



## PINOT GRIS



## PINOT GRIS 2018

**Appellation:** Štajerska Slovenija (cool climate white wine region in eastern Slovenia on the Croatian border).

**Varietal:** Pinot Gris (Pinot Grigio, Sivi Pinot)

**Vineyards:** Vertical sites: Jeruzalem, Mali Kog, Litmerk, Cerovec and Radomerščak. The vineyards are perfect combination of open and wind exposed east-south and south-west sites which restrict direct sun exposure and over-heating of the grapes during the ripening season. This ensures optimum development and preserves natural varietal aromas.

**Soils:** Calcareous base rock with clay/sand soil on marl mostly at steep sites, with more clay at Mali Kog vineyard.

**Cultivation:** The vines were pruned and trained using single guyot to ensure optimal sun exposure to foliage and fruit. Sustainable viticulture is practiced. Handpicked grapes.

**Winery:** Well equipped, small modern winery was set up by Verus Vineyards Ltd. This company was founded in May 2007 by Božidar Grabovac, Rajko Žličar and Danilo Šnajder. Winery capacity is 150.000 litres.

**Analysis:** Alcohol: 13,55 % vol.  
Residual sugar: 3,2 g/l  
pH: 3,42  
TA: 6,25 g/l

**2018 Vintage:** The beginning of the year was warm but February welcomed us with a true winter, with a lot of snow and constant temperatures below 0°C. The coldest was at the end of February and in the first days of March, when we measured -13°C in vineyards and -22°C in the valleys. This winter frost was a huge threat as the vine was partially awake already in January, but there was no damage to speak of. Winter persisted until the end of March, then it suddenly warmed up. Due to the abundance of moisture and above-average temperatures growth started early. Many rainy days, warm weather and intensive growth have caused a strong phenomenon of downy mildew. Flowering started on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. It was happening in nice weather but it ended all too quickly. June was hot, humid, with a lot of moisture. Storms began to appear. Earlier, more frequently and more intense than usual. On 8 June a storm came along with the first hail and caused visible damage on the vineyards in Ivanjkovci and Brebrovnik. Four days later there was an even stronger wind and hailstorm in the same two areas, which caused the vineyards big yield losses. Due to the strong winds, leaves and buds were damaged. The vine needed 3 weeks to recover. Vineyards in other areas did not suffer any damage. Summer was free of storms, not too hot, the ripening of the grapes was nice and fast. We started harvesting on 6 September due to construction delays in the new cellar, early on the date, but high time according to the maturity of the grapes. We had to hurry. The sunny and moderately warm September enabled good ripening of the grapes and a smooth course of harvesting allowed us to finish on 25 September. The grapes were nice, healthy and mature. The first vintage in the new cellar is excellent, we produced wines with emphasized variety and a very rich flavour.

**Winemaking:** We harvested Pinot Gris on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of September. Only clean, perfectly ripe grapes were picked in small 12 kg perforated crates. Gentle handling of grapes, must, juice and wine. We practiced quick pressing of destemmed grapes without skin contact to avoid extraction of the phenolics. Juice was cold settled for 24 hours and racked to fermentation tanks. Fermentation took place in stainless steel tanks for over three weeks at the temperature 15-20 deg. C. After fermentation: to build a mouth feel, wine was left on fine lees for two months. No fining, gentle filtration and early bottling was followed in February.

**Taste:** Fresh pear, gentle spices and citrus, flavours on the nose. Moderate acid, stone fruit character and very elegant on the palate.

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