



# PIVNICA ČAJKOV

Wines from under the Sitno Volcano

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



## Godfather 2022 | Pinot Gris | Skin-contact white

### I have an offer you can't refuse...

Pinots are not traditional in Čajkov, but my ancestors used to work with them during the communist era, so we knew that they thrived on our sites, giving prime wines even in sub-prime years. Hence, Pinot Gris and Blanc were a sure bet when we needed to replant our Stará Hora vineyard, a beautiful plot on a dark red dollop of old lava that used to be the crown jewel of Archbishop of Esztergom vineyards, sadly devastated by years of communist "farming".

In the cellar, however, what a challenge! Pinot can be a generous, cultured gentleman whose class & quick wit make him the most desirable of companions. But, he can also be a real... dick. (Pardon my French.) Arrogant, brazen, obstinate at times. You might think that our relationship in the cellar must therefore be a troubled one, but, actually... I know him very well, this Godfather, because, well, he is just like me!

This wine requires attention – not just from me as a winemaker, but also from people who drink it. It's a litmus test. Our elegant and dangerous gentleman – our Don Corleone.

**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

Harvested by hand into small crates (18-20 kg) in order to keep the grapes as intact as possible. All the grapes are then gently destemmed and crushed.

First pick: beginning of September, for acidity. On skins for 2 days, spontaneously fermented until roughly 2-3% ABV, then racked into old barrels. Second pick: mid-September, for structure, balance, vintage character. Two thirds of this pick spent 3-4 days on skins, until 6% ABV; the remaining third was on skins for about a week, until practically dry (11% ABV), then racked into old barrels.

The wines finish fermentation and age on their fine lees in the stable temperature of our historical underground cellar, for about a year. After 12 months, the barrels are blended in a proportion that is most faithful to the vintage, in 2022 it was around 50-35-15%. Bottled after further ~3 weeks of rest in tanks. Unfined, unfiltered, no additives except for 25 ppm of sulphur added at bottling. 13.5% ABV

### Aromas, Flavours & Indulgent Pairings

A true elegant PINOT, creamy yet refreshing with long mineral, salty taste, solid acidic backbone and distinct, almost cognac-y finish with notes of resin and vanilla.

I really enjoy it with a pork / poultry [paprikash](#), a traditional Central European dish whose creaminess and sweet-smoky-tangy paprika flavours are a match made in heaven; looking further from home, saffron risotto and osso buco know how to unleash a real Slovak-Milanese rock'n'roll with my Godfather.