

Gantenbein

Stunning Pinot Noir from a top Swiss domain



Above: The Graubünden vineyards are among the most dramatic in the world. Inset: Martha and Daniel Gantenbein. Below right: Turned bricks create a grape-cluster mirage along the exterior of the winery.

FOUNDED IN 1982, Gantenbein is widely considered to be one of the best wine estates in Switzerland. It is located in the Graubünden (Grisons) district of the upper Rhine valley in eastern Switzerland, one of the most breathtakingly beautiful places on Earth. Not far from here, high up in the Alps, the Rhine begins its long journey to the Atlantic. At the foot of the Alps, in the small village of Fläsch, is the gravity-flow winery of Daniel and Martha Gantenbein; a marvel of design simplicity, ingenuity and mechanical precision.

Daniel and Martha do all of the vineyard and cellar work themselves, by hand. Together, they farm six hectares (15 acres) of vineyards, about 500 meters above sea level on the scree slopes of the northern Alps. Most of the vineyards (about 12.5 acres) are planted densely with Pinot Noir clones from Burgundy. The rest is planted with Chardonnay, as well as a tiny parcel of Riesling, planted with vines sourced from the Mosel.

Gantenbein Pinot Noir is carefully harvested by hand and fermented in custom-built, open-top wood fermenters, typically with 20% whole clusters. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barriques. The wines are bottled after 12 to 14 months in barrique, without filtration or fining. Even in a good vintage, the yields are quite low — only about 1.5 tons per acre, for an average production of about 1,200 cases of Pinot Noir and about 200 cases of a fine, mineral-focused Chardonnay. 🍷



GANTENBEIN PINOT NOIR

One reviewer writes: “Gantenbein makes small batch handcrafted smoky Pinot Noir of incredible quality. Consider yourself an insider to even hear about this wine and ‘lottery winning lucky’ to get your hands on a bottle.”

Another writes: “hard to buy...but *highly recommended if you want to taste Switzerland’s Romanée Conti.*”

— **Winemaker of the Year 2008** —
Feinschmecker (Germany’s “Gourmet” magazine)

