinary Sauvignons that they conjure from their best vineyards in three of the different sub-districts of Südsteiermark where they have their holdings. Each one of these single-vineyard wines presents a clear and distinct face of this most rewarding variety, which finds in Südsteiermark a home that is at least as apt as Sancerre or Pouilly Fumé. 2017 was an utterly exceptional vintage for these wines, which were aged patiently until ready for release.

By an uncanny coincidence, a few months after we selected these wines, they were reviewed by Stephan Reinhardt of The Wine Advocate. As you can see below, he shares our extremely high opinion of them.

Pre ARRIVAL



2017 Sauvignon Blanc “Czamilla” Ried Czamillonberg
\$180/12

2017 Sauvignon Blanc Ried Pössnitzberg
\$180/12

2018 Sauvignon Blanc “Therese” Ried Theresienhöhe
\$108/6

2017 Sauvignon Blanc Ried Hochgrassnitzberg
\$160/6




SPECIAL PRE-ARRIVAL OFFER (FOR END-DECEMBER SHIPMENT)


2017 Sauvignon Blanc “Czamilla” Ried Czamillonberg		Regular Price	Pre-Arrival Price
(from Leutschach – grown in Opok, a singular composite of marl and chalk)		\$208/12	\$180/12
	Fermented and aged in large used oak, the 2017 Sauvignon Blanc Czamilla is very clear, ripe and intense on the nose, with aromas of super ripe, stewed white apples and a touch of melted butter. Very fine on the nose! Pure, tight and straight on the palate, this is a tightly woven yet very elegant Sauvignon Blanc with a stimulating salty-piquant finish. This is excellent quality that needs a year or two to develop all its talents. Tasted July 2018.		
2017 Sauvignon Blanc Ried Pössnitzberg		Regular Price	Pre-Arrival Price
(from Leutschach – grown in Opok)		\$208/12	\$180/12
	From calcareous marl soils and vinified for one year in large oak vats and another six months in stainless steel, the 2017 Ried Pössnitzberg Leutschach Sauvignon Blanc is very elegant and slightly flinty on the ripe and calm nose with sweetish spicy notes. Round and intense on the palate, with good mineral grip and structure, this is a pure and fine Sauvignon with a remarkably pure and refreshing, forward and powerful, iodine finish. This is excellent terroir wine, tight and fresh and firm and salty, and it is only slowly opening. Think of Chablis, and you come pretty close. Tasted in May 2019 from lot L-17 (which was bottled in May last year).		

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2018 Sauvignon Blanc “Therese” Ried Theresienhöhe	Regular Price	Pre-Arrival Price
(from Kitzeck-Sausal – grown in slate)	\$120/6 NET	\$108/6
<div> <div> <p>(93 - 96)</p>  </div> <div> <p>From the coolest Polz vineyard at 500 meters altitude in the Kitzeck-Sausal subregion, the stainless steel-fermented 2018 Ried Theresienhöhe Sauvignon Blanc Therese is ripe and concentrated on the sharp, precise and flinty, attractively reductive nose that displays ripe citrus fruit and gooseberry aromas at this stage. Lush and intense on the silky-textured, crystalline and full-bodied palate, this is a beautifully elegant, aromatic and juicy Therese with fine tannins, salts and voluptuous mango and passion fruit flavors, whereas the slatey salinity rejuvenates this highly promising Sauvignon that could be a Riesling as well. Terrific! Release date: September this year. Tasted as a barrel sample from the lees in May 2019.</p> </div> </div>		

2017 Sauvignon Blanc Ried Hochgrassnitzberg	Regular Price	Pre-Arrival Price
(from Spielfeld – clay and limestone; this is Polz’s most famous wine)	\$180/6 NET	\$160/6
<div> <div>  </div> <div> <p>From 30- and 42-year-old vines and vinified in traditional 20- and 25-hectoliter oak vats for one year and another six months on the fine lees in stainless steel, the 2017 Ried Hochgrassnitzberg Sauvignon Blanc HG –G STK– displays a clear, refined and crystalline, spicy/herbal nose with yeasty notes and elegant, discreet and quite ripe fruit. On the palate, this is a round, lush and intense, charmingly fruity and very elegant HG Sauvignon with a lot of power, grip and complexity. This is a great, complex, crystalline, salty, tightly woven and very persistent Sauvignon with a great character. Tasted in May 2019, which was four weeks after the bottling.</p> </div> </div>		

CURRENTLY IN STOCK



2017 Steirische Spiegel (70% Riesling, 30% Sauvignon Blanc)	\$116/12 discountable
<p>This wine is quite simply one of the most ridiculous bargains in the history of Austrian wine. Riesling is not a big thing in Steiermark, but Polz has a small area planted to it in their best sites of Grassnitzberg and Hochgrassnitzberg, where it thrives on the limestone-rich soils. The class asserts itself spectacularly, while the idea of blending in Sauvignon Blanc is simply inspired, the two varieties melding seamlessly and unexpectedly. Overall, the wine is tender and snappy, with a cool green tone and quince fruit.</p>	
2017 Gelber Muskateller Klassik	\$152/12 discountable
<p>A lot of thought goes into this wine. Muskateller is a tricky variety in the vineyard, due to its large, tightly compressed bunches and their resultant tendency to rot. Christoph’s solution is to cut the bunches in half in June to increase aeration and reduce the yields. He also likes to macerate the juice overnight on the skins, which lends a welcome note of asperity to the overwhelmingly lovely and typical Muscat aromas and slightly minty fruit. The finish is long and salty.</p>	
2017 Weissburgunder Klassik	\$132/12 discountable
<p>There is a quiet authority to this wine, which avoids all ostentation and excess. The limestone soils suit this variety perfectly, and lend the wine an intriguing smokiness. An electric attack leads to a medium-bodied palate replete with juicy fruit and wet-stone minerality.</p>	
2017 Sauvignon Blanc Klassik	\$160/12 discountable
<p>While Welschriesling is the most planted variety in Steiermark as a whole, Sauvignon has always been Polz’s calling card, and was largely responsible both for their and the region’s high reputation. This wine is a blend from their various holdings and showcases admirably the Styrian genius for recognizable but not overt Sauvignon expression. As such, it can hold its own against the its peers from the Loire and New Zealand.</p>	
2016 Sauvignon Blanc Spielfeld “84/88”	\$104/6 NET
<p>We snapped up the last few remaining bottles of this sensational wine that hails from the home vineyards of Grassnitzberg and Hochgrassnitzberg. The tiny hail-and-frost reduced yields of 2016 had the silver lining of endowing the wine with uncommon thrust, authority and length. Musky and important. Styria near its best.</p>	

