# vintages 2010 - 2013

**VINTAGE 2010** - The harsh Winter of 2009 was met by the pleasant arrival of Spring in 2010. However, cold, wet periods soon followed, and 2010 saw significant rainfall and a lack of sunshine overall. Depending on the grape variety and wine-growing area, the flowering period occurred during weather conditions that were not favourable, and had a direct effect on the yields. After the rather unsteady flowering period, there was a deceptive stretch of heat in July. But this was all too quickly replaced by a cool, rainy August and a September that showed few signs of Indian Summer. In October, there were several “windows” of dryness that allowed, at carefully chosen harvest times, grapes to be brought into the cellars dry, healthy and ripe. Especially treasured were the undamaged grapes set loosely on their bunches: this deterred the development of Botrytis, and the growers could breathe easier until harvest time. Also, cool temperatures - especially during the nights – made an essential contribution to the rare “wet year but healthy grapes” phenomenon.

**VINTAGE 2011** - After a beautiful springtime and two vintages with a small crop it was recognisable that we could expect a good vintage. A beautiful and sunny summer with few rainfall has been leading to high maturity levels. September was bringing us in big steps toward the beginning of the harvest. At the end of September we started with Pinot Noir and St. Laurent and continued with the classical Grüner Veltliner and Riesling. The single vineyards were harvested at the end of October to the first week of November. For ice-wine we had to wait until the 1st of February.

**VINTAGE 2012** - A calm, warm beginning of Spring led to an early bud break. But then a very rare natural phenomenon took place during the night hours of May 17th -18th: a frost made its way down from the north and over the wine regions in Niederösterreich; heavy damages occurred in parts of the Kamptal and Kremstal regions. Ultimately, this lead to significant harvest losses. Spring continued, however, with very quiet and sunny conditions, and the first peak temperatures - up to 38 degrees C - were reached during the last week of June.

In July, there was a cool period lasting for around ten days, and it contributed in part to a surprisingly high amount of rainfall. This phase was extremely positive because, as the weather soon turned for the better and then climaxed with a very hot and dry August, there was ample water storage in the soil for the thirsty vines. The dry conditions continued until the end of the main harvest in mid-October. This was replaced by a sudden onslaught of cold temperatures that lasted until the end of the month.,

The parameters for the white wines are similar to those of the previous year, although the ample water supply in July and noticeably cooler night temperatures in September resulted in more compact and structured white wines.

**VINTAGE 2013** - A long and cold winter with a lot of precipitation was a relief for the vineyards. A warm and dry May was pushing the vines forward, but the vineyards were still behind in the development. A cold and wet period in the beginning of June slowed down the development again, but during the flowering in the third week of June we had a very hot condition, which was leading to problems in the pollination of the berries. Sun and hot conditions in July and August summed up to TOP 5 in the last century. Terraces and young vineyards were suffering under these conditions.

Harvest started in the beginning of September with the grapes for our Brut Reserve (brilliant acidity …). An early autumn frost on 8th of October caused troubles as we just had started to pick the grapes for St. Laurent, so beside the reds we had to start to pick the grapes from the lower vineyards, which were affected by the frost. Then we had a period in Stop and GO modus – Sun and rain were alternating – but for god’s sake it was cool so we had not too much trouble with botrytis. At the end we could bring in the grapes for the ‘Erste Lage’ vineyards under picturesque conditions (I made some really nice pictures this year) Last harvest day was the 12th of November.