



Distinguished attendees at biodynamic wine festival

Every two years, the prestigious winegrowers' association respekt-BIODYN convenes to celebrate the midsummer festival. This year, star grower Clemens Busch invited the group to Germany's Mosel Valley, to attend the two-day festivities under the sign of the solstice.

Vienna, 1 July 2019

When Clemens Busch calls, they all come. Nobody would want to miss his brilliant wines and the impressively steep slate slopes on the banks of the Mosel where they grow – plus the engaging nature of the man Busch himself. He has been a member of respekt-BIODYN since 2016, a twenty-three-member association of wine estates that set out in 2007 to change the world of wine. *'Consistently higher quality and even greater individuality through biodynamic viticulture'* is the group's motto. On 23–24 June, the group invited some two hundred selected international guests – wine merchants, press and the hospitality sector – to celebrate the reference day of biodynamics (St John the Baptist) and the summer solstice, following Busch's call and coming to the Marienburg, close by his estate.

The programme for the two days included a hike through the steep and starkly exposed vineyards, two wild boars shot by *respekt* growers cooked on the spit, with high-level master classes & workshops, including two presentations 'Tasting with Respekt' given first by Master of Wine Romana Echensperger & Clemens Busch, and then by Master of Wine Caro Maurer with biodynamics expert Monty Waldin. These talks addressed 'Questions about biodynamics that you always wanted to ask' – with the answers provided and accentuated by well-chilled wines. This made 30°C in the shade a bit more tolerable.

Things got hot again at the late-night *Johanni* bonfire. By the way, this means that one or another winegrower has crossed over the glowing coals. respekt-BIODYN also means joy in celebration, with a confirmed & committed circle of friends.

Master of Wine Caro Maurer comments on the event: 'It was a great party with fantastic wines and a great atmosphere. For me, biodynamic viticulture is an important factor in the impressive quality of the *respekt* winegrowers. The great biodiversity in their vineyards is indispensable, if you think about diversity of species and climate change. I heartily wish that many other wine producers would take this as an example'.

The *respekt* wine estates: Paul Achs, Judith Beck, Busch, Christmann, Feiler-Artinger, Fritsch, Martin & Georg Fusser, Manincor, Gsellmann, Hajszan Neumann, Gernot & Heike Heinrich, Hirsch, Loimer, Anita & Hans Nittnaus, Ott, Gerhard & Brigitte Pittnauer, Claus Preisinger, Ökonomierat Rebholz, Dr. Wehrheim, Weninger, Wieninger, Wittmann, Herbert & Carmen Zillinger.

respekt-BIODYN has its registered office in Austria, with twenty-three members from Germany, Italy, Austria & Hungary. The association was founded in 2007 and has committed itself to strict guidelines for production that are monitored by independent bodies. This year, *respekt-BIODYN* was awarded the prestigious 'Wine Award for Friends' by the German gourmet magazine *Feinschmecker*, for the high quality of the wines and its enlightened European attitude.

The next most important *respekt* activities, for trade & press:

1. From 1–3 December 2019, the annual 'respekt Retreat', featuring tastings and continuing education seminars, will take place at Gut Sonnenhausen in Glonn near Munich. Binding registrations for 'Tasting with *respekt*' on 1 December at 16.00 can now be made via email at info@respekt-biodyn.bio.
2. 'Tasting with *respekt*' at VieVinum in Vienna from 6–8 June 2020. 'Questions about biodynamics that you always wanted to ask' will be answered once more by Master of Wine Caro Maurer and biodynamics expert Monty Waldin. Detailed information concerning time & date will follow. Reservations can be made now at: johanni@respekt-biodyn.bio.

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respekt-BIODYN

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