

FISCHER

C h r i s t i a n

Family and history: A tradition of wines since 1662

The Fischer family has been involved in wine-making for more than 350 years. As early as the turn of the century, the "Heurigen" (wine tavern) in Sooss was a favorite destination. In 1982 Christian Fischer joined the family business. Together with his family he turned the wine estate into a real "classic" of Austria's Thermal Region.

Back to the 80ies: After graduating from viniculture schools in Krems and Klosterneuburg, in 1982 Christian Fischer joined his parents Erika and Guck (Engelbert) in the family business. Since then, he has been responsible for the production of wines. In 1985 he secretly procured two barriques and bottled his first red wine aged in a small oak barrel. A short time later, his 1985 Pinot Noir caused a sensation among wine connoisseurs.

Christian Fischer was among the first vintners in Austria to employ oak barrels on a large scale for the production of red wines. "Back then barrique wines had barely gained a foothold. A short time later, suddenly everyone wanted to drink a glass of "barrique" at the Heurigen," says Christian Fischer about the red wine boom of the 1980s and 90s. His heart is in red wines. Complex wines with a harmonious tannin structure and maturation potential are what have defined the Fischer wine estate in Sooss since the 1980s.

The best location of the vineyard also gives rise to his best-known wine: Gradenthal*, from a section of the vineyards in Sooss that is mentioned for the first time in a written record of the Klein-Mariazell monastery. A dark ruby-red Zweigelt wine with a sour cherry nose and well-integrated tannins. "All anyone talks about anymore in the Thermal Region is Burgundy. But we're forgetting our long Zweigelt tradition," is how Fischer explains his desire to champion this varietal. Besides Zweigelt, Pinot Noir plays an important role: At one point the Thermal Region was known as "the Burgundy region of Austria."

As regards white wines, Fischer is dedicated to the Spätrot-Rotgipfler blend and to the Chardonnay and Pinot Blanc varietals. In particularly good years, a portion of the wines is aged in wood.

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In order to create special conditions for certain vintages and to allow room for experimentation, Christian Fischer introduced a limited edition to supplement his CLASSIC and PREMIUM lines. Every year, an exceptional wine is offered for sale under the "100 CASES" label.

*A bit of background about the Gradenthal section of the vineyard: According to the community chronicles of Sooss, it appears that this section of the vineyards used to be called "Trattenthal." Spelling errors turned it into Grattenthal and finally into Gradenthal. In 1299, the abbot Herbordus of Klein-Mariazell bought the village of Saze (Sooss). In the 15th century, the Viennese couple Friedrich and Katherina Floderl bequeathed three vineyards in Sooss in the Trattenthal and Pirnbaumthal sections to the Klein-Mariazell monastery. The bulk of the Gradenthal section has been owned by the Fischer family for many years.