

# Weingut Erich & Michaela BERGER

Gedersdorf

www.weingut-berger.com



Erich Berger(center) und Familie



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Austria

LOWER AUSTRIA  
Kremstal

## OVERVIEW

Charm and value typify these wines. Clean, cultured-yeast wines with lots of primary fruit, yet aging superbly. The Veltliners are zingy and spicy; in soft years like 2000 they have a winsome 'sweet' vegetality (the red beet aspect); in years like 2001 they have more lift and cut. Cultured yeasts give them all a similar profile; fresh, long in middle and finish, polished, with a finely doughy aftertaste; clean, pure through and through, vital, frisky and crisp. This is a father/son estate of fourteen hectares. Half of the land consists of south-facing loess terraces with locally renowned names. Vines are Riesling, Veltliner, Pinot Blanc and the "C" word. There's some land on the Gedersdorf plateau that's planted to red varieties. All the wines are made dry, of course. They use cultured yeasts to get slow fermentations and to preserve the utmost CO<sub>2</sub>. Berger is all stainless steel, of course. Technology for controlling fermentation temperatures, by no means universal in Austria, has been in use here since 1990.

**Varieties:** Grüner Veltliner, Riesling, Welschriesling, Zweigelt  
**Total Acreage:** about 44.5 acres  
**Average Production:** 5,400 cases

## WINES

### Gruner Veltliner 1.0 Liter

**CORE LIST** It's the silvery side of GrüVe, with snap and brassica, sorrel and boxwood, bright and salty. For sure less fruit than usual but there is more lift here.

—TT

### Gruner Veltliner Reserve "Gebling"

**available by special order** I'm seriously disinclined to let y'all ignore this masterpiece, you need to see what Erich does at his best. And this is the best in many years, maybe all the way back to '93. It has power and polish, length and grace, secretsweetness and tremendously dense minerality; it recalls great vintages of Nigl's *Alte Reben*, and it builds a city on the palate. It also came in 1st in its blind flight, where I wrote "stylish, noble, long, aristocratic."

—TT

### Blauer Zweigelt 1.0 Liter

**CORE LIST** Quite the little vogue for this guy lately, thanks very much. A gushing almost sappy aroma leads to a surprisingly dense and almost powerful palate – even with a little tannin – and a bacony finish. The wine exceeds its price-class.

—TT

## ACCOLADES

### 2009 Berger Gruner Veltliner 1.0 Liter — \*\*\*

"Fresh and espressive, with citrus, floral and mineral flavors that linger in the mouth. It practically invites you to have a second glass."

**Eric Asimov —The New York Times "Best White Wines Under \$10"**

Erich Berger – who farms some of the broad loess terraces that sit back from the Danube just east of Krems – has long been crafting some of the best Austrian wine values to be found in U.S. markets, and I have been remiss recently in having neither visited him nor reviewed his wines.

**David Schildknecht — The Wine Advocate**