

L'abus d'alcool est dangereux pour la santé. A consommer avec modération.

## Wine of the world: Liechtenstein, a small princely vineyard of great Pinot Noirs

This German-speaking principality, nestled between Switzerland and Austria, holds the title of the world's smallest wine-producing region, discreetly producing priceless treasures.

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*Liechtenstein, the smallest wine-producing country in the world. Figaro SDP*

With a production of barely 800 hectoliters per year, the chances of coming across a Liechtenstein wine, outside of a bucolic escapade along the Rhine, are as low as being able to pronounce "Hofkellerei des Fürsten" without hitting a consonant. However, these "Caves du Prince" are well worth a visit, if only to discover one of the jewels of this small German-speaking principality, where pinot noirs and chardonnays of insolent purity are produced with complete indifference to its border neighbors. Although the first traces of viticulture here date back to the 14th century, it was not until 2018 and the arrival of Stefan Tscheppe, the current director of the princely tasting cellar - who has worked in prestigious Californian and Austrian vineyards - that we saw a real rise in the quality of the production. A process of sophistication supervised by Stéphane Derenoncourt, a famous French oenologist and consultant, which now seems to be bearing fruit: conversion to organic farming, gentle soil cultivation, manual harvesting with the precision of a Swiss clock... With a major ambition in mind: to define the identity of a vineyard that is still struggling to exist on the international scene.

### A bright ruby color

Among the approximately 20,000 bottles produced for each vintage in the princely cellars of Vaduz, the capital, one chardonnay and three pinot noirs. Especially the Herawingert 2020, with its brilliant ruby color. The nose reveals exquisite little notes of morello cherry and juniper, sliding towards a mouth that is as fresh as a kiss on a rainy day, a sinuous texture, finely grained, that resists the onslaught of juices without a blow, and this peppery finish, delicate but racy, that would almost bring you back to halfway between a volnay and a vosne-romanée.