DOMÄNE
WACHAU

# RIED LIEBENBERG

The Liebenberg, a vineyard distinguished by dry stone walls, is located where the Danube River makes a 90° bend between Weissenkirchen and Dürnstein. The vineyard is steep with up to an 81 % slope. The similarly steep Lichtenstainerin, a sub-site of the Kaiserberg, is adjacent to the west and on the right side is the Heudürr vineyard. At the foot of the Liebenberg slope at 203 metres (666 ft.), the site merges with the Frauenweingärten. The Tiefenthal and Heudürrgraben side valleys border it to the west and the east.

With a south to southwest exposition, the Liebenberg captures around 2000 hours of sunshine per year – certainly one of the reasons why wine was cultivated on its terraces over 700 years ago. The site was first mentioned in a certificate of inheritance from Leuthold von Kuenring dating 1312. The name was first documented as "lieb'nperig", which later became Liebenberg. The name originally stems from the aristocratic family Liebenberger.

The Liebenberg vineyard is in the commune of Dürnstein, although it is located west of the Dürnstein tunnel. It is significantly cooler than the Kellerberg and Loibenberg and climatically more similar to the Klaus and Achleiten vineyards. It is markedly influenced by cool down winds that flow through the two bordering side valleys from the Forest Quarter to the north. A further factor is the enormous difference in elevation within the vineyard, which climbs 144 metres to reach 347 metres (1138 ft.) above sea level.

Several types of paragneiss are the foundation for the weathered soil of the Liebenberg, which is often complemented with dark amphibolite. The particular gneiss structure found here is called Seiberer gneiss. It is a complex paragneiss with numerous deposits including hornblende, calc-silicate gneiss, marble, and pegmatite gneiss. It is found around the hamlet of Seiberer near Weissenkirchen and west of Dürnstein near Watstein.

Paragneiss is a metamorphic rock that was formed during the Variscan Orogeny without being molten. Paragneiss stem from sedimentary rock like marl, clay, and sandstone. Due to differing parent rock, there are great variations in mineral content (mica schist, quartzite, and dark amphibolite due to volcanic activity). Paragneiss metamorphosed under less pressure and lower temperatures than orthogneiss – around 1000 bar and 600-700 °C. It also formed later and is more weathered. Light and sandy soils with good water drainage evolve from paragneiss. These soils warm quickly in spring and are easy for vine roots to penetrate. Amphibolite is a dark rock of volcanic origin with high concentration of minerals from the amphibole group. The most common of these minerals is hornblende. Amphibolite often accompanies paragneiss.

Common, particularly in the lower parts of Liebenberg, are soil layers that are based on a loamy-silty, highly calcareous matrix in which amphibolite and paragneiss are bedded. Silt is a component of loess and has a grain size between coarse sand and fine clay that can be deposited by wind.

The Liebenberg encompasses around 8 vineyard hectares, 3.3 of which are cultivated by Domäne Wachau vintner families. Grüner Veltliner is the clear protagonist with an over 90 % share of the vineyard area. Riesling and Gelber Muskateller (Muscat Blanc à petits grains) play small supporting roles. The Federspiel that is produced from these terraces exhibits racy acidity and bright, robust spice with deep mineral notes.

**Grüner Veltliner Federspiel RIED LIEBENBERG**

Our Liebenberg vintners:
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