

# 2024 Maurer Crazy Lud Orange

## Subotica, Serbia

When we first visited Oszkár Maurer in 2015, he only had a few wines to show. Since then, he expanded his production into the Fruška Gora, opened a tasting room/restaurant, and redefined what many of these nearly forgotten grapes taste like, while always keeping a close eye on the traditions of both his grandparents and the region's 2000+ years of documented winemaking history. His aesthetic and philosophy are starting to permeate everything above and beyond the vineyards and cellar.

### VINEYARDS

The Maurer family has been producing wine for four generations. They now farm 6 hectares in the Subotičko-Horgoškoj region in northern Serbia including the oldest known Kadarka vineyard in the world planted in 1880 in addition to other plantings in 1912 and older plots of Kövidinka from 1925. The rest of the plantings include grapes like Olaszrizling, Slankamenka, Ezerjő, Kadarka and Kékfrankos. There's also few international varieties including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Pinot Noir. The region was formerly a part of Hungary's Csongrád up until 1920 and names of grapes and places are therefore constantly changing from Serbian to Hungarian and vice-versa. Oszkár also has 9 hectares in the Srem region a little further south. The main feature, apart from the Danube River, is the Fruška Gora Mountain. Once an island in the Pannonian Sea, the soil is volcanic with a marine layer. Called the "holy mountain" or "Serbian Athos", there were over 30 monasteries at one point, of which 16 still stand today. Needless to say, there is something special about this place and winegrowing is documented back to the 1200s. The Subotičko is largely defined by sandy soils and old vines, and the Szerémség by volcanic soils heavily influenced by the Danube River. Everything is farmed organically with zero absorbable chemicals. High density stake trained vines are the most typical and cover crops are natural. Everything is worked by hand or with the help of horses. Harvest is managed with local labor and the help of family and friends.

### WINE MAKING

Everything is handpicked in small bins and all fermentations are spontaneous. The use of older oak, small and large format is paramount. There are no additives to any of the wines apart from SO<sub>2</sub> at bottling for select wines. Maurer basically has two tiers: Rege and Maurer. The Rege wines have low SO<sub>2</sub> (25-40ppm) and the Maurer line is zero compromise with zero additions of any kind. Wines are typically only racked once before bottling and everything is bottled unfiltered.

### NOTES & PAIRINGS

This is the first time we are bringing this in. All of Oszkár's wines have some level of maceration and more often than not, some amount of botrytis. Despite the same, this is really in the super light orange category - only 3 days maceration. There's a ton of freshness from younger six year old Bakator and 8 year old Ezerjő, supported by older vine Szerémi Zöld, Welschriesling, Mézes Fehér and a little Slankamenka. Everything was fermented and aged in 500L barrels for 9 months, bottled unfinned and unfiltered with a small sulfur addition. This is ideal BTG skin contact wines because it's not overly tannic or oxidative, has plenty of aromatics, acidity and given this range of grapes from the Subotica region, utterly unique.

### ANALYTICS & PRONUNCIATION

APPELLATION: Subotica

GRAPE COMPOSITION: Blend of Szerémi zöld, Bakator, Olaszrizling, Pirosmagyarka, and Ezerjő grape varieties.

CLIMATE: Mild and temperate

SOILS: Sand

MACERATION & AGING: 3 days maceration. Fermented and aged in 500-liter barrels

ALCOHOL: 14%

RESIDUAL SUGAR: 0.5 g/l

ACIDITY: 5.6 g/l



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