



Membership in respekt-BIODYN – the admission procedure

December 2021

respekt-BIODYN has made a point of being in open exchange with our 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 a high quality and individuality of wines and friendly and fruitful cooperation, as well as 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. 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 (including Styria). 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 (if the retreat does not take place, then to the next respekt St John's Eve fest).
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 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.

Admission criteria. If there is interest in joining, the respective winery will be subject to an audit by

respekt-BIODYN

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their regional representative before receiving an invitation to the respekt retreat 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 like-minded group. Subsequently, the respekt board decides on the admission according to the bylaws by 31 August, and a 3/4 majority must approve. The membership will become valid for the following year, and will be communicated independent of certification.

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 operations (e.g. by Demeter) can usually be respekt-certified with the current vintage.

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

If a winemaker has two operations (and therefore two brands), the base amount is due only once, while the hectare amounts are calculated separately per estate. Two brands with one company registration number will be considered as one operation.

Use of the trademark. A member winery is allowed to use the respekt logo on labels for wines that comply with respekt guidelines from the date of certification. 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 from the association, who guides them through the conversion phase.
- Mandatory participation in the respekt retreat in December, and in the respekt St John's Eve fest in June.
- Holding of winery development discussions
- 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). An advisor from the Biodynamic Federation may also be consulted; these advisors will also monitor the biodynamic practices.
- **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.
- Presentation of new newly-admitted members with their first certified wine at the respekt St John's Eve fest 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 St John's Eve fest and in the respekt retreat are compulsory for all members, 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 all member operations, regardless of their participation.

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