The Artisan
COLLECTION

RANINA 'MEA CULPA' 2017. PODRAVJE, SLOVENIA

VARIETAL: 100% Ranina (also known as Bouvier)

HISTORY: An early ripening grape native to Slovenia, likely related to Pinot Blanc

VINEYARD: 25-30 year old vines; slopes of 20-30%, with southern exposure to the Drava River Valley; soils are sandy clay over marl and lime sandstone

FARMING: Native grass ground cover; vines trained for optimal sun exposure; grapes hand-harvested

TASTING NOTES: Pale lemon-gold color in the glass. Fragrant floral aromas with white fruit notes.

The Kogl Estate is located on a hill named Kogl, above the village of Velika Nedelja. Vines have been cultivated here since at least 1542, and the homestead perched at the top of the Kogl hill dates from 1820. The Estate is tucked into the northeastern corner of Slovenia in the Podravje region, a colorful world of terraced vineyards, peaceful valleys and furrowed fields. Winemaker Franci Cvetko, his wife Zlatka, and their children Luka and Spela live in the homestead, and tend their vineyards like a garden. Only grapes from their Estate are used for the wines.

Franci has been making wine for over 30 years from the vineyards that grow on the slopes of the Kogl hill surrounding the winery. The 1,000 ft elevation affords beautiful views of the region, all the way to Croatia, Austria and even Hungary on a clear day. The area was once part of an ancient sea floor, and the soils that were left behind are mineral-rich and free-draining (sandy clay over marl and lime sandstone), ideal for viticulture. The climate is continental with Alpine influences and enjoys a wide temperature fluctuation between hot days and cool nights. The vines are 25-30 years old, rows are grassed over and grapes are hand-harvested.

In addition to carefully crafting wines, the Cvetko family are committed to supporting Slovenian artists. "For 17 years they have come and live with us for a couple of weeks in June. They're working on what they want to do. Their art. It is not money related, they don't pay for anything. I say it is just for his soul. For our soul. For the soul of our house. We have two times a year a bigger event when we have theater. That is the first Saturday in June. And the first Saturday in September we have a concert and an exhibition of art, photographs and paintings."