Zind Humbrecht

A volcanic-born Pinot Gris of extraordinary depth, Clos Saint Urbain delivers a smoky, mineral-driven wine of immense power and elegance.

DOMAINE ZIND-HUMBRECHT

100 James Suckling

Pinot Gris Rangen de Thann Clos Saint Urbain 2022

Alsace, France

Region and Vineyards

The Rangen de Thann Grand Cru, at the southern tip of Alsace, is one of the region's most dramatic terroirs. Perched between **350 and 480 m of altitude**, its slopes are so steep that terracing is required. Facing south, the vineyard benefits from extended sunlight but is cooled by the high-altitude climate of the Thur valley.

Its soils are of **volcanic origin**, rich in tuff and sandstone, which impart a **smoky, saline, and mineral backbone** to the wines. This terroir regularly produces powerful, age-worthy wines, even in challenging vintages. Pinot Gris here develops a **unique phenolic structure**, less opulent than on richer soils, but with remarkable intensity and longevity. Zind-Humbrecht's **Clos Saint Urbain**, created in the 1970s, has become a reference for Alsace Pinot Gris.

Winemaking

The **2022 vintage** was marked by heat and drought, reducing yields but concentrating flavors. Late summer storms brought relief, allowing healthy harvest conditions. Picking at Rangen required patience, as ripening is slower than in most Alsace vineyards, but the result was small, concentrated berries with superb balance.

This cuvée is **100% Pinot Gris**, fermented with native yeasts in large oak foudres. It underwent full **malolactic fermentation**, gaining creaminess and texture. The élevage lasted **12 months on lees**, with no fining or chaptalization. Technical data: around **14% vol., residual sugar c. 7-8 g/L**, acidity balanced by volcanic tension. Certified **organic and biodynamic**, the wine exemplifies the estate's philosophy of terroir transparency.

Alcohol :13,00 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Gris

DOMAINE
ZIND-HUMBRECHT

Pinot Gris Rangen de Thann Clos Saint Urbain 2022

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Bright golden yellow.
- **Aroma:** Intensely smoky and flinty at first, opening to reveal ripe quince, mirabelle, honey, and hints of spice. Distinct volcanic minerality underpins the bouquet.
- **Palate:** Full-bodied and powerful, with dense concentration yet remarkable freshness. Saline and phenolic grip structure the finish, which is long, taut, and age-worthy.

Did you know?

The Rangen de Thann is the **only volcanic Grand Cru in Alsace**, and its wines are historically renowned. In the 15th century, poet Sebastian Brant wrote that Hercules himself once drank so much Rangen wine that he fell asleep, leaving behind his club—today depicted on Colmar's coat of arms.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Lobster with saffron cream:** the smoky, saline grip enhances the dish's richness.
- **Duck breast with plum reduction:** fruit and spice harmonize with the wine's depth.
- **Roquefort cheese:** intensity and saltiness match the wine's structure.
- **Wild mushroom risotto:** earthy and umami notes resonate with the volcanic minerality.

100 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 100 Points (2022)

Step into this incredible dry pinot gris kaleidoscope and it could be difficult to get out again. Exotic, spicy, smoky, but also with a cool, herbal side, this defies every easy definition. Gigantic, concentrated and crazily vibrant on the full-bodied palate. Totally off the scale freshness at the lightning-strike finish. Although this is from a grape variety that theoretically is low in acidity, it has the highest acidity of any wine from this producer in 2022. From biodynamically grown grapes.

96

Robert Parker (RP) : 96 Points (2022)

From 59-year-old, 32 hectoliters per hectare-yielding vines on the rare volcanic sedimentary terroir of the Rangen, the 2022 Clos Saint Urbain Rangen de Thann Pinot Gris is based on ripe and healthy grapes that fermented into a very dry wine that starts super clear, intense and flinty on the extraordinarily deep, saline and individual nose that is aromatic yet in a subtle though substantial way. On the palate, the 2022 Pinot is a quite rich and powerful yet elegant. It tastes somewhat sweet but is utterly mineral and tightly structured by minerals, salts and fine, natural tannins. The fine bitters catch the moderate sweetness that comes as richness (not as sugar). The wine is extraordinarily complex and stimulating saline on the long finish that uplifts all the richness and makes this an extraordinary Pinot Gris as well as a great Rangen. 13.5% stated alcohol.

DOMAINE
ZIND-HUMBRECHT

Pinot Gris Rangen de Thann Clos Saint Urbain 2022

Wine Spectator (WS) : 94 Points (2022)

The savory tang of salt and yeastiness infuses dried apricot, guava and apple flavors in this weighty, expressive version. Its impressive depth and power simmer beneath, making this one for the cellar. The long finish is dusted with ground ginger and dried thyme. Chiseled and serious, this is still tightly coiled and needs time. Drink now through 2032. 100 cases imported.