E-NEWSLETTER

A SWIRL OF MARKET HAPPENINGS

INTRODUCING ELENA WALCH TO THE NATIONAL PORTFOLIO

We are pleased to announce the addition of Elena Walch to our national portfolio beginning this month! Founded in 1869, Elena Walch is a fifth-generation family-run estate nestled in Alto Adige, the northernmost wine region in Italy.

Elena Walch, the fourth-generation matriarch, demonstrated a courageous spirit in crafting limited production, site-specific wines at a time when most Alto Adige producers were focusing on volume. Elena's efforts were a turning point for wine production in Alto Adige, and the results of her hard work are on full display thirty years later, with daughters Karoline and Julia Walch providing continuity to the founding pillars of quality and innovation since assuming the winery's operations in 2013.

As we welcome Elena Walch nationally, Karoline shares the history of the estate through five generations, and the family's deeply-rooted commitment to the region and innovative winemaking.

Q&A with Karoline Walch

When your mother, Elena, met and fell in love with her soon-to-be husband Werner Walch, she also fell in love with the vineyards at the family's historic Wilhelm Walch winery in Tramin. She was a pioneering force in creating high-quality, site specific wines in Alto Adige. What was her inspiration?

My mother always had a great passion for wine but was an architect when she met my father - who was guiding his family estate in its fourth generation. Settling down in the wine village of Tramin, she was overwhelmed by the beauty of the vineyards that the family owned, and was fascinated by the interplay between nature, people, and pleasure. She was convinced that there was potential for more. Her mission was to show the world the uniqueness of our little region, Alto Adige. Self-confident and full of energy, unbiased by preconceptions, she set about investigating avenues for improvement, doing so as an outsider! Aiming for absolute quality and single vineyard wines, we can today say that she set the course for modern wine growing in Alto Adige.

Elena Walch is known for producing elegant wines reflective of a signature sense of place. What are the benefits of the vineyard locations and climatic conditions?

With a diverse collection of sites, we can play and experiment, which is exciting to see vineyard-specific expressions through to the finished wines. We are especially fortunate to own two magnificent, officially designated single vineyards in the heart of the Alto Adige. In Italy, such important sites carry the additional denomination of Vigna.

Vigna Kastelaz, solely in the hands of our family, dominates the landscape of Tramin and is considered one of the most exclusive sites in the region with its unique southern exposure. A combination of location, an imposing 63% slope, narrow terraces, soil structure, and shifting day and night temperatures make this site a true jewel, crafting grapes with exceptional concentration and complexity.

Then we have Vigna Castel Ringberg, where the alternating moderate and steep slopes stand at a unique intersection of diverse soils. At 20 hectares, it is the largest continuous vineyard in the region, and benefits from diverse microclimates and soils. These special geological conditions, combined with the mild microclimate, are essential in creating mineral-rich wines of great elegance and finesse. As we have owned this site for over 100 years, intricate knowledge has been passed on for generations and has helped us to delve even deeper into the understanding of every parcel.

