



HOFGUT FALKENSTEIN NIEDERMENNIGER SONNENBERG RIESLING SPÄTLESE TROCKEN

100% Riesling. Made from “late harvest” grapes. Aromas of lemon and grapefruit, seagrass, herbs and fresh flowers with a lovely base of slate minerality. Herb-accented fruit with a steely core. Mouth-watering, brisk, tangy and herbal. Very dry and savory with a long and perfectly balanced finish. Wonderfully pure and refreshing.

The grapes come from the Sonnenberg vineyard in Niedermennig. It is on a hillside and the soil is very stony, grey slate. The average age of the vines is between 40 and 50 years old; the oldest are from 60 to 80 years old. The vineyards work close to organic. The harvest is done in stages and all by hand. The small harvest team consists of mostly family, friends and neighbors. Yields are small. Different parcels are vinified separately and generally bottled unblended. The grapes are gently pressed for two to three hours and the resulting juice flows via gravity into the cellar below for a natural sedimentation. Fermentation is in old wooden casks by ambient yeasts in the deep, cool, and damp cellar with moldy stone walls. The wines normally ferment to dry or a little off-dry. The wine stays on its lees until bottling in March, April or May. Bottled traditionally by the cask.

Erich Weber studied Viticulture at Geisenheim University and apprenticed under his uncle before starting his own domain in 1981. Today he farms about 20 acres and lives and works in a beautiful old slate house that sits at the top of a little valley surrounded by his vineyards. He likes to call himself “Winzer Weber” or “wine-grower Weber.” The point being that real wine is grown, not a product of cellar manipulation, and he takes an ultra-traditional, non-interventionist approach. His son Johannes, who, like his father before him, completed his studies at Geisenheim, now assists him in the cellar and vineyards. Erich's other sons, Paul and Franz, also help out, especially during the harvest. Weber makes dry wines that are uncompromisingly so, with high acidity. Even for experienced tasters, they can require a little re-calibration. But the balance is impeccable, the fruit is pure, and the mineral expression is unrivalled. They are incredibly addictive.

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Tasting Note:

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Shelf Talker:

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