



Your Passport to **AUSTRIAN WINE**

Austrian Wine is immensely popular and a perennial favorite of sommeliers throughout the world. When tasting Austrian wines, you will discover their wide diversity of styles, aromas, and terroirs.

www.kwselection.com

Former sommelier and wine merchant Klaus Wittauer has been a driving force in helping American's get to know the fine wines of his home country, Austria. The KWSelection import book features some of Austria's very best winegrowers, showcasing a broad range of regions, styles, and varietals.

Klaus Wittauer was born in Austria and attended Hotel/Restaurant Management School in Salzburg. He worked for many years in some of the world's top restaurants in Austria, Bermuda and the United States. While working at L'Auberge Chez Francois in Great Falls, Virginia, Klaus would travel to France as well as back home to Austria to expand his knowledge and appreciation for wines.

In 1996, Klaus started working as the wine buyer for Sutton Place Gourmet and traveled extensively throughout Europe. This gave him the opportunity to learn more about the wine import business and to gain further knowledge. After traveling back and forth to his home in Austria, Klaus began to question why so many of these excellent wines he tasted were not available throughout the United States. He knew at this point that he would set out on his mission to find a way to introduce Austrian wines to America.

In 2000, Klaus began to work for Select Wines, a Distributor/Importer. He attended the VieVinum International Wine event in Vienna, Austria where he met a wine producer by the name of Anton Bauer. After tasting many of Austria's top wines, Klaus

recalls saying that he needed to invite Mr. Bauer for dinner to discuss export opportunities. Select Wines soon began to import Anton Bauer wines. With Klaus's background in the restaurant business and with many trips to New York City and back and forth to Austria, he began to hear more and more about Austrian wines in particular Grüner Veltliner. This grape is being used by top chef's and sommeliers in the latest in food & wine pairings. Klaus then knew he had to expand his import selection and formed an export company in 2002 with his business partner, Anton Bauer.

Today, the KWSELECTION includes top selections from most of the wine producing areas of Austria: Anton Bauer from Wagram, Leo Hillinger from Burgenland, Gutsav Strauss from Styria, Martin Mittelbach from Wachau, Weingut Steininger from Kamptal, Steindorfer from Neusiedlersee, , Christina and Franz Netzl from Carnuntum, Jalits from Eisenberg, Herbert Bayer from Mittelburgenland Heinrich Hartl from the Theremregion, Joseph Bauer from Wagram, Paul Direder also from Wagram and Mathias Rutenstock from the Weinviertel. Klaus has a close relationship with all of his wineries and continues to build relationships together in expanding distribution throughout the United States.

Klaus's vision is still the same as it was when he first began in the wine business,
„To find good wines which are affordable, delicious and memorable“

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Austrian wine is best described with words like
"unique" and ***"exceptional"***

But what is it exactly that makes Austrian wine so special
compared to its international competition?

The outstanding quality of Austrian wines is attributable to several factors and
its already high caliber has even increased in the last two decades.

One essential factor is a centuries-old winegrowing tradition. In Austria, wine has been cultivated for more than thousand years. Vineyards are an integral part of Austria's landscape, its culture and people's everyday lives. In fact, many of Austria's grape varieties grow nowhere else in the world. Austria's ideal climatic and geological conditions provide the perfect environment for growing these ***authentic Austrian*** wines.

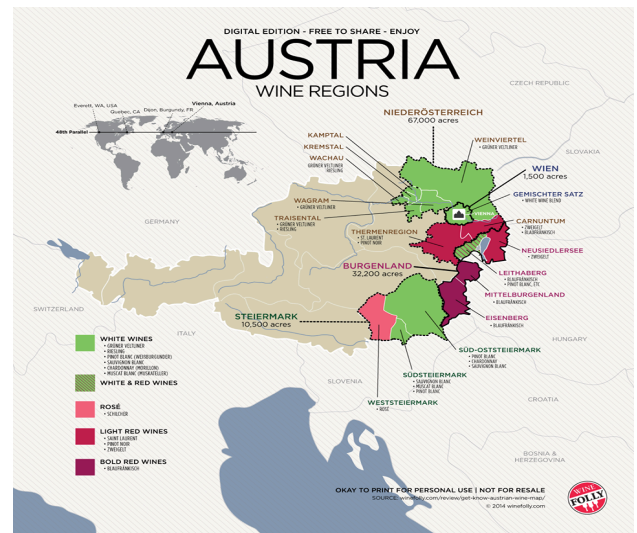
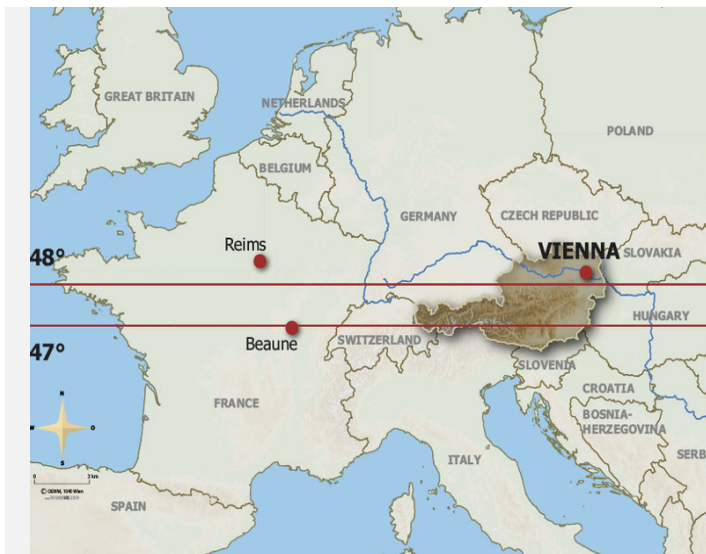
Wines with true character and personality

Behind these outstanding wines, of course, are Austria's talented and passionate winemakers. In recent years these enterprising wine entrepreneurs have cleverly combined traditional wine king techniques with modern vinification methods.

"Absolute quality" is their motto, and absolute success has been the result

Another distinctive feature of Austrian wines is their diversity: white wines ranging from age-worthy; and sweet wines that reveal finesse as well as inner tension. What they all have in common is that they undisputedly rank amongst the best in the world. And what experts all across the globe appreciate most about Austrian wines is that they can be so

deliciously paired with a wide variety of foods



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