2013 Gustave Lorentz Rose of Pinot - Alsace, France

Why We're Drinking It

Happy times are here again because summertime is here again! Time to break out light, bright and extremely fresh rosé wines, and we can think of no better example than this 100% Pinot Noir-based pink from super-cool Alsace.

A whiff of this beguiling red is like inhaling one of those pints of mixed local berries at the farmers’ market: red and golden raspberries, blackberries and Bing cherry notes are forward and sooooo refreshing with refined, silky tannins and a lightness that is sadly all too often lacking in the rosé wine category. Leave it to elegant Pinot Noir to make the most elegant refreshing pink wines. Extended lees aging—at least extended by rosé standards!—imparts more depth and character than is often seen in pink wines. Indeed, this crisp and bright wine is aromatically complex with herbal and earthy notes comingling with tons of forward fruit.

At an offering for Members that is a nearly 50% savings over retail, the Lorentz Rosé of Pinot Noir ought to be poured with abandon from Memorial Day though the end of August, with a few bottles held back in the hopes of a mid-autumn Indian summer!

Reasons why we love it:

Members of the Lorentz family have made wine in Alsace since 1836. The current proprietor, Georges Lorentz, is the sixth generation to oversee all wine operations at this storied estate. While traditional to the core, this name has also been synonymous with innovation, when innovation means higher quality that is. Lorentz was one of the first local wineries to use Stelvin closures to eliminate corked wines. And, in 2012 Gustave Lorentz vineyards earned an official Organic Certification by Ecocert.

Lorentz’s rosé is not at after thought at all, but a deliberately styled wine made from carefully tended grapes. The fruit is grown on hillside plots surrounding the wine village of Bergeim where soil heavy in clay and limestone produces concentrated, elegant fruit year after year.

This wine is made for exotic flavors and really shines when paired with Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai and Indian dishes. Curry, a traditionally tricky combination with wine, is a particularly yummy match. Naturally, this 100% Pinot Noir-based rose is also wonderful all on its own chilled down and poured al fresco.

Tasting Notes

Delicately fruity, this Pinot Noir is a light, fresh wine revealing flavors of cherries, raspberries, blackberries and soft tannins. It is extremely refreshing and refined.

The Story to Know
Since 1836 la MAISON GUSTAVE LORENTZ owns a 33ha vineyard in Bergheim including 13.5ha for the Grand Cru Altenberg de Bergheim and 1.5 ha for the Grand Cru Kanzlerberg. Since 2012, our estate has been inspected and certified Organic Agriculture by Ecocert, a guarantee of our production methods.

The Terroirs

A passion for the business drove Charles LORENTZ Father to focus on excellence by developing his vineyard on the ALTENBERG hills in BERGHEIM. Historically, the harvests from these hills with exceptional potential are vinified separately. Thus Riesling, Pinot-Gris, Gewurztraminer and other Muscats native to this Altenberg express this region’s unique character from vintage to vintage. The result of this persistent obstinacy was the classification of the vineyard to the rank of Grand Cru in 1983.

The second of the Grands Crus owned, more modest in size, is the KANZLERBERG. A rich heir to a long history linked to the Knights of St John and the Order of the Templar, it allows, on its gypsum marl soil, expression of the complex finesse of the Riesling, and more recently the Pinot Gris.

Perfect Pairings

Served slightly chilled, Pinot Noir Le Rose is a lovely aperitif, served alone or with such foods as barbecue, roasted meats, salads and light cheeses. It is especially well-matched with ethnic cuisines such as non-spicy Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai and Indian foods.

Ratings

92 Insider Points

Reviews

This is a fantastic Rose of Pinot Noir from Alsace, and at a unbelievable price. Exactly the kind of deal we love to find for our customers, this is one of the highest quality rose wines we've ever offered and it's a steal. Fresh red fruit and a vibrant acidity fill every sip, with a classic dry mouthfeel and crisp texture on the finish. Really delicious stuff. Enjoy now through 2017. - DZ May, 2015