



## Membership in respekt-BIODYN – the admission procedure

December 2020

respekt-BIODYN has made a point of being in open exchange with colleagues and other associations, and of sharing the lessons of biodynamic viticulture. This leads to natural growth of the organisation, as long as it is moderate and targeted.

The requirements for membership in respekt go beyond biodynamic farming methods, but also include high quality and individuality of wines, friendly and fruitful cooperation, and participation in collective events.

### **Admission of new members is carried out in accordance with the following admission procedure:**

Only current active members from the respective region can propose the admission of a new winery, applications for admission cannot be made otherwise. Proposals from the regions are submitted internally and discussed, and must be approved at the general meeting of the region by a 3/4 majority. Proposals of wineries from outside the current respekt regions are submitted to the nearest regional representative. There are regional representatives for Germany, Italy, Lower Austria including Vienna, and for Burgenland. With the exception of Italy, at least three winemakers are required for regional representation; individual wineries are assigned to the geographically closest region.

#### **Process:**

1. Proposal in the respective region (3/4 approval)
2. The regional representative submits the proposal to the respekt board of directors by 30 June of the current year.
3. Invitation of the proposed winemakers to the following December retreat (“Dezember-Einkehr”)
4. Afterwards, members have the right to veto (ending on 20 February of the following year).

**Power of veto.** Members may exercise their right to veto within two months of the retreat. The respekt board then has the final vote. If the veto right is not exercised, the potential member will be informed of their possible admission and asked for their decision by the next ProWein in Düsseldorf (or by 31 March of the corresponding year). If a veto is exercised, the winery will be informed in writing by the chairman and their regional representative.

**respekt-BIODYN**

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**Admission criteria.** If there is interest in joining, the respective winery will be subject to an audit by the regional representative before receiving an invitation to the respekt retreat (Einkehr) in December. If the audit is passed, the winemaker will be invited to present themselves and their wines. In addition to the quality of the wine, human qualities also count, because respekt-BIODYN is a circle of friends. Subsequently, the respekt board decides on the admission according to the bylaws, and a 3/4 majority must approve. The membership will become valid for the following year, and will be communicated in the following year from the December retreat.

**Conversion phase.** With the admission decision of the respekt Board, the individual conversion process defined in the guidelines may be started immediately so that no operating year is lost. This means:

- For conventional wineries, the conversion process takes three years, and the basic course offered annually by Demeter is mandatory.
- For organic operations, the process takes two years, and the basic course offered annually by Demeter is also mandatory.
- Biodynamically-certified wineries (e.g. by Demeter) can be respekt-certified with the following vintage, so the conversion takes one year.

**Admission fee & annual membership fee.** Upon joining, a one-time admission fee (the trademark usage fee after successful certification), and the annual membership fee (membership subject to certification) are due. Both are calculated on the basis of the size of the area under cultivation (the self-managed area, plus any area covered by production contracts; as registered for organic monitoring):

A base contribution of 1,500 Euros plus 50 Euros per hectare, capped at € 4,000

**Use of the trademark.** From the date of certification, a member winery is allowed to use the respekt logo on labels for wines that comply with the guidelines. Before that, "under conversion to respekt-BIODYN" may be used in communication (including on a website).



### The entry phase:

- The new member selects a mentor who guides the member through the conversion phase.
- Mandatory participation in the respekt retreat ("Einkehr") in December, and in the respekt Johanni (midsummer's fest), or the VieVinum winetasting, in June.
- Holding winery development discussions ("Hofentwicklungsgespräche")
- Completion of specialised training or further education programmes (respekt, Dottenfelderhof, Demeter, etc.). For wineries not yet certified biodynamic, the Demeter basic course is obligatory (offered in all countries).
- **Duration of the conversion phase** depends on pre-certification: the initial phase lasts three years for conventional wineries and vineyards, two years for organically farmed estates and vineyards, and one year for already biodynamic wineries (certified e.g. by Demeter).
- Presentation of new newly-admitted members with their first certified wine at the respekt Johanni (or at VieVinum), or at the respekt retreat, collective PR work (mailings, press conferences, tastings, etc.).
- New members will be listed on the respekt website and in the press kit as "member under conversion" until their certification.

**Participation in respekt events.** Participation in the respekt Johanni (or in VieVinum), and in the respekt retreat ("respekt-Einkehr") in December are compulsory, participation in all other events is voluntary. 50% of the general costs (seminar rooms, organisation, moderators, communication, etc.) of both of these events are covered by the association, while the remainder is divided equally among the participating wineries. Regardless of their participation, the respekt retreat is supported equally by all member operations.

### CONTACT

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