

# Weingut **Stadt Krems**

## History

In the heart of the wine-producing town of Krems lies a traditional winery, where excellent wines have been produced since 1452, combining history, terroir, and first-class oenology. Fritz Miesbauer has been managing the business since 2003. Weingut Stadt Krems has always been considered one of Austria's flagship wineries and has significantly influenced the development of Austrian wine culture.

Historically, Weingut Stadt Krems grew out of two sources: for one, from the properties of the what was known as the »Bürgerspitalstiftung«. Around 1210 AD, Duke Leopold VI donated the Bürgerspital zu Krems – along with the associated Antoni church and two vineyards (one on the Lintobeln [today's Gebling] and one on the Vinitorum Mons [Weinzierlberg]) – to the Lilienfeld monastery.

The Dachsberg Foundation provided the second source. Jörg von Pottendorf, grandson of Ulrich von Dachsberg and Margarethe von Wallsee, donated numerous properties on their behalf, including vineyards in the neighbourhood of Krems. This later endowment marks the point in time when the city of Krems came into possession of vineyards.

**Weingut Stadt Krems is one of the oldest wine producers in Austria, in Europe and in the world. In 2020 the estate was named 'Winegrower of the Year' by Falstaff Magazine.**

Over the course of its history, wines have been vinified at various locations in the historic town centre of Krems. Today, the cellars & tasting room are located at the address *Stadtgraben 11*.

Weingut Stadt Krems is a member of the winegrowers' association *Österreichische Traditionsweingüter*, a group committed to maintaining historic, noteworthy and particularly valuable vineyards in the Danube region, Carnuntum, Thermenregion, Weinviertel and Wien (Vienna).

## Climate / Geology / Vineyards

All forty hectares of vineyards belonging to the estate are located within the city limits of Krems, north of the Danube in the northern half of the winegrowing region Kremstal.

The majority of the estate's holdings are planted to the leading varieties named in the Kremstal DAC statutes, Grüner Veltliner (75% of the area under vines) and Riesling (20%).

The city of Krems is situated at 210 metres above sea level and the vineyards are laid out between 220–380m. This provides Krems & environs with a transitional climate, combining Atlantic influences from the northwest with continental influences from the Pannonian climate to the east.

Comparatively dramatic fluctuations in temperature, combined with low annual precipitation (Ø545mm/year), make Krems an ideal location for viticulture. The vines particularly benefit from the nearby Danube River, which moderates extremes of temperature and ensures consistent air circulation.

The geologic underpinnings, which are very diverse, are unique to Krems. The rolling hills to the east & northeast of the city centre, formed from soils of loess, are absolutely perfect for fruit-forward wines vinified from the grape variety Grüner Veltliner.

High above the city in the north the soils are a bit leaner, with coarse gravels rising to the surface. This is where Grüner Veltliner begins to take on an attractive dynamic tension.

The grape variety Riesling is at home in the western part of Krems, in the city-district Stein. Mineral-driven, long-lived wines of grand format are grown on the steep terraced slopes, demanding a great deal of work and consummate craftsmanship. Slatey amphibolite, Gföhler gneiss and conglomerate constitute the meagre rock formations here, which can store a lot of heat but precious little water. In addition, these parcels enjoy the sun-blessed orientation (Ø1816 hours of sunshine during the vegetation cycle), which is conducive to enhanced ripening of the grapes.

At the heart of the estate's property are the storied vineyards Weinzierlberg, Wachtberg, Lindberg, Schreck and Grillenparz.

Ried	Weinzierlberg <sup>1<sup>OTW</sup></sup>	Wachtberg <sup>1<sup>OTW</sup></sup>	Lindberg <sup>1<sup>OTW</sup></sup>	Schreck <sup>1<sup>OTW</sup></sup>	Grillenparz <sup>1<sup>OTW</sup></sup>
Grape Variety	Grüner Veltliner	Grüner Veltliner	Grüner Veltliner	Riesling	Riesling
Soil type	Loess, Gravel	Sediments, Gneiss	Loess, Gneiss	Slate, Amphibolite	Chalky conglomerate, Gneiss, Sandy gravel
Microclimate	Warm, Pannonian climate	Cool airflows from the Waldviertel, strong day-night fluctuations	Warm, rocky soils provide warmth	Windy and dry, warm microclimate through small stone terraces	Windy and dry, rocky soils provide warmth
Elevation	230 m	290 – 370 m	280 – 310 m	315 m	270 - 340 m
Inclination	Ø 4,7°	Ø 8°	Ø 13°	Ø 12°	Ø 13°
Orientation	SE	E - SE	E	SE	SW – S - SE
Area / Cultivated by Stadt Krems	30 ha / 6.6 ha	29 ha / 1.5 ha	1.6 ha / 0.39 ha	6 ha / 0.45 ha	7,8 ha / 3.3 ha
Origin of the name	1112 as 'Vinitorum Mons' = hillside behind the winegrowers' village	1137 as 'Wartberg' = lookout point, where guards could warn of approaching enemies	n.d. - named after 3 linden trees above the old town of Krems	1360 as 'Schreckch' = a steep indentation in the landscape	1180 as »ad grillenporce« = home to a multitude of crickets

## Wine Style

In addition to fine fruit, varietal typicity and clearly discernible character of origin, the literal wholesomeness of the wines is the most prominent feature of the Weingut Stadt Krems portfolio. Our wines should be enjoyable to drink, present themselves as the perfect accompaniment to pleasures of the table, and still exhibit nerve & vivacity, even after a few years of bottle aging.

This characterisation might sound obvious, but we live in times in which wines are becoming ever more powerful. Those wines might well dominate tastings & competitions, but they are far too seldom truly enjoyable to drink.

In order to do justice to our centuries of viticultural history, wines from Weingut Stadt Krems are vinified in a timeless fashion. A puristic way of viticulture & vinification has established itself. Hand-harvesting, careful selection of the best grapes and patient aging in stainless steel tanks and wooden

casks with extended time on the fine lees – these are the influences at work in the creation of our wines.

Member estate of

**ÖTW** ÖSTERREICHISCHE  
TRADITIONSWEINGÜTER

The same level of quality cannot be assumed in all places where vines are planted. It is ancient wisdom that there are vineyards that consistently produce exceptional wines every year, while elsewhere nearby – with comparable care & vinification – only decent or middling wines may be obtained.

With this in mind, we have defined the quality of our wines across three levels of origin. These are, in ascending order of quality, *Gebietswein* (regional wine), *Ortswein* (village wine) and *Lagenwein* (from individual vineyards). These quality levels are legally prescribed in the wine law of the Kremstal DAC (Districtus Austriae Controllatus) statutes.

In addition, our wines bear the designations of the ÖTW vineyard classification – 1.ÖTW Lage and G.ÖTW Lage – on the label, which refer to the absolute top of the quality pyramid, the single-vineyard wines. Wines with these designations represent the pinnacle of our assortment.

The standards upon which this classification is based are:

- Member estates of the Österreichische Traditionsweingüter are either certified ‘Sustainable Austria’, earn the minimum standard EU organic seal ‘Organic grape production’, or its equivalent
- There is a ban on herbicides & insecticides in the cultivation of 1.ÖTW sites
- The maximum yield per hectare from 1.ÖTW sites is 60 hectolitres per hectare
- Grapes for wines from 1.ÖTW sites must be harvested by hand
- The grape must has to remain unadulterated in every respect and may not be concentrated
  - White wines from the 1.ÖTW vineyards are first released to the market in September of the year following the harvest