



I have always believed in Blaufränkisch!

**Austrian winemaker Roland Velich and his Moric Winery in Burgenland receive historic rave reviews in national and international comparisons.**

Vienna, 14 December, 2023

The Weingut Moric of Lutzmannsburg, Burgenland (Austria), is delighted with a veritable flood of best and top score ratings. In the year that Moric founder and vintner Roland Velich has celebrated his sixtieth birthday, national and international voices are unanimous in praising the quality of his Blaufränkisch.

James Suckling's renowned American wine portal has ranked Moric's 2021 Blaufränkisch Burgenland Lutzmannsburg Alte Reben among the top one hundred wines in the world – in ninth place! For an Austrian red wine producer, this is just as historic a rating as the points awarded by Robert Parker to Moric's Blaufränkisch wines: 97, 96+, and 96 for his Alte Reben Lutzmannsburg and Ried Meissner 2020 and 2019 vintages. "Never have his wines been finer and more vital than these and never of greater finesse and expressiveness," can be read at the Robert Parker Wine Advocate. New York's Wine & Spirits Magazine has also voted Moric one of the best 100 wineries in the world (for the eighth time, by the way).

"I'm really delighted," says winemaker Roland Velich. "The international perception of our wines is not only a vindication of our work, but also that Blaufränkisch is a great variety with world-class potential. This was my basic assumption when I founded Moric 23 years ago. Today, there are a whole host of great young winemakers whose Blaufränkisch wines prove as much. And this pleases me at least as much as the great ratings." Roland Velich's wines are available in well-stocked specialist shops in 40 countries worldwide.

**Highly acclaimed in Austria as well.** After many years of Velich's work being followed more attentively and favorably abroad than in Austria, things have changed impressively this year. Falstaff magazine has voted Velich Winemaker of the Year 2023, and awarded his 2021 Blaufränkisch Alte Reben Lutzmannsburg the highest possible score of 100 points. The tasters from A la Carte magazine came to the same conclusion, awarding 100 points to both the 2021 Alte Reben Lutzmannsburg and the Blaufränkisch Ried Maissner of the same vintage. Legendary wine critic Stuart Pigott on



the 2021 Blaufränkisch Lutzmannsburg Ried Schwemmer: "So floral that you think you're standing in a garden on a summer evening! You just won't want to stop!"

**Moric Winery.** Founded in 2001, the winery now encompasses 22.5 hectares of vineyards in central Burgenland and the Leitha Mountains of eastern Austria. Roland Velich creates wines (primarily from the Blaufränkisch variety) which unmistakably express one thing: their place of origin, Burgenland. The unique terroir, ancient vines, low yields, open mash fermentation with natural native yeasts, and aging in large wooden barrels result in wines that herald a new red wine era in Austria. The 2009 vintage of Blaufränkisch Neckenmarkt Alte Reben was the first Austrian red wine to achieve 95 Parker points, and drew international attention to this previously unknown variety. Incidentally, "place of origin" does not necessarily mean only Burgenland for the 2023 Winemaker of the Year. For his Hidden Treasures project, Roland Velich is collaborating with innovative winemakers from Hungary. Together, they are focusing their attention on the long-lost wine treasures of the Pannonian plains straddling Austria and Hungary. More at [moric.at](http://moric.at)

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