



RIED AXPOINT

The Ried Axpoint is in a wind-protected, convex location in Spitz on the Danube river. This vineyard is flat in some areas, but where it slopes, it drops steeply at up to 50 %. The aspect of Ried Axpoint is southwest to south. It sits at the foot of the Ried Singerriedl and the eroding rock and soil from that site have profound influence on the Axpoint vineyard. The topsoil that has accumulated is significantly deeper than many other sites in the Wachau. Axpoint also borders the Ried Pluris to the north. A sub-site of Axpoint is the Hochrain.

Ried Axpoint was first documented under the name "Akspevnt" in the year 1243. During the following centuries, it was called "Abstpoint" - reference to it once being owned by an abbey. The climate is cool and strongly influenced by the close proximity of the nearly 1000-metre-high Jauerling Mountain. The lowest reach of the vineyard is 211 metres and it climbs to 289 metres - the steepest parts are terraced. Deeply rooted vines in the Axpoint vineyard enjoy an average of 2100 hours of sunshine annually.

The primary rock of the Ried Axpoint is comprised of paragneiss that is frequently interspersed with mica schist and granodiorite gneiss. Paragneiss is a metamorphic rock that was formed during the Variscan Orogeny without being completely molten. Because it was formed from various sediment rocks including mica schist, quartzite and dark amphibolite, the mineral composition of paragneiss is quite diverse. Paragneiss was formed under lower pressures and temperatures than orthogneiss; it is assumed around 1000 bar and 600 - 700 °C. Paragneiss was also formed later and it is more weathered. Warm, light, sandy soils that offer continuous drainage and conditions for vines to root well evolve from paragneiss.

Granodiorite gneiss belongs to the orthogneiss group. Sometimes called "Spitzer Gneiss", granodiorite gneiss is usually dark grey. It evolved from granodiorite, a magmatic rock that is very similar to granite and shares feldspar, quartz and mica as its three main mineral components.

Gneiss only breaks the surface where the topsoil has eroded or deeper layers have been pushed to the surface through tectonic activity. This is the case throughout the Wachau. Granodiorite gneiss is generally free of calcium carbonate, meagre, and not extremely heavy. Due to its porosity, it drains well, which is a positive attribute in rainy years and offers vines the opportunity to root deeply.

Mica schist is a collective term for foliated schist with flat, sheet-like layers comprised of mica minerals. Its mineral content differs from gneiss through lower feldspar content and higher occurrence of sheet silicate minerals from the mica group. These mica layers are shiny and can be broken away easily. Due to its appearance it is colloquially also often referred to as "Katzensilber i.e. cat silver".

Loess dominates the topsoil of the Ried Axpoint. Loess is comprised predominately of silt, a soil grain size fraction of 0,063 - 0,002 mm between coarse sand and fine clay, which can be deposited by wind. It drifted here from vegetation-free glacial fields and river flood plains in the last ice age around 14,000 years ago. Because the transport medium of this soil was air, rather than water, these Aeolian sediments (named after the Greek god Aeolus, keeper of the winds) are extremely fine-grained. The mineral composition of loess is predominantly quartz, feldspar, mica, clay and calcite.

The Domäne Wachau vintner families cultivate 2.5 of the 9 Axpoint vineyard hectares. Grüner Veltliner makes up the lion's share with 2 ha and the oldest vines were planted in 1967. The remaining Domäne Wachau Axpoint vineyard area is planted to Riesling, Gelber Muskateller (Muscat Blanc à petits grains) and Neuburger.

Grüner Veltliner Smaragd ^{RIED} AXPOINT



Our Axpoint vintners:

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