



RIED KOLLMÜTZ

Ried Kollmütz is one of the largest sites in the Wachau. It rises impressively over Wösendorf, encompassing roughly 35 hectares of vines. The Ried faces primarily towards the southeast, although many of the individual vineyards look out in other directions, contributing to the heterogeneity of the site.

To the northeast it borders the single vineyards Gaisberg, Bach and Bachsatz, while to the southwest it lies next to Höll and Hochrain. Its steep parcels descend towards Wösendorf and the Danube, at times up to 92 percent. They are terraced, with century-old dry stone walls. The higher-elevation vineyards, which run up to the forest at 430 meters above sea level, tend to be flatter as they transition into the high plateau. The toeslope of Ried Kollmütz comes at the edge of Wösendorf, at 220 meters. As can be expected with 210 meters of elevation separating the highest and lowest points of the vineyard, the climate varies significantly in the different parts of the vineyard. This in turn produces different ripening times for the grapes.

First mentioned in official documents in 1151 as "Chomunz", the Rieds may well have derived from the House of Cholmunzer, whose traces in the Waldviertel include the Kollmütz ruins, and which can still be seen today in Raabs on Thaya. Viewed as a grand winegrowing site since Medieval times, it is today one of the hallmarks of Wösendorf (small village next to Weissenkirchen).

The soils of the terraced vineyards in Ried Kollmütz developed from the Wösendorf landslide mass, a strongly weathered crystalline stone made of paragneiss, which scientists have dated as several hundred million years in age. They are among the so-called metamorphites, a type of metamorphic rock that has never been melted. Paragneiss is based on sedimentary rock such as marl, clay, and sandstone, with a tremendous wealth of minerals reflecting the varying base stones. The landslide itself is estimated by geologists to have occurred during the Egerium period, meaning 20-25 million years ago. The sandy and calcareous soils of the terraced Kollmütz are notably rich in iron, manganese, and magnesium. On the plateau at the peak, the vines are rooted in sandy terrace gravel from the Danube, roughly 2.5 million years old, while the bottom of the slope is shaped by weathered paragneiss and plentiful loess.

The latter is a coarse clay sediment primarily composed of quartz, feldspar, mica, and calcite, blown some 14,000 years ago from the barren glacier forelands north of the Alps into Wachau. The particles range in size from coarse sand to fine clay. While porous and loose, the rectangular shape of the loess particles makes it remarkably stable. As it weathers, it transitions into clay, undergoing a slow metamorphosis from a moderately heavy into heavy soil type. Even in very dry weather, there is a strong supply of water and nutrients.

20 winegrowing families at Domäne Wachau cultivate a total of 12 hectares of vineyards on Ried Kollmütz. Due to the steepness, this is primarily undertaken by hand. The primary grape variety, cultivated on 8.5 hectares, is Grüner Veltliner, followed by Riesling on 1.6 hectares. Gelber Muskateller, Müller Thurgau, Chardonnay, Weißburgunder and Zweigelt also grow on some smaller vineyards.

Domäne Wachau vinifies a single-vineyard Grüner Veltliner Federspiel from the Ried Kollmütz, drawing on the benefits of the various microclimates and geological formations. The style of wine varies based on where the vineyards are located: Grapes from the deep loessy soil at the toeslope or the site's hollows produce highly spicy wines, while those from the barren soils of the front flank put a focus on mineral notes. Because we cultivate parcels throughout the Kollmütz, we produce a wine year after year that presents the totality of the Ried. Beyond all vintage-based characteristics, the wine is notable for its juicy, balanced, and firm texture and pure, elegantly spicy aromatics, combined with its agile liveliness and vibrant acidity.

Grüner Veltliner Federspiel ^{RIED} KOLLMÜTZ



Our Kollmütz vintners:

Manfred Denk, Anita Fellner, Karl Ferner, Christine Geith, Alexandra Gramel, Anton Grötz, Josef Gruber, Melitta Holzer, Romana Kirchberger, Thomas Langmayer, Eva Leberzipf, Fritz Leberzipf, Christian Lengsteiner, Leopold Mang, Hans Martin, Klaus Pichler, Angelika Schrey, Rudolf Schrey, Maria Wagner