

2023 Kikelet Hárslevelű Tarczal

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 Tarczal 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, ö, ő. So they chose Kikelet, which means springtime in Hungarian. Year after year, they gradually acquired different lots around Tarczal (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 Tarczal is volcanic covered with a layer of loess. While aszú wines from Tarczal'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 Tarczal. 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

The “Tarczal” name Stephanie uses for this Hárslevelű village blend is an older now defunct spelling for her village of Tarczal. In other words, she's able to use the village name without the paperwork and bureaucratic hassle. The grapes were hand harvested and then whole cluster pressed and fermented and aged in 8 year-old oak barrels for 5 months. Creamy without bâtonnage or residual sugar, concentrated and lifted by plenty of acidity.

ANALYTICS & PRONUNCIATION

APPELLATION: Tokaj (Tokeye)

GRAPE COMPOSITION: 100% Hárslevelű (HARSH-lehveh-LOO)

CLIMATE: Continental (hot summers & cold winters)

SOILS: Deep loess and altered volcanic rocks

MACERATION & AGING: whole cluster pressed and fermented and aged in 8 year-old oak barrels for 5 months

ALCOHOL: 12.5%

RESIDUAL SUGAR: 6.2 g/l

ACIDITY: 6.7 g/l



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