

JAMES SUCKLING Novembre 2024

An Alsatian Celebration

95 Gewurztraminer Vendanges Tardives Vorbourg 2020

This great gewurz is rippling with exotic fruit aromas—lots of fresh papayas and ripe star fruit—plus delicate spices. Very creamy with just a hint of oiliness on the medium- to full-bodied palate from intense botrytis. Then the lychee character that wine drinkers around Planet Wine associate with this grape powers through in the long, off-dry finish.

93 Pinot Noir Lutzeltal 2022

At once dark and cool, this youthful pinot noir is still a little bit shy on the nose but has ample fine tannins on the medium-bodied palate. As it aerates the red fruit aromas open up very nicely, and you could mistake this for a Volnay from Burgundy. Long finish that's chalky and crisp with a licorice note. From the gently sloping site just above this producer's Clos Ste. Landelin monopole site, where there's rocky limestone soil.

93 Sylvaner Steinstuck 2023

At once round yet lively, with stacks of pomelo fruit and delicate notes of candied citrus peel, this is an impressive wine for this underrated grape variety. The touch of tannin is already very well integrated on the medium-bodied palate. Long, supple finish.

92 Gewurztraminer Orchidées Sauvages 2023

This excellent gewurztraminer has an attractive lightness of touch in spite of the richness and off-dry balance on the medium-bodied palate. Plenty of yellow rose and white flower aromas. Just enough unfermented grape sweetness to harmonize the touch of bitterness in the finish, which is typical for this grape.

91 Riesling Calcaires Jaunes 2023

This is the answer for anyone looking for an entry-level dry riesling that's well rounded with no hint of tartness. Plenty of candied citrus aromas. The palate shows ripe pear fruit and lemon zest freshness that are complemented by the chalky character that gently builds in the very harmonious finish.

90 Crémant d'Alsace Rosé

The mandarin orange, nectarine and strawberry aromas give this barely medium-bodied sparkling rosé plenty of appeal. Good balance between restrained leesy creaminess, lively acidity and delicate mousse. Long, silky finish. 100% pinot noir, nearly all of which is from the 2022 vintage. Matured for 18 months on the lees in the bottle and disgorged in June 2024.