



A German 'new wave' for the biodynamic winemaker's group  
**Four renowned winemakers from Germany joined the Austria-based  
respekt-BIODYN association. A promising, forward-thinking step,  
broadening its horizons.**

Vienna, 15 September 2015

Four new members, all from the renowned "VDP. Die Prädikatsweingüter" vintner's association, simultaneously joined the biodynamic respekt-BIODYN alliance (headquartered in Austria) this summer. They are Clemens Busch of Moselle, Steffen Christmann and Hansjörg Rebholz of Pfalz, and Philipp Wittmann from Rheinhessen. VDP President Steffen Christmann said of his motivation to be part of the respekt group, "We have been staunch biodynamics proponents since 2003, and want to follow this path together with people who think, feel and work in the same way. We progress only through exchange. In our opinion, respekt-BIODYN is an open, honest, professional and timely implementation of the ideas of Rudolf Steiner." This promising expansion gives respekt-BIODYN an even stronger position as a biodynamic winemaking association on the international market.

**The visible redesign.** The enlargement of the group has been an occasion to dive deeper into its philosophy and operations, to question and to redefine in the spirit of respekt-BIODYN, namely to remain open to discourse and input both from within the group and externally. All these considerations have led to the revision of the entire group image with a new logo and a new website with in-depth content: "This is respekt-BIODYN." Alexander Stock, and his Design and Communication Agency, are responsible for the relaunch.

**The wine certification.** When is a wine allowed to carry the respekt logo? This honor goes only to wines that have been produced according the respekt guidelines. They are guaranteed biodynamic and meet the high quality standards of the group.

**The work** of respekt-BIODYN is based on a contemporary synthesis of the ideas of Rudolf Steiner with modern agroecology and the practical experience of biodynamics in recent decades. The motto of the group is "Together we can do more."

**The association.** respekt-BIODYN is a biodynamic winemaker's association with the goal of producing outstanding wines with maximum individuality. Respekt-BIODYN is based in Austria and currently has 19 members from Germany, Italy, Austria and Hungary. Founded in 2007 by an association of twelve vintners, other wineries joined in 2009 and 2015. An additional seven renowned winemakers from Austria and Germany have already expressed their interest in becoming respekt members.

**The respekt-members:** Paul Achs, Judith Beck, Clemens Busch, Steffen Christmann, Kurt Feiler/Feiler-Artinger, Karl Fritsch, Michael Goëss-Enzenberg/Manincor, Andreas Gsellmann, Gernot & Heike Heinrich, Johannes Hirsch, Fred Loimer, Hans & Anita Nittnaus, Bernhard Ott, Gerhard Pittnauer, Claus Preisinger, Hansjörg Rebholz, Franz Weninger, Fritz Wieninger and Philipp Wittmann.

Print quality photos © Manfred Klimek and Andreas Hofer are attached. Portraits of the new German association members begin on page 2.

**respekt-BIODYN**

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**The Clemens Busch Winery**

Mosel, Germany

For Clemens Busch, the Riesling grape is not just any old variety, but rather a passion and a commitment. The weathered slate slopes of his vineyards produce simultaneously delicate and powerful Rieslings of international caliber. That the passionate biodynamic winemaker, also a member of the "VDP.Die Prädikatsweingüter" association since 2007, does not want to interfere with the natural and ecological processes in his vineyards, is a matter of course.

Clemens Busch cultivates a total of 16 hectares of vines, mainly on steep slopes of weathered slate. The individual Pündericher Marienburg and Pündericher Nonnengarten vineyards are inclined towards the south, southeast or southwest, ensuring optimal sunlight. The majority of the vineyards, namely eleven hectares, make up the Marienburg. It is divided into individual areas: Fahrlay with blue slate, Falkenlay with gray slate, and Rothenpfad with the rare red shale. Gentle pressing, slow and long spontaneous fermentation and subsequent aging on the fine yeast in tuns (the traditional 1,000-liter wooden barrels of Mosel) give the wines of Clemens Busch their special character.

"We already converted to organic farming in 1984, then in 2006 came the big step to biodynamics. Constant development and exchanges with colleagues are absolutely important and necessary for us.

Through membership in respekt-BIODYN we are making our stand clear, in addition to the requirements for organic viticulture, to meet even more stringent guidelines and to have these checked." *Clemens Busch*

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## **The A. Christmann Winery**

Pfalz, Germany

The Christmann winery originated from a great passion in the mid-19th century. Professor Dr. Louis Häusser of Heidelberg acquired a vineyard out of his enthusiasm for the noble growths of the Mittelhaardt region, and thus laid the foundation for the winery. His granddaughter married Eduard Christmann, and so the Christmann winery was born. Today, VDP president Steffen Christmann is leading it in its seventh generation.

His goal is to create authentic and at the same time excellent wines, in harmony with nature. Wines that can only be grown in Pfalz. He has therefore relied on biodynamic farming since 2003. Three quarters of his 21 hectares are planted with the "perhaps most noble grape for white wine" in the world, the Riesling. In the Mittelhaardt region of Pfalz it matures fully in the intense sunlight. But it's also cool enough to give it a deep minerality and delicate acidity.

His other vineyards are dedicated to the Pinot family. The world famous "VDP.GROSSE" and "VDP.ERSTE" individual vineyards such as Idig and Ölberg in Königsbach, Mandelgarten and Kapellenberg in Gimmeldingen, Reiterpfad in Ruppertsberg, and Langenmorgen and Paradiesgarten in Deidesheim form the basis of the highest international renown of Christmann's influential wines.

"Nature is, next to all human knowledge, still full of secrets. But with our biodynamic work we are on their trail. This is a way we can scarcely cover alone. This route can be successfully pursued only in exchange with fellow colleagues who have the same passion and the same goal in mind." *Steffen Christmann*

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## **The Ökonomierat Rebholz Winery**

Pfalz, Germany

The Ökonomierat Rebholz winery in Siebeldingen, Pfalz represents 22 hectares of vineyards in excellent locations. The special, somehow different, wines of the "Rebholz type" owe their existence and success very much to their terroir and to the family philosophy, well-kept for three generations: little intervention, but consideration of the soils and regional conditions. For three generations, the white and red wines of the house have had to make due with what nature has given them: these are the deep, old geological formations of the Rhine and Queich valleys: rotliegend (Permian), red sandstone (Triassic), limestone (Triassic), keuper (Triassic), slope and terrace slate (Quaternary), loess and loam (Pleistocene).

These, and the proximity of the climate-regulating Pfalz Forest, produce wines that have always displayed a lot of character and rarely follow the usual fashions of taste: leading international dry Rieslings and white – recently also red – Pinot varieties, Muscat and Gewurztraminer. The craft of Hansjörg Rebholz, who has been a member of "VDP.Die Prädikatsweingüter" since 1991, and his passionate devotion to biodynamics do their part.

"Biodynamics is a very decisive factor for us, in constantly creating new and unique wines every year from different vineyards. This only occurs by and with nature, and only with an all-encompassing sustainable approach. It is incredibly interesting that much of what affects wine and nature, man cannot yet scientifically explain." *Hansjörg Rebholz*

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## **Wittmann Winery**

Rheinhessen, Germany

The Wittmann winery, a member of the prestigious "VDP.Die Prädikatsweingüter" association since 1990, is one of the leading estates of Rheinhessen in Rhineland-Pfalz. The Wittmanns and their winemaking forefathers have been in the old market town of Westhofen in the south of region since 1663. Today Philipp Wittmann and his wife Eva Clüsserath-Wittmann jointly manage the 28-acre estate whose vineyards have been farmed organically since 1990, and biodynamically since 2004. Most of the vineyards are planted with Riesling, although the white Pinot varieties and Sylvaner also have a long tradition at the winery.

Through biodynamic cultivation and its accompanying intensive vineyard management, and using traditional winemaking methods, wines with profoundly specific character, great terroir features and high quality are produced. The "VDP.Grosse"-rated individual vineyards are Morstein, Brunnenhäuschen, Kirchspiel and Aulerde, the soils of which are mainly characterized by clay marl with limestone deposits. Philipp Wittmann is a member of the VDP Steering Committee.

"For me, the most interesting aspect of becoming a member of respekt-BIODYN is the pragmatic agricultural approach, with the help of biodynamics, to producing the highest quality grapes – and discussing this with colleagues." *Philipp Wittmann*

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