

TASTED IN MAY 2019

96 RP – Sämling 88 Trockenbeereauslese 2017

From the Ried Buch and fermented in stainless steel, the 2017 Straden Sämling 88 Trockenbeereauslese offers a fascinating bouquet of dried apricot, tea and floral as well as spicy aromas with white mushroom notes. On the palate, this is a very elegant, refined and precise Scheurebe whose Eszencia-like 16 grams of total acidity balance the 270 grams of residual sugar with ease and make this a lean and linear, highly spectacular TBA that is already terribly digestible but can also be aged for many decades.

95 RP – Morillon Trockenbeereauslese 2017

From the Ried Buch, the 2017 Straden Morillon Trockenbeereauslese displays a very intense golden color and a concentrated and spicy botrytis bouquet with stewed apricots and pineapples, caramel, crushed limestone and grapefruit notes. Terribly rich and nobly elegant on the palate, this is a viscous, refined, highly finessed and stimulatingly salty TBA that is balanced, fresh and stimulatingly pure on the finish. This is a spectacularly hedonistic TBA from South Styria. Fermented in oak barrels, the 2017 ended up at 9% alcohol and 274 grams of unfermented sugar. This is a world-class sweet wine from Styria.

95 RP – Sauvignon Blanc Privat 2013

Vinified in large barrels and aged in small oak barrels, the 2013 Sauvignon Blanc Privat is enormously concentrated and spicy on the still-youthful nose that will benefit dramatically from aeration. The wine is dense and concentrated on the palate, rich and sweet but also firm and structured. Tasted from a big glass (here the Zalto Burgundy glass), this is a powerful, highly complex, firm and salty, very tensioned and concentrated Sauvignon that belongs to the highlights in Styrian history. This is so salty, pure and tensioned. A great wine indeed.

93+ RP – Ried Buch Morillon 2017 (Chardonnay)

Vinified in 500- and 1,500-liter oak barrels for one year, the 2017 Morillon Ried Buch is pure, deep, intense and flinty on the spectacular, reductive and concentrated, salty-stony nose. Rich, intense and concentrated on the palate, this is a dense and fruity, tight and very persistent Chardonnay that needs a big glass to show its finesse and elegance. This is a big and elegant, highly promising wine with enormous aging potential. Tasted in May 2019.

93+ RP – Sauvignon Blanc Privat 2017

From the Buch and the reddish basalt plateau of the Rosenberg and fermented on the skins, the 2017 Sauvignon Blanc Privat is a fresh and spicy, very elegant and silky-textured Sauvignon with tight grip that gives structure to this rich and intense, still pretty aromatic and charming Sauvignon. The finish is long and complex, quite powerful and very promising. From the Zalto Burgundy glass, this is a tight, enormously vital and salty, extremely youthful Sauvignon that has to be retasted in five years. This could be exciting. I'd keep the 2017 for another two or three years at least.

92+ RP – Weißburgunder Buch 2017

Der 2017er Weißburgunder der Ried Buch stammt von lehmigem Basaltboden und eröffnet mit einem klaren, frischen und eleganten, perfekt reifen, feuersteinig-würzigen Basalt-Bouquet. Seidig, linear, frisch und sehr elegant am Gaumen ist dies ein kompakter, aufregend-spannender und moderat kraftvoller Pinot mit klarer, erfrischender Frucht, aber die Musik hier kommt ausschließlich von der Seele (Erde).

92+ RP – Trockenbeereauslese Traminer

From the Ried Rosenberg, the barrel-fermented 2017 Straden Traminer Trockenbeereauslese is pretty volatile on the concentrated and spicy, highly aromatic yet still somewhat reductive nose. Fermented up to 7.5% alcohol with 277 grams of residual sugar, this is a slightly animal-flavored TBA with a rich and elegant yet terribly sweet and concentrated palate whose nine grams of total acidity is actually stunningly high for Traminer. This is a wine that probably needs a decade or more to develop more finesse and balance.

