

WINE LUXE 酒派

AUGUST 2011 A Magazine for Wine & Luxury Life

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WINE.LUXE CHALLENGE

19th Challenge Topic:

The Rising Star - Grenache

第十九項挑戰: 葡萄之未來新星

Grenache 挑戰

**LEGEND
200-YEAR
Y**

an interview with
the generation
of the Hennessy family:

**MAURICE
HARD
HENNESSY**

Hennessy 第八代傳人:
MAURICE HENNESSY

WINE
of CHAÎNE DES
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SAM

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Episode

NELSON IN THE WINE WONDERLAND BURGENLAND AND WACHAU

漫遊酒國仙境 (EPISODE 2) - 奧國酒區BURGENLAND與WACHAU



In the previous issue, I took you on a journey into the Wine Wonderland of Austria, where we visited different wine-producing regions, wineries, palaces and lakes and tasted Grüner Veltliner and several other excellent wine products unique to the country. Now, let's embark on an in-depth exploration of two major wine-producing regions of Austria, Burgenland and Wachau of Niederösterreich. Here, we'll look at the local conditions, with a view of understanding the unique features of their products.

上期我帶大家綜觀奧地利這Wine Wonderland酒國仙境之旅，漫遊於不同的酒區、酒莊、皇宮及湖泊，品嚐奧地利專屬出品Grüner Veltliner與多個品種的優秀佳釀；今次就讓我們再深入奧地利兩大著名酒區Burgenland與Niederösterreich 中的Wachau，介紹這地區的風土氣候，了解其中出品的獨特之處。





奧地利葡萄酒業搖籃

今次旅程的第一站我們便到了奧地利的葡萄酒業人才輩出的搖籃 — The Austrian Wine Academy Rust，這裡成立於1991年，每年均舉辦差不多900場Seminar，來自不同範疇包括釀酒師、品酒師、酒店及餐飲業界等超過17000人參加；除了Seminar外，這裡亦有為年青品酒師提供不同的課程，今年更首度開辦Master of Wine課程，可算是奧地利、以至歐洲最重要的葡萄酒學校之一。我們今次在這裡亦上了一課關於奧地利葡萄酒入門，亦分別品嚐了各大產酒區包括Burgenland、Wachau、Kremstal DAC、Leithaberg DAC、Weinviertel DAC等地區的出品，而這些地區出產的白酒如Grüner Veltliner、Riesling和Sauvignon Blanc等都是十分出色之佳作。

SPARKLING WINE IN SPARKLING LAKE

其後我們亦到了The Lake Neusiedl，在湖上品嚐了Burgenland的Sparkling Wine！今次我們試了Sektellerei Gebrüder Szigeti 酒莊的2009出品包括Brut、Extra Dry以及Cuvée Rosé Brut，大家均發覺其Sparkling Wine十分優雅清爽，花香及果香味滿溢，是十分上乘之作；加上我們泛舟湖上，看著那歐洲著名的Lake Neusiedl清澈平靜湖面，閃爍著歐陸的夏日金光，實在令人更加心曠神怡！

RIESLING - GREAT SINGLE VINEYARDS OF WACHAU

另一奧地利產酒區Wachau，其出品Single Vineyard的Riesling非常聞名，今次我們到了位於Dürnstein的Domäne Wachau酒莊，由其Managing Director Mr. Roman Horvath MW親自為我們介紹他們的出品，更帶領我們逐一品嚐及比較Wachau地區中不同酒莊的Riesling；我們分別品嚐了2009與2010兩個年份，發覺這區部份出品與德國的Riesling十分相似，但卻別具優雅的一面，而又富有清新及具結構的感覺。Wachau的Riesling出品售價絕不便宜，部份批發價更達20 Euro以上，可想而知其質素亦相當之高，只是可能其宣傳力度稍遜於德國罷。

專業安排獲高度評價

行程的最後一天，大會在維也納市中心的最大遊樂場Viennese Prater，安排了一個大型Wine Party - "Elements of Uniqueness"，更讓我們在維也納最高的摩天輪上欣賞城中美景，加上奧地利的佳餚、美酒與芝士，為整個旅程劃上完美的句號... 噢！忘了告訴大家，在Wine Party後我們更到了當地最著名的消點Clubbing！雖然大部份歌曲都依然是80's的Disco Music，但對我們這班80「前」，又可說是頗合拍的...

後記

今次由Austria Wine Marketing Board (AWMB) 組織的奧地利葡萄酒之旅，實在讓大家對這隱藏已久的酒國仙境有著全新的視野。值得一提的是今次大會的安排及組織非常專業，所有相關資料均極其詳盡，行程安排亦十分到位，可見AWMB應該花了很長的時間來設計安排，才能有這樣完美的效果；連記者團中的英美傳媒也盛讚這是他們參與過的最專業Press Trip！筆者亦期待未來再有機會到奧地利，探索這國度裡尚未涉足的酒區，認識更多世界各地的酒朋友！



Cradle of the Austrian wine industry

At the first leg of our journey, we stopped over at The Austrian Wine Academy Rust, cradle of a multitude of wine talents in Austria. Established in 1991, it holds about 900 wine seminars each year, attracting over 17000 participants, including winemakers, sommeliers and other professionals from the hotel and restaurant industries. Besides its seminars, the establishment also provides various courses for young sommeliers. Holding its first Master of Wine course this year, it is considered one of the most influential wine colleges in Austria and even Europe. This time round, we were also here for a beginner lesson on wine, with the opportunity to sample the products of major wine-producing regions including Burgenland, Wachau, Kremstal DAC, Leithaberg DAC and Weinviertel DAC. White wines produced from these regions, such as Grüner Veltliner, Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc, are nothing short of excellent too.

Sparkling Wine on a Sparkling Lake

Subsequently, we visited Lake Neusiedl and tasted a variety of sparkling wines from Burgenland on the lake! On this occasion, we savored the products of 2009 from the Sektellerei Grüner Szigeti winery, including Brut, Extra Dry and Cuvée Rosé Brut. Every of us found these sparkling wine offerings to be elegant and refreshing, filled with floral and fruit fragrances. Cruising on the placid surface of the famous Lake Neusiedl of Europe, with its glittering reflections of golden summer sunlight, enhanced our enjoyment immeasurably!

Riesling - Great Single Vineyards of Wachau

Another wine-producing region in Austria is Wachau, celebrated for its Single Vineyard Riesling products. On this trip, we visited the Domäne Wachau winery located in Dürnstein. Introducing us to his company's products, its Managing Director Mr. Roman Horvath MW arranged for us to taste and compare the different varieties of Riesling produced in different regions from Wachau. We tasted the products of 2009 and 2010 and found that some of them are strikingly similar to Riesling of Germany. However, the former is imbued with a special elegance, with refreshing qualities and a textural richness. Wachau's Riesling wines certainly do not come cheap. Some of them are distributed at over 20 Euro per bottle, which reflects their considerably high quality. Perhaps it is second only to that of Germany, in terms of market visibility.

Rave reviews for the professionally organized junket events

On the final day of our trip, the junket organizer held a large-scale Wine Party - "Elements of Uniqueness" at Viennese Prater, the largest amusement park in downtown Vienna, offering us a glimpse of the city's splendid skyline, atop Vienna's highest Ferris wheel. Adding to this was the fine Austrian cuisines served, along with the fine wines and exquisite cheese, which wrapped up our trip on a perfect note... Oh! I almost forget to mention that after the Wine Party, we were whisked off to the hottest nightspot in town for Clubbing! Although most of the music blasting through the night was Disco Music of the 1980s, it went down remarkably well with us, who were born before the eighties...

Afterword

The trip to Austria organized by Austria Wine Marketing Board provided us an entirely perspective on this little-known wine wonderland. It's worth mentioning that the itinerary arrangements and how the trip was organized could be described as professional and the information provided by the organizer was thorough too. Even the British and American journalists from our delegation paid their compliments, saying that it was the most professional press trip they had ever taken part in. I look forward to the opportunity to visit Austria again to explore the wine-producing regions I've never visited before and meet wine-loving friends from all over the world!