

Nicolas Scharsch, elected winemaker of the year by the Guide Hachette 2019, Domaine Joseph Scharsch (Alsace)

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Nicolas Scharsch's strong point is Riesling. This grape variety is found in his village of Wolxheim, near Strasbourg, one of his preferred spots : the local grand cru, the Wolxheim Altenberg, is extensively grown here but, in 2011, it was also awarded "dénomination communale" (district label) status. This is Nicolas Scharsch's third "coup de cœur" (top pick) wine. Interview.

The estate dates back to 1755. What milestones have marked this historic journey ?

While the first in the line lived in the 18th century, it was my father, Joseph, who moved in in 1972 to restart winegrowing and sell the wine in bottles. The vineyard had suffered during the First World War and my grandfather grew multicrops and raised animals. I joined my father on the estate in 1997, after gaining my diploma in Rouffach and doing internships in France, Germany and Australia.

To what extent do you grow Riesling in your vineyard ?

No more than 3.5 out of 12 ha : I have limited planting to the most suitable plots. I get three cuvées from it. The ordinary Alsatian Riesling, to be drunk young, comes from the light, silt soils of Avolseim. Ranking at the very top is the Wolxheim Altenberg grand cru, which produces rich, ripe, even slightly over-matured grapes from its marl soil and due South exposure. Between the two is my Wolxheim dénomination - the 2016 "coup de cœur" (top pick) - which also comes from a limited area. The soil is a combination of the chalky marl, adjoining the grand cru vineyard, and chalky, very stony land, near the Horn Rock? It also includes grapes from the young grand cru vineyard vines. Like the grand cru, it meets very strict production requirements. The chalk contributes to its acidity.

Discover the Coup de Coeur (top pick) wine from the Domaine Joseph Scharsch selected by the Guide Hachette des Vins 2019!

[See the wine](#)

Tell us about your organic approach...

My labels have sported the organic label since 2012. In my opinion, it is the best tool to control my yields. Previously a difficult job, despite short pruning and green harvesting. Vines grown organically produce less but better quality.