

2023 Maurer Crazy Lud White

Subotica, Serbia

When we first visited Oszkár Maurer in 2015, he only had a few wines to show. Since then, he expanded his production into the Fruška Gora, opened a tasting room/restaurant, and redefined what many of these nearly forgotten grapes taste like, while always keeping a close eye on the traditions of both his grandparents and the region's 2000+ years of documented winemaking history. His aesthetic and philosophy are starting to permeate everything above and beyond the vineyards and cellar.

VINEYARDS

The Maurer family has been producing wine for four generations. They now farm 6 hectares in the Subotičko-Horgoškoj region in northern Serbia including the oldest known Kadarka vineyard in the world planted in 1880 in addition to other plantings in 1912 and older plots of Kövidinka from 1925. The rest of the plantings include grapes like Olaszrizling, Slankamenka, Ezerjó, Kadarka and Kékfrankos. There's also few international varieties including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Pinot Noir. The region was formerly a part of Hungary's Csongrád up until 1920. The population is mostly Hungarian and viticulture knows no borders. Names of grapes and places are therefore constantly changing from Serbian to Hungarian and vice-versa. Oszkár also has 9 hectares in the Srem region a little further south. The main feature, apart from the Danube River, is the Fruška Gora Mountain. Once an island in the Pannonian Sea, the soil is volcanic with a marine layer. Called the "holy mountain" or "Serbian Athos", there were over 30 monasteries at one point, of which 16 still stand today. Needless to say, there is something special about this place and winegrowing is documented back to the 1200s. The Subotičko is largely defined by sandy soils and old vines, and the Szerémség by volcanic soils heavily influenced by the Danube River. Everything is farmed organically with zero absorbable chemicals. High density stake trained vines are the most typical and cover crops are natural. Everything is worked by hand or with the help of horses. Harvest is managed with local labor and the help of family and friends.

WINE MAKING

Everything is handpicked in small bins and all fermentations are spontaneous. The use of older oak, small and large format is paramount. There are no additives to any of the wines apart from SO₂ at bottling for select wines. Maurer basically has two tiers: Rege and Maurer. The Rege wines have low SO₂ (25-40ppm) and the Maurer line is zero compromise with zero additions of any kind. Wines are typically only racked once before bottling and everything is bottled unfiltered.

NOTES & PAIRINGS

"Lud" means Goose in Hungarian and Crazy in Serbian. There's an old Hungarian expression, "Ha lúd, legyen kövér!" that literally translates to "If it's a goose, let it be fat." In other words, if you're going to go big, go big in all respects. This pretty much sums up this wine. This is a mixed field blend with 1-2 days of maceration and relatively short 6 months of aging in tank. It's a table in the best possible use of that term. The Grašac is the foundation, the Bakator and Slánkamenka add texture and weight, the Szeremi Zöld acidity and aromatics and the Tamjanika drives home said aromatics. Picked ripe at 10.5% alcohol, it's a celebration of local grapes done in a way that everyone can enjoy and afford to drink everyday. Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered by gravity with zero additions.

ANALYTICS & PRONUNCIATION

APPELLATION: Subotica

GRAPE COMPOSITION: Mixed field blend made of Grašac (Olaszrizling), Bakator, Slánkamenka, Szeremi Zöld, Tamjanika

CLIMATE: Mild and temperate

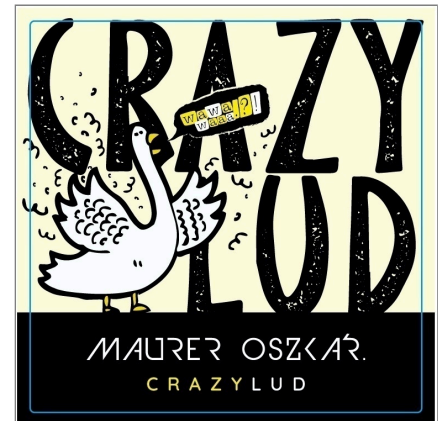
SOILS: Sand

MACERATION & AGING: 1-2 days of maceration and 6 months of aging in tank.

ALCOHOL: 10.5%

RESIDUAL SUGAR: 7.59 g/l

ACIDITY: 6.63 g/l



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