

2015 Heimann Kadarka

Szekszárd, Hungary

The Szekszárd appellation was originally established by the Celts, flourished under the Romans (Emperor Probus), continued under the Cistercian Abbeys, and even survived Turkish occupation due to the high tax revenue the wines generated. Once the Turks were pushed out, modern day Serbians were being pushed north by said Turks and brought the Kadarka grape with them. Up until this point, the appellation was almost entirely white wine. Since then Kékfrankos and a variety of Bordeaux varieties (Cab Franc and Merlot mostly) have taken firmly to the region. These grapes in particular also survived under Communism while many of the native white and red grapes did not fair so well, namely Kadarka. Backing up a bit, after the Turks were pushed out the very wine savvy Swabians were also incentivized to resettle the area. Where the Serbians brought a key red grape, the Swabians brought superior winemaking skills. Their influence is still felt today. Case in point, the Heimann family is intensely proud of their Swabian roots and have been making wine here since 1758. This sense of regional pride is alive and well with the current Heimann family as well. Zoltán Sr. is the acting Chairman of the Szekszárd Appellation. He is also a founding member of Pannon Winemakers' Guild and Vindependent. Ági, his wife, is the founding member of Pannónia Női Borrend, which puts on a wonderful series of cultural events. Zoltán Jr. is a member of Junibor Association of Young Winemakers. He's also studied viticulture and enology at Geisenheim, Montpellier, Bordeaux and Udine in addition to internships in Australia (Mac Forbes) and visiting top estates in Italy like Foradori. Zoltán Sr., Jr., and Ági are all active members of the Szekszárd Winemakers' Guild which gathers the best winemakers in Szekszárd to develop the region as a whole. In 2016 Heimann was chosen as the "Winery of the Year" in the Gault-Millau Guide.

VINEYARDS

Heimann farms roughly 23 hectares spread over the Baranya, Porkoláb and Iván Valleys in addition to some rare hillside plantings on Batti. The soil is overwhelmingly Loess in Szekszárd, but you can also find Terra Rosa (iron rich soil also dominant in Istria, Croatia) if you get deep enough. If you're approaching the appellation from the Great Plain to the East, you first hit the River Danube and then the first hills are Szekszárd. It's a fairly dramatic change in the landscape and an obvious place for multiple exposures. Currently most plantings are Kékfrankos with smaller amounts of Merlot, Cab Franc, Tannat, Sagrantino (from Umbria!) and now more than ever re-plantings of Kadarka are underway.

WINE MAKING

Every variety is fermented separately in either concrete, open wooden vats or stainless steel.



Each grape is then aged separately as well. Only the Cabernet Franc sees new oak aging. The final blend was bottled in July of 2015.

NOTES & PAIRINGS

For the past 25 years, Heimann has put a great effort to improve the grape variety Kadarka. In collaboration with the Pécs Research Institute, it started a new clonal selection process, looking at 80-100 year old vineyards for the best vines and paying attention to grape characteristics like yield, skin thickness, and typical spicy flavors. Seven clones were selected, planted and shared with fellow winemakers. Grown on the löss-covered hills of Szekszárd, Kadarka shows its uniquely spicy and fruity character and fine acidity. In order to preserve and expose its elegant raciness, the wine is aged in big wooden barrels for 5 months.

ANALYTICS & PRONUNCIATION

PRODUCER: Heimann
APPELLATION: Szekszárd (SekSard)
VINTAGE: 2015
GRAPE COMPOSITION: 100% Kadarka
CLIMATE: Cool continental with dry warm summers
SOILS: Mainly loess with Terra Rossa
MACERATION & AGING: aged 5 months in big wooden barrels.
ALCOHOL: 12%
RESIDUAL SUGAR: 0.9 g/l
ACIDITY: 4.6 g/l



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