

MERRIMAN'S

KAPALUA

WINES BY THE GLASS

May 2, 2023

ROSÉ

Wagner-Stempel, Rosé of Pinot Noir & St. Laurent, Rheinhessen, Germany, 2021 \$16/gls, \$64/btl



Rheinhessen is the largest wine region in Germany, and for decades the area was synonymous with bulk-production wines. Since the early 90s, 9th-generation grape-grower and winemaker Daniel Wagner has succeeded in catapulting himself from the bulk industry of his ancestors to the top of the German wine scene, having played an influential role in the Rheinhessen's quality revolution.

Wagner organically farms all 50 acres of his estate vineyards, most of which are, unsurprisingly, planted to riesling, but with a good chunk also dedicated to pinot blanc and pinot noir. More surprising is that 95% of his wines are vinified to complete dryness, a relative rarity in a country mostly known for its off-dry and sweeter styles. In the absence of sugar, Wagner-Stempel wines showcase the shimmering characteristics of their grapes and possess plenty of zesty acidity and minerality.

- **Grapes:**

Mostly pinot noir (known in Germany as spätburgunder) with a dollop of St. Laurent (an aromatic grape variety thought to be related to pinot noir)

- **Winemaking:**

Fermented and aged briefly in stainless steel tanks.

- **Profile:**

Refreshing, zippy, and bright—an absolute patio pounder. As fresh and invigorating as the Matthiasson rosé, but with a touch more fruit on the palate. Strawberries and cream, white raspberries, and just-Microplaned citrus zest, with a slightly flinty finish.