



Membership in respekt-BIODYN – The admission procedure

July 2020

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 a 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 from the region (3/4 approval)
3. The regional representative submits the proposal to the respekt Board by 30 June of the current year
4. Invitation of the proposed winemakers to the following December retreat (Dezember-Einkehr)
5. Afterwards members have the right to veto (ending 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 his or her possible admission and asked for their decision by the next ProWein fair in Düsseldorf. If a veto is exercised, the winery will be informed in writing by the chairman and regional representative.



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 December respekt retreat. 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 and be communicated in the following year from the December retreat.

Conversion phase. With the admission decision by the Board, the individual conversion process defined in the guidelines can be started immediately, so that no operating year is lost. The conversion process takes three years for conventionally farming wineries, and one to two years for wineries that already operate organically, depending on the assessment of the mentor. The basic course offered annually by Demeter is compulsory for these wineries. Biodynamically certified operations do not need a conversion phase and can be certified by respekt with the current vintage.

Entry 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 for a period of one year or, at the mentor's discretion, for longer
- obligatory participation in the respekt retreat in December (Dezember-Einkehr), and in the respekt Johanni (midsummer's fest) or the VieVinum winetasting in June.
- holding winery development discussions
- completion of specialized 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, one to two years for organically farmed estates and vineyards, and depending on the recommendation of the mentor, one year for already biodynamic wineries if they are not yet certified (e.g. by Demeter)
- presentation of new newly-admitted members at the respekt Johanni (or at VieVinum), or at the respekt December retreat with their first certified wine, 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 December retreat are compulsory, participation in all other events is voluntary. 50% of the general costs (seminar rooms, organisation, moderators, communication, etc.) of events are covered by the association, while the remainder is divided equally among the participating wineries.

CONTACT

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