

ROYAL TOKAJI 2007 ESSENCIA

Varietal Composition:	Primarily Furmint with some Hárslevelü and a small percentage of Muscat
Aging:	7 years in a glass demijohn
Bottled:	January 15, 2015
Production:	2,057 bottles (1/375ml)
Alcohol:	1.65%
Total Acidity:	10.1g/L
Residual Sugar:	560g/L

Essencia is the wine-world's rarest gem — a status it has enjoyed for over 300 years.

Mere “wine” merits a glass; Essencia deserves its own ritual: A hand-made crystal spoon allows you to savor each drop.

This unique elixir is almost eternal and, if you can resist, will evolve for generations to come.

VINTAGE NOTES AND VINIFICATION

The year held many challenges but Royal Tokaji is delighted by the 2007 Essencia, the fifth vintage to be released.

Winter was mild but very dry with no frost to speak of. Spring was dry and warm until the end of May when the heavens opened, causing Royal Tokaji to expect a long, wet and cold blossoming in June as this had been the pattern of the previous three years. Nature, ever-fickle however, surprised the winery and the region enjoyed a hot and dry summer with hardly any rain at all. Veraison was particularly early, but a rainy September put paid to the expected early harvest. A cold and wet autumn was followed by a miraculous Indian summer in early October. With alternating wet and dry days and a fair wind, the conditions were perfect for the development of botrytis. Between October and November the “aszúzás” took place, the process whereby the pickers hand-pick the selected Furmint, Hárslevelü and Yellow Muscat grapes, each with the perfect level of Botrytis, one by one.

The free-run juice of these shriveled berries is Essencia, the purest essence of the grape. Each half-bottle requires approximately 40 kilograms (88 pounds) of hand-selected aszú berries.

Traditional winemaking does not apply to Essencia. The concentration of sugar is so high that no yeast can survive in the body of the wine. Only on the surface where the hygroscopic nature of the juice has drawn in water from the surroundings can a natural fermentation take place. Even here the yeasts struggle. This wine achieved its 1.65 percent alcohol after seven long years of fermentation in a demijohn in Royal Tokaji's dark, damp, cool cellars.

TASTING NOTES

Light straw in color. Fresh apricot and tea on the nose. A lovely, full-bodied wine with a beautiful balance. Fresh apricot on the palate, too. The high sugar content is well balanced with the very fine and elegant acidity. Dried fig and plum jam aromas on the finish.



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