

Austria – 2008 and 2009 compared

9 Mar 2010 by Julia Harding MW

Faced with an array of more than 500 Austrian wines at a tasting in London earlier this month, I found it hard to know where to start, and where to finish (I think I was the last one standing...). My original intention was to focus on whites from the 2009 vintage, to see if my impression of the wines chimed with the [official vintage report](#), but then of course I realised that many of the 2009s that need more time to mature would not be bottled or ready to show. So at the last minute I changed tactics and attempted to taste a 2008 and a 2009 white from as many different producers as possible, to compare the vintages. But then of course I was not comparing the same wines across the vintages! A case of taster's dilemma rather than Hobson's choice. I hope at least that the notes may show how the producers, listed alphabetically by (sur) name, dealt with the two vintages.

I asked several producers how they thought 2009 differed from 2008. Below is a selection of their comments, which of course vary according to region, but the most general consensus for the whites was that the 2009s are riper and more concentrated than in 2008, with slightly lower acidity (and my tasting confirmed this), but that volumes are down, seriously belt-tighteningly down in some cases.

[...]

WHITES

Laurenz V, Silver Bullet Grüner Veltliner 2008 Kamptal 16.5+ Drink 2010-2014

An experimental style of winemaking and one that seems to have worked well and might even be pushed further? Fermented on skins until 40% sugar has been converted to alcohol (instead of pressing the juice from the skins at the outset). Medium gold. Very interesting smoky, nutty, leesy nose. Fine phenolic grip, dry crisp and that fine nuttiness on the palate too. Savoury/sour bright citrus. Skin contact has given depth and texture. Crisp clean fresh finish. (JH) 12.5%

http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tasting_articles/ta20100222.html

and

http://www.jancisrobinson.com/tasting_notes/tn201002221253181/sid/51542.html