

# TONI SOELLNER

## KAMPTAL, AUSTRIA



Toni Söllner is a small-scale producer of handcrafted Bio-Veritas wines in the hills of the Donauland, looking over the Danube valley and the Alps, just to the east of the Kamptal. The vines grow on terraces of loess, mussel-chalk, and red gravel, amidst herbs, legumes and wild flowers. The wines are aged in large Oak foudre in the traditional Austrian fashion. Very well balanced, very natural tasting wines, with the Hengstberg being at least the equivalent of a good Wachau, with expressive minerality. Working in harmony with nature with Daniela, his wife, the domaine has practiced biodynamic farming since 1995.

In our vineyards we create a manifold biotop! In between the vine rows and beneath the vines, we grow various herbs, legumes, flowering plants etc., at the same time the existent wild flora is not destroyed. A variety of trees, shrubs, and grasses grow on the scarps (embankments). Thus, we can create a convincing vineyard scape due to its diversity and harmony. Besides, from now on, we activate the biological activity of our land by using biodynamic compounds; to put it simple, biodynamic cultivation means that, with the support of vegetable, dissected substances with the impact of horned ruminants, e.g. cows, water is made dynamic and this water is used for the fields resp. for the plants. To dynamise you have to intensely stir the water in rotational directions for an hour. The water thereby absorbs the effects of the used compound and you can obtain – just as in homeopathy – astonishing results for the ground and plants. The land has to be fertile and vivid to pass on refractiveness and vitality to the vines. Moreover, we also use a fennel compound to keep real mildew of the vines. Synthetic pesticides are tabooed in organic agriculture! Our land is fertilized, if necessary, with slowly rotting, dissected compost made from horse resp. cow droppings mixed with vine remnants.

### A PETER WEYGANDT SELECTION



*"The more you know about wine, the more you'll want to know about us."*

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