

Antonio Galloni
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vinous
explore all things wine

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Weingut Martin Diwald
2016 Frühroter Veltliner
Wagram, Austria

87 Points

“I’m very concerned that this traditional, un-modern variety survives” says Diwald of Frühroter Veltliner, and the present example helps make his case for that grape (whose parents are Sylvaner and Roter Veltliner). The wine opens with a veritable meadow’s worth of grassy and vaguely floral scents. Subtle nuttiness, along with pit and pip piquancy, accent a juicy mouthful of peach and pear on a softly-textured palate. The finish is understated but satisfying. “Frühroter Veltliner likes cool years,” explains Diwald – which one hopes won’t be part of its undoing – and he shakes his head at the fact that he felt forced to pick his Frühroter Veltliner on the first of September in 2017, a week before we met to taste this 2016. I presume that the authorities will let this wine’s delightful name – which means “Thief’s Nest” – stand as a bit of “fantasy” rather than viewing it as an unregistered, illegitimate vineyard designate. (DS)

