



PIVNICA ČAJKOV

Wines from under the Sitno Volcano

Landscape of traditions and contrasts on the northern border of Central Europe

Extracta 2020 | Pinot Gris | Skin-contact white

Opus Magnum

A rare bird that honours us with its presence only every now and then, when the stars align. A stream of lava capturing the very soul of its soil, the spirit of its grape, the ephemerality of nature's gifts.

Extracta returns after four years of hiatus, as this wine requires a specific set of autumn weather conditions. 2020 was one such year when the cold humid nights bringing fog and botrytis to the vineyards were alternated by sunny days that allowed the grapes to dry out and balance the noble rot by good phenolic ripeness.

This wine is a winemaker's dream come true – it combines many contradictory features yet makes them work out in the end. Light and Dark collide and the result is not gray but incredibly intriguing, like a masterly-written novel that you feel compelled to read again, because you know that there are nuances and understories deserving a closer look, while enjoying its seductive style and ideas, even on a second read. One barrel / 300 bottles only.



Vineyard: Stará Hora (northern part), Čajkov

Total surface: 1,5 Ha | **Altitude:** 300m ASL | **Aspect:** South | **Farming:** certified organic

Soil: Red rhyolite – crystallised magma, hard and erosion-resistant

Year planted: 2009 | **Density of plantation:** 5500 vines/ha | **Rootstock:** Kober 5BB

Trellising system: Vertical Shoot Positioned, single Guyot pruning | **Yield:** approx. 1kg/plant

Harvest & Winemaking

October 5, 2020, with many raisined / botrytic grapes.

Harvested by hand into small crates (18-20 kg) in order to keep the grapes as intact as possible.

Part of the grapes (about half of the fermenter) was left as whole bunches and covered by the remaining destemmed, gently crushed berries. Slow natural skin maceration for about a month, without pigeage. Racked into old barrels, where it slowly fermented for about a year, and then aged for a further year. Bottled in November 2022. Unfined, unfiltered, no sulfur added. 15% ABV

Aromas, Flavours & Indulgent Pairings

The dark side of Pinot? Extracta seems almost Mediterraneanelly flamboyant at first but then bites you with refreshing acidity. Despite being round, ripe and loud with all its notes of figs, honey, raisins and burnt herbs, the wine still has immense drive, courtesy of its botrytic past.

Iggy Pop would call it lust for life, I call it *chi*, and love to bathe in it undisturbed – this wine is the perfect companion for an evening meditation in a cosy, tasteful club, listening to piano and enjoying the plenitude of the long Romeo y Julieta Churchill cigar, its cold smoke and extravagance echoing the wine's personality... If you are less of a cigar-lover than I am, serve it with some aged cheese and truffle honey, it's just as indulgent. Definitely calls for a decanter and big enough glass.