

# 2019 Trapl Karpatenschiefer

## Carnuntum, Austria

Johannes Trapl founded his winery in 2003 when he was just 25 years old. It was Johannes' grandfather that planted most of the family estate's vineyards in Carnuntum, a region known at the time for big, inexpensive Zweigelt wines. After working for Cardinale winery in California, Johannes took over the responsibility of managing the small family winery with initially only half a hectare (1 acre) of vineyards and also worked for the nearby Muhr-van der Niepoort estate. Today, together with Dorli Muhr of Muhr-van der Niepoort, Johannes Trapl is co-institigator of the renaissance of Spitzerberg, a small extension of the Little Carpathians made of limestone and schist, which can produce wines with extraordinary elegance and minerality. The wine-growing region Carnuntum stretches from the eastern limits of Vienna to the border of Slovakia. The vineyards are dispersed in three hilly landscapes: the Leitha Mountains, the Arbesthaler Hills near Göttlesbrunn and the Hainburger Mountain. Heavy loam and loess soils and sandy gravelly soils dominate the slopes of the Arbesthaler Hills in Stixneusiedl. The hot summers and cold winters that characterize the Pannonian climate, the proximity of the moderating effects of the Danube River and Lake Neusiedl allow red grapes to ripen perfectly.

### VINEYARDS

The vineyards have been certified organic since 2006 and the entire winery since 2010. Meanwhile, the focus is now on applying biodynamic principles in the vineyard and avoiding using mineral fertilizers. Conscientious canopy management and working with green cover allows grapes to ripen more gradually and develop more aromatic intensity. The biggest challenge is choosing the perfect time to pick grapes, which should be based on the taste of the grape, not its sugar concentration. Harvest starts rather early with the first selection of grapes, thus reducing vigor and shoot growth. In the second round, grapes don't have that much "puppy fat" and exhibit rather cool aromas as Johannes' preferred style is freshness and liveliness.

### WINE MAKING

The cellar's most striking feature is the big vats in which grapes for the premium wines are foot-trodden. This method, used for 20 tons of grapes each year, is physically exhausting but the resulting quality of the wines recompense all efforts. Fermentation occurs naturally without the addition of cultivated yeasts or enzymes. There is minimum intervention with the premium wines in the cellar to simply let them be. The wines are then given enough time to mature, in stainless steel tanks, oak casks or amphoras, before they are brought to market, which allow them to show their true potential and pedigree.



### NOTES & PAIRINGS

Literally "Carpathian schist," this is 100% Grüner Veltliner from the Spitzerberg planted in 1970. Grapes were hand harvested, destemmed, and then gently macerated between 60-90 days and in a 430 liter Georgian qvevri. Following maceration and fermentation, the wine was aged in both used Oak and Qvevri for 6 months. Unfined and unfiltered, this still has clarity of fruit, spice, and the aromatics of Grüner. Despite the Qvevri, this is not highly tannic or oxidative and retains a ton of freshness.

### ANALYTICS & PRONUNCIATION

PRODUCER: Trapl  
APPELLATION: Carnuntum  
VINTAGE: 2019  
GRAPE COMPOSITION: 100% Grüner Veltliner  
CLIMATE: Cool Continental  
SOILS: Limestone with small schist inclusions.  
MACERATION & AGING: fermented in 430 liter Georgian qvevri. 60-90 days maceration, maturation for 6 months in 50% used oak barrels and 50% in qvevri.  
ALCOHOL: 11.3%  
RESIDUAL SUGAR: 1.3 g/l  
ACIDITY: 4.7 g/l



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