

# Domaine Jean-Luc Mader (Hunawihr, Alsace)

**“Although Mader’s wines from Grand Cru Rosacker steal the show, his entire line-up is recommended.”**

Jacqueline Friedrich - The wines of France



This small estate based in Hunawihr has been well regarded as one of the best value small producers in Alsace for a decade or two and is now on the rise again with young Jerome Mader taking the reigns during the last 10 years. Together with his father Jean-Luc (who looks almost as young as Jerome) the father and son team have converted the estate to organic farming and between them form a formidable team in the vineyards with Jerome taking over the winemaking assisted by the wise counsel and experience of his father Jean-Luc.

The village of Hunawihr and its terroirs are the key to the style and quality of the wines produced at this estate with the village located very close to the Vosges mountains with a little valley forming behind the village which has the effect of retaining and funnelling cool air through the vineyards much more than vineyards that are planted further out on the flats. Hence wonderful acid freshness which is also contributed to the very best sites where limestone underlays the decomposed granite or clay. The villages of Hunawihr and Ribeauville both share this characteristic and are certainly among the most notable of all villages in Alsace especially for classic dry steely age-worthy Riesling.

Now certified organic, all vineyards are harvested by hand making successive tries throughout each vineyard ending with yields that are much lower than the AOC rules. Vinifying with whole bunches and using natural yeast ferments and also occasionally varied degrees of skin contact gives wines of depth and character. These are eye-opening wines that not only give great pleasure now but they also have the capacity to age well depending on the cuvee.

## 2014 Pinot Blanc

### Stelvin-luxe closure

Made from a blend of 60% Auxerrois and 40% Pinot blanc. Fine, racy and floral. Classic white flower and citric aromas lead to a crisp and refreshing palate. For so long Pinot blanc has been considered as an aperitif wine to start the meal but given a wine of this intensity and character this wine is a whole lot more than a simple aperitif wine – it is remarkably complete with wonderful intensity and personality.

## 2014 Riesling

### Stelvin-luxe closure

This wine also contains almost 15% de-classified Grand cru fruit from vines around 30 years old in the great Rosacker vineyard. The wine is a blend of several sites of mostly limestone based soil. 2014 has produced a fine dry Riesling with texture and depth. Intense floral citrus aromas, with mineral backing and wonderful acid backbone.

## 2014 Gewurztraminer

### Stelvin-luxe closure

This 2014 vintage of this wine is a dead-set ripper. This vintage contains all the Grand cru fruit that normally goes to make their Rosacker, but in 2014 the yield was so small they decided to blend it in with this entry level Gewurztraminer and the winner is you. Little wonder then that the wine smells of the classic rose petal aromas that are so typical of Rosacker Gewurztraminer. Shows hints of wild flowers and exotic Lichee fruit. Lovely round texture, with layers of flavour extending to a very long and generous finish. This is classic Alsace Gewurztraminer.

## 2013 Pinot Gris

### Stelvin-luxe closure

Very fresh and fragrant, peach, apple and tropical fruit characters on the nose and palate. Round and supple in texture, with wonderfully precise flavour. Great concentration and depth with a tiny amount of residual sweetness (7.8gms/ltr) in this cool vintage. The rich texture and cleansing acid balance gives this wine terrific length and great appeal.

## 2013 Pinot Gris Schlossberg Grand cru

### cork

Schlossberg is a south east facing slope from a steep terraced granite block. It became the first Alsace *grand cru* in 1975. Maders vineyard is east-facing and the highest on the slope from vines over 20y.o. giving tiny yield. The wine is whole bunch pressed with indigenous fermentation. 1/3 is aged in barrel, the rest in tank for 9 months on lees. Painfully low yields of 10 hl/ha in 2013 yielded just 1000 bottles of brilliantly intense wine. This is one of the driest Pinot Gris' you can find in Alsace with just 4 gms/ltr in the finished wine which is completely unnoticeable given the fresh acid of the 2013 vintage. A stunning expression

## 2013 Riesling “Rosacker” Grand cru

### cork

From 60+ year old vines planted located near the top of the vineyard closer to the hills than Trimbach's Clos St Hune 2012 is a classic vintage for this outstanding Grand Cru vineyard which is home to the famous 'Clos St Hune' Riesling from Trimbach. Great depth, finesse and shape with rich, intense citrus fruit with notes of minerality and outstanding length. The wine's great depth of fruit, structure and mineral acidity ensures that 10 years or more of careful cellaring would be well repaid. A great dry Riesling from a great vintage and great vineyard !!

