

International

WINERIES of the year



d'Arenberg's McLaren Vale vineyards

2013 WINERIES OF THE YEAR

Commit these wineries to memory and you'll never be at a loss in front of a wine list again. After poring over the results of the 7,500 imported wines we tasted over the last 12 months, these 58 producers stood out for their superlative performances in their particular regions.

To make the cut, each of our *Wineries of the Year* earned at least three exceptional recommendations (most have many more) as well as the highest average scores in their regions overall. In the following pages, we list each winery's three highest recommendations, alongside a profile from our editors **Carson Demmond, Lara Douglass, Joshua Greene, Patricio Tapia and Tara Q. Thomas.**

For more exemplary wines from estates that release only a wine or two a year, check out our *Best Wines of the Year* (p. 85). You can find the complete list of wines tasted for these selections at wineandspiritsmagazine.com.

J. HOFSTÄTTER



Martin Foradori-Hofstätter

Founded: 1907
Winemaker/viticulturist:
 Martin Foradori-Hofstätter
Acres owned: 120
Annual production:
 65,000 cases
Estate grown: 50%
Owners: The Foradori-Hofstätter family
Known for: Cool-climate gewürztraminer and pinot noir built to age.
Importer: Domaine Select Wine Estates, NY
Website: hofstatter.com

THE DEMONSTRATION VINEYARD OUTSIDE Martin Hofstätter's winery is planted to gewürztraminer, the local grape made good. The village of Tramin, where the winery is based, has documented traminer, the vine, back to 1145. And though it has spread from Alto Adige north into Germany, west into Alsace and beyond, its hometown holds a talent for the vine, and particularly one of its mutations, gewürztraminer.

Hofstätter's maternal grandfather, Konrad Oberhofer, began making single-vineyard wines at the cellars of his family's inn—the Schwarzer Adler, built in the 16th century as a coach house for the Austrian Imperial post. He labeled them Kolbenhofer, after the vineyard his uncle, Josef Hofstätter, had bought in 1936. Located in the hills above Tramin, in the town of Söll, it was planted to red grapes at the time, and had been noted for centuries as a prime vineyard site. The south- and east-facing site is now almost entirely gewürztraminer and, under Martin's tenure, it consistently produces one of the most riveting



takes on the variety anywhere in the world. It's a tightly structured white that will develop for a decade or more, the 2010 still youthful with floral notes of gentian and wildflower honey, with the cool tang of lemon and orange pith. The vines grow in well-drained calcareous clay, capturing the winds off the Alps as they descend toward the Adige.

Martin's father's family comes from across the valley, in the village of Mazon. Their estate was once owned by Ludwig Barth von Barthenau, who had planted the west-facing slopes to pinot noir. The Barthenau estate, cooled by the afternoon Ora winds off Lake Garda, produces Hofstätter's top pinot noir, the Vigna S. Urbano. A wine of earthy spice and deep red fruit flavors, this often shows its best around ten years from the vintage.

In the meantime, Hofstätter offers Meczan, a simpler, ripe style of pinot with earthy minerality. Or, on the white side, a pale and fragrant pinot bianco. Both 2010s are ready to drink with local speck. —J.G.

TOP-SCORING WINES	
93	'10 Alto Adige Kolbenhof Gewürztraminer \$50 (8/12)
91	'08 Alto Adige Barthenau Vigna S. Urbano Pinot Nero \$80 (8/12)
88	'10 Alto Adige Pinot Bianco \$19 (8/12)

ITALY ALTO ADIGE