

# Bacchus-Vinothek

## Weinhandlung Grimm



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Christian Wölffer gründete Wölffer Estate auf Long Island vor allem aus Liebe zu den großen Bordeaux von St-Emilion. New York liegt auf dem Breitengrad von Bordeaux. Warum also nicht auch in den Hamptons Merlot und Cabernet Franc anbauen?

Aber sich einfach einen Oenologen aus Bordeaux einzustellen, um "nur" eine Bordeaux-Kopie zu erzeugen, war ihm zu wenig individuell. Es sollte ein Oeologe/winemaker sein, der ganz unverkrampft an diese Aufgabe heranging. Vielleicht braucht es genau diesen Mut und eine große Vision, um am Ende so erfolgreich zu sein? Nicht ohne Grund gab dem gebürtigen Hamburger sein Erfolg als international aktiver "businessman" die finanzielle Möglichkeit, hier in den Hamptons auf Long Island seinen Traum vom eigenen Weingut und Gestüt zu realisieren.

Den winemaker fand er in Roman Roth, einem Jugendfreund von mir aus Rottweils Nachbarschaft. Wir sangen zusammen bei den Rottweiler Münstersängerknaben und sein Vater Remigius war 1. Küfer in der Kuferei meines Großvaters Severin Grimm in Rotweil. Die Kuferei existiert nicht mehr und ich habe das singen auf Anraten meiner Familie abgegeben. Nicht so Roman. Gerard Perse auf Chateau Pavie beschallt seine Barriques mit klassischer Musik von Händel, Beethoven und Mozart. Aus der Konserve. Roman jedoch besingt seine Weine im Fasskeller noch selbst mit seinem tiefen Bariton.

Seit 1992 ist Roman winemaker und mittlerweile Teilhaber auf Wölffer Estate. Zu Beginn wurden die Anstrengungen von der Weinwelt eher mit einem Lächeln und mit Achselzucken kommentiert. Weine

von Long Island? Ha! Dann verkostete Howard Goldberg von der "New York Times" die Weine von Wölffer Estate und schrieb so begeistert, dass nicht nur die Restaurants und Weinliebhaber von New York aufmerksam wurden, sondern auch die Kritiker von Wine Spectator und Robert Parker.

Und heute? Mittlerweile zählen die Weine von Roman und Wölffer Estate nicht nur als die "**Besten Weinen der Ostküste**" (Die WELT 4.8.2016), sondern mit zu den besten der USA. 2003 wählte die Jury der "American Sommelier Society" Roman Roth zum "**WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR**" und sein eigener Merlot – Grapes of Roth – zählt laut Winespecator zu den 100 beste Weinen der Welt.

Roman stellte uns die Weine von Wölffer Estate bei einem Besuch seiner Eltern im Frühjahr 2005 vor. Noch im selben Jahr besuchten wir Roman auf Long Island, um uns einen Eindruck von Lage, Weinbergen und Keller zu vermitteln. Und seit jenem Jahr 2005 sind wir Importeur von Wölffer Estate.

Art.	Jahr	Wein	Einh.	EUR/FI. netto	EUR/FI. brutto
		<b>Pink GIN</b>	<b>0,375</b>	<b>37,82</b>	<b>45,00</b>
4779	2015	Wölffer Sauvignon Blanc	0,75	16,72	19,90
10987	2014	Wölffer Chardonnay	0,75	15,04	17,90
4847	2014	Wölffer Chardonnay Perle – 90 Parker	0,75	24,37	29,00

**Parker (90):** „...The 2014 Chardonnay Perle comes in at 13.4% alcohol. This elegant Chardonnay is impeccably balanced, handling its wood beautifully. The fruit slices through the wood nicely and it seems rather lively and refreshing for an oaked white. It is never fat or bombastic. It is always understated and fresh. It won't impress on first taste, but the more you sit with it, the more you'll like it for its impeccable balance. It is the perfect food wine. Gentle and harmonious, it still tightens on the finish with air and warmth. It seems to be a cut above the norm in its youth. Its balance and structure should let it age gracefully. It is a very nice value. For the moment, it is well worth leaning up. Note, though, that these can age and improve. As nice as it is now, it should be better this time next year“

<b>2882</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Summer in a Bottle - Rosé</b>	<b>0,75</b>	<b>16,72</b>	<b>19,90</b>
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57% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 12% Chardonnay, and 11% Gewürztraminer

<b>5884</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Wölffer Merlot</b>	<b>0,75</b>	<b>15,88</b>	<b>18,90</b>
<b>7960</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Wölffer CAYA Cabernet Franc – 93 Parker</b>	<b>0,75</b>	<b>27,73</b>	<b>33,00</b>

**Mark Squires for Parker (93):** „...The 2013 Cabernet Franc "Caya" from 1991 plantings, also has 6% Merlot added. It was aged for 21 months in a 60/40 blend of used and new French barriques. It comes in at 13.5% alcohol. One of the most elegant wines this issue, this graceful Cab Franc has those green notes on the finish, but not many. They are more obvious on the nose. More importantly, its sexy and caressing texture (a common feature of these 2013s) makes this very sensual. If it doesn't always seem deep, it is brilliantly supported by its structure. The power comes out eventually, but it is always controlled. The structure begins to define the fruit and make this seem like the epitome of old-school finesse (yes, a descriptor I've used far too often for this group, but very much warranted). The longer this was open, the more I liked it. It is not quite as deep as its Petit Verdot sibling, but it may have more character and better defined fruit. It should age well, but it is surprisingly approachable. It's a beauty and the price point makes it a nice value.“

<b>2847</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Wölffer Pinot Noir Landius – 92 Parker</b>	<b>0,75</b>	<b>32,77</b>	<b>39,00</b>
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**Mark Squires for Parker (92):** „...The 2013 Pinot Noir "Landius" also (oddly) has 2% Cabernet Franc added. Aged in French oak (20% new) for 22 months, it comes in at 13.5% alcohol. Ooooooh. Aaaaahhh. I suspect those will be the technical terms most used for this gorgeous Pinot. Respectably solid in the mid-palate, but always maintaining finesse, its most impressive attribute is its sensual and seductive demeanor. The texture can only be described with that old chestnut–crushed velvet. The fruit is ripe and the flavors are cherry and dried strawberry. It is nicely supported by its structure, eventually proving it has a bit of a backbone and seems crisper with air (and a little lower temperature), too. This is very fine. You can drink it now. It will be much better in a year or two. It should age well, perhaps better than I expect. It's a beauty. This wine is another in this group that lets me say that "Long Island" won't be the first guess in a blind tasting“

<b>6364</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Wölffer Merlot Christian's Cuvée – 92 Parker</b>	<b>0,75</b>	<b>63,03</b>	<b>75,00</b>
<b>8666</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Wölffer Merlot Christian's Cuvée – 94+ Parker</b>	<b>0,75</b>	<b>66,39</b>	<b>79,00</b>

**Mark Squires for Parker (94+):** „...The 2013 Christian's Cuvée Merlot was aged for 22 months in French oak (20% new). Sourced mostly from the winery's 1990 Merlot plantings (over 92%), this takes the beautiful performance of the Lambardo and doubles down. It adds a layer or two of depth and more intensity, but it remains beautifully balanced. Consistent with this issue's theme, it is rather seductive and leans more to expressive fruit than tannins, but it is still the most unevolved of the wines here this issue. As the others opened up, this shut down. It is still remarkably elegant and brilliantly crafted, not so bad now. I held it for three hours instead of one and watched it go through some ups and downs. At the three-hour mark, I was wondering how many people would think it was a classified growth from St. Emilion (and I was very glad I did not taste it too quickly). It will be much better around 2020, when it starts to acquire complexity. This is a potential superstar. As I was drinking it, I kept thinking of the fun I could have sticking this into a blind Bordeaux tasting. (Making idiots of your friends always makes the wine taste much better and fully justifies the pricey purchase!) It may eventually be entitled to an uptick, but it is admittedly a bit hard to read just now. Let's start here and see what happens. I tend to think wines like this have to grow into their greatness in the cellar and prove what they've got. Let's get on with it“

**Mark Squires for Parker :** „...One of the biggest proponents of the vintage, the winery calls 2013 an "epic vintage." Hype or reality? Here, it is reality. I've been eager to see the reds. Here they are—including the White Horse selection series and the upper-level flagship, Christian's Cuvée (the gold horse's face).

What they are, well, they do seem somewhat different. In some years, they could be leaner and emphasize more structure and power. This year, they seem ripe and lush with more seductive, sweet fruit. They are rather sexy (relative to a cool-climate region) and surprisingly approachable as a group. On opening, they did not seem as well-defined as they often are. I was not quite as ready to offer unqualified plaudits. With an hour's air, however, their finesse, balance and structure joined with the fruit to make them seem brilliant. They are instant classics in the region. Few would guess "Long Island" on any of them if they were to be put in a blind tasting. This is not completely a cool-climate style this year, but it never approaches fat and sweet, either. It isn't warm-climate richness, in other words. They are still full of old-school finesse: elegant, graceful and surprisingly persistent. Remember to give them some air if you open them now. They are deceptive in their youth, very approachable on first taste, but dramatically better an hour later.

I've been rather liberal in saying that most of these can be approached young. They can be. That doesn't mean they should be. Every one of them will improve with a few years in the cellar, sometimes fairly dramatically

Die Bruttopreise verstehen sich pro Flasche und **inkl. Mehrwertsteuer**. Das Angebot ist freibleibend. Zwischenverkauf vorbehalten. Es gelten die üblichen Zahlungs- und Lieferbedingungen (siehe Homepage unter [www.bacchus-vinotek.com](http://www.bacchus-vinotek.com))