

Welcome to TimesPeople
Get Started

 TimesPeople Lets You Share and Discover the Best of N'

Recommend

HOME PAGE TODAY'S PAPER VIDEO MOST POPULAR TIMES TOPICS

Try Times Reader 2.0 Log In Register Now

The New York Times

Dining & Wine

Search All NYTimes.com

Go



WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION ARTS STYLE TRAVEL JOBS REAL ESTATE AUTOS

FASHION & STYLE DINING & WINE HOME & GARDEN WEDDINGS/CELEBRATIONS T MAGAZINE

Travel back in time 150,000 years...
Trace your ancestry with DNA

THE DNA ANCESTRY PROJECT

powered by **genebase**

Feedback - Ads by Google

Advertise on NYTimes.com

THE POUR

An Honest Day's Work From Vienna

By ERIC ASIMOV
Published: November 2, 2009

AS a child growing up in Vienna, Carlo Huber would sometimes accompany his father, Rupert E. Huber, to wine bars and heurigen, informal little buffets where Viennese wine estates sold their own produce. When his father had an especially pleasing glass, Mr. Huber recalled, he would exclaim, "Das ist ein ehrlicher wein!" — That is an honest wine.

Enlarge This Image



Ruby Washington/The New York Times
FROM 1,700 ACRES Carlo Huber, above left, and Paul Darcy are Viennese expatriates who now import wines made in the city.

Mr. Huber never forgot the sentiment, and as he grew up he came to enjoy those delicate, graceful Viennese wines himself. When his work in marketing took him to New York City in 1993, he was disappointed to see that as [Austrian wines](#) gained popularity in the United States, wines from Vienna were virtually unknown.

A little more than a year ago, Mr. Huber met another Viennese ex-pat, Paul Darcy, who works in the electrical department of the [Metropolitan Opera](#). Mr. Darcy, too, grew up in Vienna in a wine-loving family and was particularly nostalgic for Viennese wines and wine culture. Though they had no experience in the wine business, they teamed up and made it their mission to supply the United States with some of Vienna's best wines, and so created their wine import company, Darcy and Huber Selections.

That any wine comes from Vienna seems absurd on the face of it. Great urban centers are not known for their vineyards, beyond a novelty acre here and there. But Vienna is different. Around 1,700 acres of vines are planted within the city limits. Of the great metropolises in wine-growing countries, Vienna alone has its own appellation.

The Pour

A blog on the pleasure, culture and business of wine, beer and spirits.



[Go to The Pour >](#)

Viennese viticulture stretches back centuries if not millenniums to early Celtic and Roman settlements. But modern Viennese vineyards owe their existence to an environmentally far-sighted mayor, Karl Lueger, who a century ago prohibited development on the green hills that girdle the inner city. Through wars, depressions and shifts in fashions and taste, Viennese farmers and winemakers have continued to toil in their vineyards.

[Next Article in Dining & Wine \(5 of 16\) >>](#)

Tech Update



Sign up for Tech Update: an afternoon e-mail newsletter with the latest tech news spanning the Web.

Sign Up

[See Sample](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Ads by Google

[what's this?](#)

[248 Hotels in Vienna](#)

Up to 75% off on hotel reservations in Vienna - Austria. Book Now!
[Vienna-Hotels.eurobookings.com](#)

[Buy Margaux wines online](#)

Fine Bordeaux wines from armit Drinking, collecting or investment
[www.armit.co.uk/margaux](#)

[Wines Statistics](#)

All Market Research Reports on Wine industry.
[Reportlinker.com/Wine-industry](#)

[Have you ever wondered...](#)

..about the Austrian point of view? "Der Standard" - 3 Wochen gratis!
[derStandard.at/Read-3-Wochen-gratis](#)

[Zen Vida Mallorca](#)

A new ultra-luxury villa for sale in Mallorca
[www.zenvida.com](#)

[Cheap Vienna Hotels](#)

Compare Hotels In Vienna. Find The Cheapest Hotels Online.
[CheapEurope.com/Vienna](#)

Advertise on NYTimes.com

MOST POPULAR

E-MAILED BLOGGED SEARCHED

1. Good Dog, Smart Dog
2. A Powerful Identity, a Vanishing Diagnosis
3. Claude L'vi-Strauss Dies at 100
4. Personal Health: A Breathing Technique Offers Help for People With Asthma
5. Second Opinion: Quandary With Mammograms: Get a Screening, or Just Skip It?
6. You're the Boss: 100 Things Restaurant Staffers Should Never Do (Part 1)
7. A Southern Mirrored Window
8. Happy Days: Happy Ending
9. A Free Credit Score Followed by a Monthly Bill
10. Findings: Can You Believe How Mean Office Gossip Can Be?

[Go to Complete List >>](#)



Most of their production was destined for Vienna itself, and most of it, Mr. Huber and Mr. Darcy say, was not very good — too thin, and often heavily manipulated to compensate for poor grapes and poor winemaking. But the memories of those wines were strong and, just as in the rest of the wine-producing world over the last 25 years, a revolution in quality was coming to Vienna, too. In the years since Mr. Huber, 39, and Mr. Darcy, 43, came to New York, a new generation of winemakers in Vienna has committed itself to making wines that can represent Vienna on the world stage.

Of particular interest to the younger winemakers, and to Mr. Huber and Mr. Darcy, were wines made of a mixed array of white grapes. Those are not blended wines, as in Bordeaux, where different grapes are planted and vinified separately, later to be mixed by a winemaker. Instead, these gemischter satz wines are made of grapes that are planted and vinified together, anywhere from three or four different grapes to maybe two dozen, as with field blends in California.

Such blends can sometimes create wines of unusual complexity. Modern winemakers, who tend to prize uniformity in ripening, usually plant different grapes separately because they may ripen at different rates. That way, they can all be harvested at a similar point of ripeness. But when they are planted and harvested together, some can be perfectly ripe, while others can be a little under- or over-ripe.

"The resulting wines are a melting pot of character, not unlike Vienna itself," Mr. Darcy said.

Let's not get bogged down in the morass of bureaucratic licensing and the intricacies of container ships and warehouse bonding that are part and parcel of importing wines. That is the price Darcy and Huber Selections must pay for deciding to go into the business. Suffice it to say that by virtue of hard work and the ability to withstand the effects of repeatedly banging one's head against a wall, Darcy and Huber Selections are now importing small quantities of exquisite Viennese wines.

The gemischter satz wines are particularly noteworthy. Rainer Christ makes two different versions. One is a fresh, light floral wine made of four grapes, with a peppery component that lets you know grüner veltliner is part of the blend. The second gemischter satz is altogether riper and richer, made from a dozen grapes from vines 60 years old or more.

Jutta Ambrositsch makes a dry, earthy gemischter satz from almost 20 different grapes. Richard Zahel's Nussberg gemischter satz, made from nine different grapes, is rich and almost oily in texture, yet still with light flowery aromas. My favorite gemischter satz, though, is the 2007 Weissleiten from Stefan Hajszan, a gorgeous wine that is both delicate and intense. Perhaps I'm being fanciful, but drinking this wine — and feeling the lacy lightness of its flavors — I could not help imagining myself at a Viennese café, watching the city go by.

The gemischter satz wines may be the most unusual that Vienna has to offer, but most Viennese producers make single varietal wines as well. I also tried a crisp and aromatic gelber muskateller from Christ, which would make a lovely aperitif wine. Hajszan makes a minerally grüner veltliner, while Ambrositsch produces a very floral riesling. Some Viennese producers also make red wines, but the few I have tried seem less compelling — good wines, but not as distinctive as the whites.

While Darcy and Huber Selections is drawing attention to Viennese wines, the producer who many consider the most important in Vienna, Wieninger, is imported by another company, Winebow. I haven't found those wines in New York yet, but I am going to seek them out.

As for the gemischter satz wines I have tasted, they can run from around \$15 or \$20 a bottle up to \$40 or so. They aren't cheap, but they are indeed ehrliche wines.

[Sign in to Recommend](#)



Honk for the 2010 Mazda3

ALSO IN AUTOS »

New car review: Mazdaspeed 3

Browse used cars: from Alfa Romeos to Volvos

nytimes.com

AUTOS

ADVERTISEMENTS

MetLife® Life Insurance - as Low
as \$12/mo for \$250K of Coverage



The New York Times

**FOLLOW US.
JOIN OUR
CONVERSATION.**

twitter

nytimes.com

Where the conversation begins.

Ads by Google

what's this?

Zen Vida Mallorca

A new ultra-luxury villa for sale in Mallorca
www.zenvida.com

Have you ever wondered...

..was "Der Standard" zu sagen hat? Jetzt 3 Wochen Gratisabo bestellen!
derStandard.at/Read-3-Wochen-gratis

Vintage Spain Wine Tours

Exclusive Gourmet Wine Tours Authentic experience in Spain.
www.vintagespain.com

A version of this article appeared in print on November 4, 2009, on page D4 of the New York edition.

[Next Article in Dining & Wine \(5 of 16\) »](#)

[SIGN IN TO E-MAIL](#)

[PRINT](#)

[REPRINTS](#)

Times Reader 2.0: Daily delivery of The Times - straight to your computer. Subscribe for just \$3.45 a week.

Ads by Google

[what's this?](#)

[Rent a bike](#)

See more of Vienna! Bike tours in Vienna!
www.pedalpower.at

[Buy Margaux wines online](#)

Fine Bordeaux wines from armit Drinking, collecting or investment
www.armit.co.uk/margaux

[248 Hotels in Vienna](#)

Up to 75% off on hotel reservations in Vienna. Pay when you check out!
Vienna-Hotels.eurobookings.com

Past Coverage

CULTURED TRAVELER: STIFT KLOSTERNEUBURG, AUSTRIA; Nine Centuries of History and Wine Making (June 17, 2007)

WINE UNDER \$20; A Sparkling Jolt For the Dog Days (August 7, 2005)

Related Searches

[Wines](#)

[Get E-Mail Alerts](#)

[Vienna \(Austria\)](#)

[Get E-Mail Alerts](#)

INSIDE NYTIMES.COM



DINING & WINE »



The Secret Ingredient Is Politics

OPINION »



Olivia Judson: License to Wonder

MOVIES »



An End to Hollywood Power Lunches at Orso

OPINION »

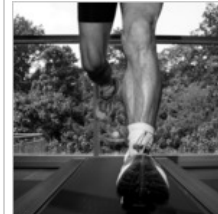
Editorial: Protection for Investors
The Investor Protection Act of 2009 should not exempt small public companies from the audit requirement.

GREAT HOMES »



In Berlin, a Renovated Gas Station

MAGAZINE »



Why Doesn't Exercise Lead to Weight Loss?