

Robert Parker

WINE ADVOCATE

Stephan Reinhardt

Issue Date 14th February 2019

"This tasting opened my eyes and included two of the most complete Pinot Noirs I have ever had from a German-speaking country: the monumental 2013 Malans Pinot Noir Privée and the unforgettably lush, vital and refined 1990 Pinot Noir Réserve Spiger."



2016	93 POINTS
2015	94 POINTS
2014	92 POINTS
2013	95 POINTS
2011	95 POINTS
2001	94 POINTS



2016	92 POINTS
2015	92 POINTS
2014	90 POINTS
2013	93 POINTS
2011	93 POINTS

Thomas Donatsch is a living legend. With great relationships with the finest domaines in Burgundy for more than 45 years, he was the first producer in Graubünden whose wines, Pinot Noir and, since 1975, Chardonnay (which was a forbidden variety for Grisons at that time) and Pinot Blanc, were made like the finest wines in Burgundy: with small yields, a long cuvaision (in small steel tanks, though, and with destemmed but not crushed Pinot berries) and aging in French barriques. Thomas, and now assisted by his son Martin, produces full-bodied, intense and very persistent as well as age-worthy wines of unique class and style. They are generous and deep but also fine and elegant, combining the refreshing terroir from Malans with the structure, noblesse and generosity of premiers and grands crus from Burgundy. The Unique wines (Pinot and Chardonnay) are positive selections of the best grapes and the best new barrels. The Pinot is a powerful, potent and concentrated red from Malans that belongs among the finest, most complete and sought-after Pinot Noirs in Switzerland. The Passion Pinot is the former Spiger (whose 1990 is mind-blowing today!), and the Tradition is the former Selvenen. Since 2008 single-vineyard designations are only allowed when 100% of the grapes are sourced in that vineyard. New oak plays a much less dominant role in both wines compared to their Unique selection.



2017	94 POINTS
2016	96 POINTS
2015	96 POINTS
2013	95 POINTS
2011	96 POINTS
2007	92 POINTS



2017	92 POINTS
2016	92 POINTS
2015	91 POINTS
2013	91 POINTS



2016	91 POINTS
2015	88+ POINTS
2014	88 POINTS
2013	89 POINTS
1999	90 POINTS

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The Chardonnays follow the same principle. Namely, the Unique is one of the greatest white wines in all Switzerland, and if I had to name similar good Chardonnays from Austria or Germany, I have to think a very long while. As the tasting in Malans has shown, the Chardonnay Unique can challenge the great white wines from Burgundy. The calcareous schist soils of Malans and the mild climate with its cool nights is a great terroir for Swiss Burgundies. The wines are never heavy or clumsy but always fruity, fresh and provided with a vibrant mineral tension.

Another passion of Thomas and Martin Donatsch is Completer, the indigenous grape variety from Malans which used to be called Malanserrebe in the old days and brings racy wines of medium body. It has become very rare in the last 50+ years, but thanks to Donatsch, Obrecht, Wegelin and others, Completer is becoming more and more popular again, and the acreage is slightly growing, although it's still less than five hectares. Martin Donatsch says, "With 0.6 hectare of Completer, I am probably the world's largest producer of this variety." The Donatschs are proud Swiss wine producers. They like their wines to be sold in Switzerland and don't export overseas. Their wines are listed in almost all of the finest restaurants in Switzerland as well as in their own restaurant "Zum Ochsen." Customers have to come to Malans to get their fill since the Donatschs do not ship their wines. Even in a generous year such as 2018, they can't give all their clients all the wines they want. The annual production of 35,000-40,000 bottles is simply too small to fulfill all the covetousness. From the 2013 Réserve Privée, a world-class selection of the best barrel of the vintage, only 300 bottles have been filled. Only 30 of them will be auctioned in May this year, the rest will be cellared in the domaine and might be served in the Ochsen one day.

1990 RÉSERVE SPIGER

98 POINTS

2013 RÉSERVE PRIVÉE

97 POINTS

