

MAY 19, 2011, 10:50 AM ET

Sauvignon Blanc from the Land of Edelweiss (and Riesling)



Reuters

Most wine drinkers probably think Austria produces only two grapes: Gruner Veltliner and Riesling. And while Austrians do a masterful job with both these varietals, they grow quite a few others as well, including one of the world's favorite international grapes: Sauvignon Blanc.

The Austrian version is one of my favorites: marked by a wonderful citrus-spice nose and vibrant, truly zingy acidity.

I'm talking about the Sauvignon Blancs from the region of Styria in southeast Austria.

And while there are a number of excellent Styrian Sauvignon Blancs, few are better than those from Weingut Neumeister.

The Neumeister name is particularly well-known in Austria; for their wines (they make quite a few- not just Sauvignon), and also for their B&B and their highly-regarded restaurant.

And since the Neumisters know so much about food, it's no surprise that their Sauvignon pairs with a variety of dishes particularly well.

The only downside to the wines is that they can be hard to find outside of restaurants, at least in New York.

(I had a bottle of the 2010 Neumister Sauvignon just the other night at The Dutch – a new restaurant in Soho).

If you can't find Styrian Sauvignon Blanc, the wines that are closest in character are the Sauvignons from Alto Adige in Italy. Tiefennbrunner makes a terrific one and Alois Lageder makes a wine that is very good as well.

Of course, pre-1919, Alto Adige was actually part of Austria, and some Alto Adige (aka "Südtirol") winemakers think it is still.

But that's a story much longer than this small blog space can accommodate.

Copyright 2008 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our [Subscriber Agreement](#) and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please contact Dow Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit www.djreprints.com