

## 2003: An Impressive Red Wine Vintage

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After a long winter, budburst occurred late in the spring. But there was little time to enjoy spring—right after Easter, a veritable heatwave brought midsummer temperatures. May and June were marked by intense warmth and unusually frequent rainfall—fortunately so, as the summer months that followed were dominated by extreme heat and drought.

The extraordinary weather required careful canopy management to protect the grapes from sunburn—both winemakers and grapes sought the shade. The result: sweet, small-berried, perfectly healthy grapes with thick skins—an ideal foundation for great wines.

The harvest began on September 2<sup>nd</sup> – the earliest start in our history. Right on cue, the weather stabilized, and a golden Indian summer set in. Cool nights further supported the grapes’ perfect ripening. After 25 intense harvest days, the picking concluded on October 7<sup>th</sup> with magnificent Cabernet Sauvignon grapes.

The red wines are deep in color, with aromas of black berries and a powerful tannin structure.

<b>VARIETIES</b>	95% Blaufränkisch, 5% St. Laurent from the estate’s oldest vineyards.
<b>HARVEST</b>	Fully ripe, healthy grapes. Harvested by hand.
<b>VINIFICATION</b>	Traditional mash fermentation with cap submersion and subsequent maceration over a period of 50 days. Spontaneous fermentation.
<b>MATURATION</b>	40 months in small oak barrels. After blending the cuvée, an additional four months in large wooden casks.
<b>ALCOHOL</b>	14.5% Vol.
<b>NOTE</b>	