

THE 2022 VINTAGE AT WEINGUT EGON MÜLLER

Again, the winter was very mild. October, November and December were rather dry, January and February wet. From March onwards it was very dry. After the warm winter, March and April were average but in May it became warm and the vineyards grew well. In sheltered places, flowering began on May 14th and by June 10th all vineyards had finished flowering. The fruit set was very good, with three grapes on most shoots and sometimes even four.

Because of the dry conditions, we only had to spray twice, on May 24th and June 2nd. Copper and sulphur were sufficient.

In July it rained only 2 mm and the lack of water became evident everywhere. The development of the grapes slowed down, the foliage of the trees began to yellow. The vineyard work was unproblematic due to the drought. After the experience of 2020 and, given the large fruit set for the first time since 1993, we decided to crop-thin: In the "breiter Weinberg"-vineyard we split the grapes and on 1/3 of our vineyard surface we cut away the third and fourth grape.

It was not extremely hot, only in August there was a longer heat wave with temperatures up to 37°C. Thunderstorms on 5th, 15th and 31st August with locally very different amounts of precipitation just about carried the vineyards in the Scharzhofberg through summer

September started warm and with heavy thunderstorms. In the Wiltinger braune Kupp vineyard there was considerable erosion several times.

From mid-September it became much cooler. The harvest began, very early, on the 19th and as we had suspected, due to the large quantity as in 2020, the must weights were not as high as one would have expected after this summer. The grapes were, on the whole, very healthy and we would have liked to wait a little longer, but the acidity levels were a bit low and it was to be feared that they would continue to drop during the harvest.

Old, vigorous plants had coped particularly well with the drought, while the young vineyards planted in 2015 or later suffered. The best qualities were found where we had thinned out and in the plots that bore few grapes by themselves.

After the rainfall at the end of August and beginning of September, botrytis spread and after harvesting grapes for the "Scharzhof" for 3 days, we began to select Noble-Rot affected grapes. If it had remained dry, we might have been able to harvest similar qualities as in 2018, but on the 27th 12 mm of rain fell and on 1st and 2nd October another 30 mm. On October 6th the actual harvest was finished, but, since the long-range weather-forecast was promising, we left 1½ ha in Scharzhofberg. However, the outlook quickly deteriorated and from October 10th-13th we had a small team of specialists picking the Botrytis grapes, yielding a small cask of potential Gold-cap quality.

October was the warmest since 2001 and that begs the question whether better quality would have been possible with later harvest. However, it wasn't only warm and sunny, with more than 100 mm of rain it was also quite wet. The warm and humid conditions let the grapes rot fast but they never really dried. It would seem that our harvesting decision was not too far off.

The vintage is unsurprisingly similar to 2020 and 2018. The yield was smaller with an average of 40 hl/ha and therefore we believe that the wines will be better than in 2020, but we have not reached the peaks of 2018. Contrary to initial expectations, the acidity levels remained stable until the end and thus the wines are likely to be racier than both 2020s or 2018s.