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Cellar Club April 2024

2022 Elena Walch Castel Ringberg Pinot Grigio- Trentino-Alto Adige, Italy

A mountainous northern Italian region heavily influenced by German culture, Trentino-Alto Adige is actually made up of two separate but similar regions: Alto Adige and Trentino. Trentino, the southern half, is primarily Italian-speaking and responsible for the production of non-native, international grapes. Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio and Merlot are predominantly produced. The rugged terrain of German-speaking Alto Adige focuses on small-scale viticulture, and local varieties. Elena Walch is a leading Alto Adige wine estate, in family hands, and belongs to the elite in Italian wine production, with international success. Elena Walch stood at the head of the Alto Adige quality revolution and has gained local and international esteem for her efforts. This wine characterizes the Pinot Grigio Vigna "Castel Ringberg". A complex variety of fruits, especially ripe pears and lime blossom, as well as spicy sage notes inform the bouquet. Structure and elegance, power and harmony dominate the palate, combined with creamy fullness and density. A single vineyard Pinot Grigio with a lot of character. 94 PTS JS, 93 PTS Decanter, 91 PTS WS

Pairings: Try salads, chicken and seafood, as well as light pasta dishes and risottos.

2022 Elena Walch Pinot Bianco "Kristallberg- Trentino-Alto Adige, Italy

The primary white grapes in Trentino-Alto Adige are Pinot grigio, Gewürztraminer, Chardonnay and Pinot blanc. Approachable, and aromatic Pinot Blanc is a white grape variety most associated with the Alsace region of France. Although its heritage is Burgundian, it is rarely found there and instead thrives throughout central Europe, namely Germany and Austria, where it is known as Weissburgunder and Alto Adige where it is called Pinot Bianco. The vineyards are steep with light limestone and porphyric soils with an interplay of cool altitudes above sea level, as well as warmer locations at mid-altitudes. The grapes are handpicked with the utmost care. 40% of the wine ferments in wooden barrels, 20% in French barriques, the rest in stainless steel where it ages for 5 months. This Pinot Bianco, "Kristallberg" is a wine of great minerality. Presenting a clear, fresh straw yellow and a bouquet of fruity aromas with fresh pears and white stone fruits, as well as spicy notes with green walnuts and smoky and mineral aromas in the background. Elegant on the palate, but with juicy freshness, youthful vitality and stirring acidity, this partially barrel-fermented wine is an exciting new addition.

Pairings: This is an extremely versatile wine, delicious as an aperitif as well as an accompaniment for fish and poultry dishes. It will go well with oysters, clams, and shrimp. It will also pair well with salads and pasta with a creamy sauce and dressing.