



VINOUS janvier 2019

ALSACE & LUXEMBOURG: 2017's AND LATE-RELEASED 2016's Ian d'Agata

96/100 MURÉ Riesling Sélection de Grains Nobles 2016 Clos Saint Landelin

Bright straw. Deep, refined aromas of peach, nectarine, lemon jelly and tangerine jam, complicated by spicy botrytis. Rich, dense and juicy, this luscious beauty has a remarkable light-on-its-feet quality; the very pure orchard fruit, smoky and honeyed flavors are neatly extended on the long, suave, concentrated finish by lively, harmonious acidity. Knockout SGN from an estate with a long history of excellence with Pinot Gris at this level of concentration and sweetness.

94+/100 MURÉ Pinot Gris 2016 Clos Saint Landelin

Golden-tinged straw. Intense aromas and flavors of passion fruit, mushrooms and forest floor; like a hike in the forest on a drizzly day. Lovely, long and very clean; with refined yet very concentrated notes of tropical fruit and pear nectar on the long, suave, slightly smoky finish. Knockout Pinot Gris of superb depth and complexity.

93/100 MURÉ Crémant d'Alsace brut «Cuvée Prestige»

Bright straw. Piercing aromas of lemon jelly, dried flowers and yeasty bread. Rich, full and dense but fresh, offering exotic fruit flavors complicated by notes of vanilla and wild fennel. Finishes broad, gentle and very long, with repeating sweet spice and floral notes. This blend of mostly Pinot Blanc, Auxerrois and Pinot Gris, plus small amounts of Riesling and Chardonnay, is a truly outstanding sparkler. Those who find Champagne too acid-driven at times should definitely give this complex beauty a try. René Muré was among the first to believe in Crémant production; actually, given the abundance of limestone in their vineyard soils, his grandfather Oscar had long pushed him to start production of a sparkler. Judging from the results the Murés have achieved over the years, I would have to say he was right.

93/100 MURÉ Pinot Noir 2016 Clos Saint Landelin

Bright red. Aromas of violet, smoke and red berries. Lovely flavors of herbs, red berries and minerals have a multilayered quality. Finishes long and flinty, delivering polished tannins and hints of grilled rare beef and botanical herbs. Outstanding Alsace Pinot Noir. Made with 70% whole clusters (just like the Pinot Noir «V», while only 30% are used for the Pinot Noir Côte de Rouffach).

92/100 MURÉ Sylvaner 2017 Steinstück

Pale straw-green. Very delicate aromas and flavors of green apple and white flowers. Enters fresh and juicy, then turns a little dilute in the middle, closing long and clean. This is very well balanced and penetrating, but a little lighter than the 2016 and 2014 (which were product of lower yields). Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. This very high-quality site is characterized by soil and subsoil similar to those of the Zinnkoeplé but with a different exposure (the Zinnkoeplé is full south).

92/100 MURÉ Riesling 2016 Côte de Rouffach

Vivid straw yellow. Piercing aromas and flavors of white peach, minerals and white flowers. Long and juicy, featuring a slightly saline quality that adds freshness. Lovely balance here, with a very refined, high-acid but harmonious quality typical of the 2016s. This strikes me as one of the best Côte de Rouffach Rieslings made by Muré in some time.

91/100 MURÉ Pinot Gris 2017 Pierres Sèches

Bright straw-yellow. Aromas of pear nectar, baked apple and wet earth on the inviting nose. Rich, dense, luscious orchard fruit flavors and a long, polished finish, leaving a hint of residual sweetness behind. Actually, while the numbers shows this has 8 g/L residual sugar and 7,2 g/L total acidity, it is so round and luscious that it seems off-dry rather than classically dry (most likely resulting from the combination of warmer year, higher sugar and alcohol levels).

91/100 MURÉ Gewürztraminer 2016 Clos Saint Landelin

Bright golden-yellow. Fresh aromas of sweet spices and tropical fruits. Rich, dense and savory, offering flavors similar to the aromas; honeyed elements add to the luscious mouthfeel. A big but polished wine that finishes long and very suave, with a hint of alcohol-derived heat.

90/100 MURÉ Pinot Noir 2016 Côte de Rouffach

Bright red. Delicate, refined flinty, strawberry and red cherry aromas on the fruit-forward, charming nose. Then bright and juicy, offering bright flavors similar to the aromas and a saline bent on the long suave finish.

90/100 MURÉ Sylvaner 2017 Originel

Very pale, crystal-clear straw-green. Delicate aromas and flavors of quince, green apple and minerals. Finishes long and clean refined perfume. The name Originel refers to «in the beginning» because in the 1960s and 1970s, Sylvaner was the dominant grape variety in the valley (the Zinnkoeplé Grand Cru, for example, was almost entirely planted to Sylvaner and Gewürz). Lovely, above-average aperitif wine here; or try it with shellfish and apsaragus dishes.

88/100 MURÉ Gewürztraminer 2017 Orchidées Sauvages

Vivid pale gold. Lovely aromas of sweet spices and tropical fruit. Then luscious and creamy, offering more ripe, sweet fruit flavors and a Gewürztraminer-accurate bitter twinge on the long, suave finish. A little more acidity might have helped add lift.