

2015 Kikelet Pezsgő Brut

Tokaj, Hungary

Like her compatriot Samuel Tinon, Stéphanie Berecz is a French enologist who initially came to Hungary to work at the Disznoko estate, a property owned by the French insurance company AXA. In 2002, she and her husband Zsolt founded Kikelet Pince in Tarcal near the town of Tokaj, a village where Zsolt's family has been living for over two hundred years. Regarding the winery's name, the story is that Stéphanie didn't want a name containing any of the "funny" Hungarian letters like ú, ü, ő, ö. So they chose Kikelet, which means springtime in Hungarian. Year after year, they gradually acquired different lots around Tarcal (Lónyai, Vati, Farkas, Lestas, Kassai) and today, they farm 5 hectares of south/south-west facing vineyards planted half with Furmint, half with Hárslevelű.

VINEYARDS

The soil in Tarcal is volcanic covered with a layer of loess. While aszú wines from Tarcal's loess terroir get the right amount of moisture and are known to be particularly elegant, nobody before them had tried to make dry wines in Tarcal. But with limited yield and carefully selected grapes, Stéphanie and Zsolt have shown that they could produce dry Furmint and Hárslevelű that are elegant, balanced, and full-bodied.

WINE MAKING

The Berecz family house has a two centuries old cellar partially carved into the rock where the wines ferment and mature in oak casks. The winery produces around 11,000 bottles annually, including dry and semi-dry Furmint and Hárslevelű, some from single vineyards or , late harvest wines, Szamorodni, and hand-picked aszú wines. The grapes are whole cluster pressed. Fermentation occurs with native yeast without going through the secondary malolactic fermentation. The must is then racked and put into French and Hungarian oak barrels. Aging is on the lees. Most of the barrels are about 4 to 10 years old with a few new Hungarian for the Furmint. The Hárslevelű has no new oak to preserve the fruity flavors of the grape without being overwhelmed by oak. In 2014, Stéphanie has been awarded by her fellow winemakers the prestigious title of „winemaker of the winemakers”.



NOTES & PAIRINGS

This is our second vintage of Stéphanie's Pezsgő. She's one of a handful in Tokaj that does practically everything herself and in house. Primary fermentation in barrel, bottling for secondary in her cellar (2 years on the lees), and hand racked and riddled. The only thing done outside the winery was taking the bottles to be disgorged in the village of Bodrogkeresztúr where they have the machinery. There was zero dosage for the 2015 vintage. 70% Hárslevelű and 30% Furmint, there's tons of stone fruit, mint, and an immediate Tokaj nose of honey and salt. Brut at just under 6 g/l and around 4 bars of pressure, the bubbles aren't explosive but persistent and elegant.

ANALYTICS & PRONUNCIATION

PRODUCER: Kikelet
APPELLATION: Tokaj (Tokeye)
VINTAGE: 2015
GRAPE COMPOSITION: 77% Furmint, 23% Hárslevelű
CLIMATE: Continental (hot summers & cold winters)
SOILS: Volcanic covered with a layer of loess
MACERATION & AGING: Aged on fine lees for 1.5 years
ALCOHOL: 12%
RESIDUAL SUGAR: 5.9 g/l
ACIDITY: 7.32 g/l



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