



## HERAWINGERT 2019, FÜRSTLICHER PINOT

Von René Gabriel: [www.bxtotal.com](http://www.bxtotal.com)

**An audience in the court winery of the Prince of Liechtenstein. Not exactly with the Prince personally, but at least with his entourage, individuals who want to elevate this historic wine estate into higher echelons of vinous achievement. First of all, the general level of quality has been raised in recent years, attractive to its customers, who confirmed this positive development with their purchases ...**

Seen from the outside, this property – which was acquired in 1712 by the then-Fürst Johann Adam the First – is a typical winery of the region...



The exterior of the building presents a classic structure dedicated to wine production, and the vinothèque inside is generally declared to be 'adequate for its purpose'. The motto could perhaps also be 'just don't attract attention' – so, something in the sense of an understatement. As one is sometimes accustomed to from the royal house itself.

We were attracted to the place by several emails from operations manager Stefan Tscheppe with a friendly invitation to visit. Developments: they would now have oenological advisors from the team of Stéphane Derenoncourt offering support, and the latest wines would herald a new era in quality for this estate, which has always enjoyed good and effective management.

But I kept putting off the invitation... After all, "Gabriel" only drives to Liechtenstein when he's en route to Austria. Nevertheless, since there was another trip to Switzerland's winegrowing region Bündner Herrschaft planned, we combined the visits and so André Kunz (Schweizerische Weinzeitung) and I travelled to the Principality of Liechtenstein on 12 January 2022.

There, we sampled a representative cross-section of the new works in the glass. We were impressed! We packed a few bottles of the best wine from the presentation, the Pinot Noir Herawingert 2019, into our automobile to take with us as we departed. This is special Pinot Noir (Blauburgunder) from Liechtenstein in an absolutely world-class incarnation!!!



Sebastian Gunsch and his crew produce around 20,000 bottles of the four hectares of Herawingert. Other grape varieties also grow at Herawingert. However, the production is clearly focussing on Pinot Noir with a little Chardonnay.

## CHARDONNAY

Only some 2,500 bottles of this wine are bottled at a time, and these will already be sold out within a couple months. No wonder, given the quality.

We tasted three vintages, each of which (happily) expressed a slightly varied vintage character. The youngest was also the best, namely the 2020 vintage. These royal white wines do not figure among those yellow, heavy Chardonnays, which fill you up with the first glass. They are impressive for their freshness, perfumed minerality and elegance. Without sacrificing anything in the way of opulence. The expression is subtle and cleanly focussed, nevertheless consistently attractive.

### **2020 Chardonnay Herawingert, Hofkellerei Fürstenstein, Liechtenstein:**

Medium yellow colour, brilliant. Open, delicately chalky bouquet of carambola and stone fruit, with a touch of camomile. Densely concentrated on the palate, fine of flesh and rich in extract; here once more limestony & chalky, thus articulating beautiful minerality. Finishes with nice nerve and a bit of bite, as the acidity provides excellent support. Will improve further. Impressive & clear vinification. All this with a marvellous relationship of price to pleasure. 18/20

## PINOT NOIR

Actually, there is a ‘normal’ or entry-level Pinot Noir in their portfolio. But in this case ‘normal’ would actually prove different. A wonderfully flavoured and honest Pinot, showing an authentic touch of the ‘countrified’ wine – but still the clear message of pure Pinot fruit. These are wines that you don’t necessarily analyse or score, but simply drink with great pleasure.

In the middle of the red wine range, they offer a Pinot called «Bocker». Here we tasted the rather rustic 2018 vintage. Somehow this wine is looking for its true calling in life among the current portfolio, and would find it as a companion for the dinner table.

In the near future, a new super-premium wine called 2019 «Grosse Reserve» with a minuscule production of two casks will be launched, to sell for about 90 francs. We tasted a cask sample and rewarded it with the flattering descriptor ‘gentle Pinot monster with impressive potential’.

But now to the current star in the Hofkellerei assortment, and we were particularly taken with it. Lucky day for the Pinot fan who can get hold of a few bottles, because only 2,700 were available...

**2019 Pinot Noir Herawingert Hofkellerei, Liechtenstein:** Medium bright ruby colour. Delicate and royal bouquet of sour cherries, forest raspberries and the scents of cedar & Dominican tobacco, with delicate herbal and minty notes, perfumed and finely layered. With a nice display of terroir coming through on the second sip. Sublime palate with a particularly fine & creamy sense of flow and delicate, noble tannins. Aromatic, silky finish. A true delicacy with finesse and grace. Great Pinot Noir must dance. This one dances. Definitive! World-class from Liechtenstein! 19/20

