

## The Hunts of the WineHunter Helmuth Köcher are back... starting with a tour of the world in seven wines

The WineHunter is always on the lookout for wines of excellence. This is why Helmuth Köcher, president of the Merano WineFestival (8-12 November 2019), has announced a new selection of top quality products: a variety of wines of excellence from all around the world.

**Merano, 10 April 2019** – The hunts of the WineHunter Helmuth Köcher are back, in the run-up to the 28th edition of the [Merano WineFestival](#) (8-12 November 2019). The quest for the best involved a world tour in search of seven wines of excellence.

The international selection of the Hunt began in Lebanon, specifically the area of the Bekaa Valley on the border with Syria which has a Mediterranean climate. From here comes **Le Souverain 2013 of Chateau Ksara**. It is based on Marselan, a multivarietal blend composed of Arinarnoa vines, which gives structure and full colour, and is a cross between Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache and Cabernet Franc. *"This red is fine and elegant and is characterised by a sublime complexity, with a hint of wild blackberries and a very spicy aroma,"* said the WineHunter Helmuth Köcher. On the other side of the world is **Colomé's Altura Máxima 2016**, produced from a Malbec vine. This wine embodies the climate and charm of its land, Salta Valle Calchchaquí in Argentina, home to the highest vineyards in the world at 3,111 metres above sea level on the Cordillera of the Andes. It is complex, intense and deep red, and the mountains and high altitude come through in the scent. **Luna's 2016 Pinot Noir**, instead, comes from Martinborough, an enchanting wine-growing area at the southern end of the North Island of New Zealand. Produced entirely in an ungrafted Pinot Noir vineyard, this wine stands out for its typical, fresh and truly elegant taste, with hints of wild cherries and velvety tannins. *"In this review of international excellence in the world of wine, I also wanted to include the Japanese **Nigori Sake of Gekkeikan**, which belongs to the category of dry Sake Futsu-shu and is produced entirely from Japanese rice",* explained the WineHunter. *"This sake is unusual for its creamy, soft consistency and hints of fresh and aromatic rice".* It comes from the area of Kyoto, well suited and known for the production of sake. The **Reserve Meritage 2016 of the Jackson-Triggs Estate Wines estate**, meanwhile, is located in British Columbia, a province of Canada on the Pacific Ocean. Made from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, this medium-bodied wine with a good tannic structure is characterised by a wealth of scents: from intense raspberry to herbs, and from pepper to faintly smoky. Also worthy of note is the rich flavour of **Montes Alpha M 2016**, a Chilean wine from the Colchagua valley in Apalta. The area, in central Chile, is the most suitable for viticulture in the country. It is home to this wine produced from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot and which has a soft and structured body with silky tannins.

The multivarietal blend bestows complex and subtle aromas of ripe red and black fruits, black-currant, tobacco and leather, as well as spices. *"The **Pinot Noir 2016 of Penner-Ash Wine Cellars** is both special and extraordinary,"* concluded the WineHunter Helmuth Köcher. *"It was for this wine of fine texture and produced entirely with Pinot Noir that we went to the Willamette Valley near Portland, Oregon, in the United States. It has a notable variety of scents like fresh raspberries, plum and cedar, the spicy notes of anise, and notes of leather on the finish".*

The international Hunt of Helmuth Köcher to seek out great wines characterised by a richness of scents has drawn to an end. But the search of the WineHunter will carry on with new 'discoveries', always guided by the motto "**Excellence is an attitude**".

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