

2020 Kasnyik rodinné vinárstvo Dunaj

Južnoslovenská, Slovakia

The Kasnyik family is one of the founding members of the “Autentista Slovakia” association that has now grown to include 5 producers including Slobodné Vinárstvo, Magula, Mátyás, and Strekov 1075. The association has a detailed Charta (autentista.sk/charta) and strict guidelines on farming, cellar practices, and how to ultimately restore and preserve the culture of wine along the Danube. The area is very much a crossroads in Central Europe and the epicenter of winemaking in Slovakia. Strekov was first mentioned in 1075, but has more recently been influenced by the Kingdom of Hungary, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, Czechoslovakia, and attempted Germanization by the Nazi's. It became independent after the Velvet Revolution in 1989. As with so much of this portfolio, we've found that wine regions along and within contentious borders are almost always bound to result in something special. Brothers Gábor and Tamás along with Gábor's wife Virág are emblematic of this sentiment. Coupled with the aforementioned Autentista Slovakia, the Kasnyik family is involved with, connected to, and invested in the success of Slovakian wine as a whole. Founded in 2004, real change came in 2008 when they began firmly transitioning to organic farming (certified in 2014) with a focus on native grapes fermented and aged exclusively in oak. The COOP era had left many of the best vineyards largely forgotten, the rest farmed industrially, and native grapes and winemaking traditions were ripe for resuscitation. Keeping all of this in mind, their overarching goal is to bring back the unique wildness that is the connective genius loci of their region.



VINEYARDS

Strekov is one of the sunniest sub appellations in Južnoslovenská (Southern Slovakia). They farm 6 hectares in largely calcareous and loamy-clay soil between 200-250 meters above sea level. The main focus is on grapes like Ryzlink Vlašský (Olaszrizling), Veltínske Zelené (Grüner Veltliner), Chardonnay, Devín, Ryzlink Rýnský (Rhine Riesling), Frankovka Modrá (Kékfrankos), Tramín Červený (Gewürztraminer), Dunaj, Alibernet, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Pinot Noir. They do not use herbicides, synthetic insecticides, acaricides or any systemic fungicides. Other things prohibited under their self-imposed charta include the use of synthetic fertilizers, a maximum yield of 40 hl per hectare and only harvesting by hand. New plantings must be at minimum 5000 plants per hectare and dedicated to Central European varieties.

WINE MAKING

Gábor credits some early inspiration after tasting with Imre Kálo in Szomolya, Hungary. Imre is one of the characters of the Hungarian wine scene (we visited back in 2016), who has since the late 1980s been making what we now call natural wines. He also garnered some inspiration from Oszkár Maurer in Serbia in terms of low intervention and skin maceration. That said, Gábor's wines are nothing like either of these, but the focus on spontaneous fermentation, skin maceration and patience in both the vineyard and cellar are certainly shared. Adhering to the Autentista Charta, nothing is added apart from SO2 at bottling (if at all), and filtration, centrifuges, temperature control, reverse osmosis, and so on are all also forbidden. All wines are fermented and aged in barrel (225L, 300L and 500L Hungarian) and aged between 7-12 months. Total production is about 30,000 bottles per year.

NOTES & PAIRINGS

The Dunaj grape is seemingly incongruent between what you smell and what you taste. When we first encountered it, we assumed it was some sort of hybrid or PIWI grape. The Muscat-like aromas, deep Teinturier color, grip, acidity and alcohol didn't seem possible with low intervention winemaking. As it turns out, it's a crossing between Muscat Bouchet and Blauer Portugieser which was then crossed with St. Laurent. Its birth dates back to the early 1950s, but it didn't become officially registered until the late 1990s. Late budding, late ripening, resistant to botrytis and frost, it certainly fits the bill for being applicable in Southern Slovakia. Today there are roughly 60-70 hectares in Slovakia and it's the first to sell out at the winery. Spontaneously fermented in 700L vats and then aged on the lees for 11 months in smaller oak barrels, the only addition is SO2. This is one of those reds that you can't quite put your finger on so you revisit it incessantly until it's gone.

ANALYTICS & PRONUNCIATION

APPELLATION: Južnoslovenská

GRAPE COMPOSITION: 100% Dunaj

CLIMATE: Continental (hot summers & cold winters)

SOILS: Calcareous and loamy-clay

MACERATION & AGING: Spontaneous fermentation in 700 L vats then aged on lies in used oak for 14 months.

ALCOHOL: 15%



DANCH & GRANGER SELECTIONS

PO Box 1270 | Los Altos, California 94023 | USA

www.DanchAndGranger.com

info@DanchAndGranger.com