

2018 Heimann & Fiai Kékfrankos Baranya-völgy

Szekszárd, Hungary

The 2018 vintage marks the beginning of a dual Heimann family approach. Heimann and Fiai (Heimann and Sons) and Heimann Családi (Heimann Family). The Heimann family has been pioneering in bringing many clones of Kadarka (and some Kékfrankos as well) back to life from the verge of extinction during Communism. This is a grape that once covered over 60,000 hectares in Hungary was less than 400 hectares in the early 1990s. Zoltán Jr. has been particularly drawn to this part of the business. In addition to spearheading Kadarka research and planting, Zoltán Sr. and his wife Ágnes had also built an impressive business centered around Bordeaux varieties, some Viognier, and even a little Sagrantino. These have been iconic wines for the estate and have shown fidelity to the Szekszárd appellation for over 20 years. With 20+ years of lessons learned about which clones work best and where they should be planted, it's finally become time for Heimann & Fiai to focus exclusively on Kadarka and Kékfrankos. Along with conversion to organic farming, the winemaking also reflects a different approach geared towards freshness and aromatics. Multiple passes for picking, using more whole clusters, open vat fermentation, less extraction, and moving the wine manually in lieu of pumps. All fermentation are spontaneous, zero fining, coarsely filtered if at all, and a minimal use of SO₂ at bottling. They are also aging wines in clay in addition to Hungarian oak and stainless steel.



VINEYARDS

The Szekszárd appellation was originally established by the Celts, flourished under the Romans and survived Turkish occupation due to the high tax revenue the wines generated. Once the Turks were pushed out, modern day Serbians were being pushed north by said Turks and brought the Kadarka grape with them. The very wine savvy Swabians were also incentivized to resettle the area. Where the Serbians brought a key red grape, the Swabians brought superior winemaking skills. Their influence is still felt today. Case in point, the Heimann family is intensely proud of their Swabian roots and have been making wine here since 1758. Up until this point, the appellation was almost entirely white wine. Since then, Kékfrankos and a variety of Bordeaux varieties have taken firmly to the region. They survived under Communism while many of the native white and red grapes did not fair so well, namely Kadarka. Heimann farms roughly 23 hectares spread over the Baranya, Porkoláb and Iván Valleys in addition to some rare hillside plantings on Batti. The soil is overwhelmingly loess in Szekszárd, but you can also find Terra Rosa (iron rich soil also dominant in Istria, Croatia) if you get deep enough. If you're approaching the appellation from the Great Plain to the East, you first hit the River Danube and then the first hills are Szekszárd. It's a fairly dramatic change in the landscape and an obvious place for multiple exposures. Currently most plantings are Kékfrankos with smaller amounts of Merlot, Cab Franc, Tannat, Sagrantino (from Umbria!) and now more than ever plantings of Kadarka are underway.

WINE MAKING

All fermentation are spontaneous, zero fining, coarsely filtered if at all, and a minimal use of SO₂ at bottling. They are also aging wines in clay in addition to Hungarian oak and stainless steel.

NOTES & PAIRINGS

The 1 hectare Baranya-völgy is a warm southeast facing basin that looks out over the vast expanse of the Great Plains. Thick loess soils just over 200 meters above sea level, it gets warm enough here that lizards sunbathe on the clusters. Hand harvested the day after Zoltán's wedding, it was then spontaneously fermented in open vat wood and some plastic bins with 25% percent whole cluster for 22 days with 2 punchdowns per day. Instead of using pumps, the fermented marc was gently hand shoveled into the press to preserve freshness. The wine spent 8 months in large 1000L Hungarian oak (full malo) before being bottled without filtering or fining. 2018 was a warm and tricky vintage with both shriveled clusters and late rains, but with careful selection, handled gently, the natural acidity of Kékfrankos and a relatively short time in barrel, it's a great balance of ripe/spicy fruit and freshness. 3100 bottles produced.

ANALYTICS & PRONUNCIATION

APPELLATION: Szekszárd (SekSard)

GRAPE COMPOSITION: 100% Kékfrankos

CLIMATE: Cool continental with dry warm summers

SOILS: Thick loess with red clay layers

EXPOSURE: Southeast

MACERATION & AGING: Spontaneous fermentation with 25-30% whole bunches. Barrel aging for 8 months in 1000L Hungarian barrels.

ALCOHOL: 12.5%

RESIDUAL SUGAR: 1.3 g/l

ACIDITY: 5.3 g/l



DANCH & GRANGER SELECTIONS

PO Box 1270 | Los Altos, California 94023 | USA

www.DanchAndGranger.com

info@DanchAndGranger.com