STUART PIGOTT

A narrow courtyard, bordered by an unassuming house and an even more nondescript outbuilding; to the right, a steep staircase leads up to the small, new tasting room. Nothing suggests that some of Württemberg's most sought-after wines are produced here. Fabian Lassak, a native of the nearby Remstal valley, discovered his passion for wine at the Herzog Winery in distant New Zealand, which also runs a gourmet restaurant with an impressive wine list. He travelled to Europe several times with the Swiss owners, tasted the great wines of the world,and caught the wine bug. His training at the Weinsberg Wine University was followed by practical experience at the VDP-affiliated Ellwanger winery in Württemberg. There he met his wife Stefanie, who'd studied at the Geisenheim Wine University in the Rheingau. From 2013 to 2020, Fabian Lassak was cellar master at Schnaitmann, one of the top Württemberg wineries that emerged during the late 1990s. Then, Stefanie inherited a farm and a few vineyards from her grandparents in her home town of Hessigheim and the foundations of the Lassak winery were layed.

Since 2016, the couple have been running their vineyard, which now covers around four hectares. Their trump cards are old vines in the vineyard sites of Hessigheim sites with stony limestone soil, which are organically farmed and give tiny yields. They are planted with one third each Riesling, Pinot Noir and Lemberger. All their wines are spontaneously fermented, have a low sulphur content and are bottled unfiltered. For Fabian Lassak, the finesse of the tannins is particularly important for the reds. They are extracted very slowly and ppessed in a basket press, stopping at the first signs of astringency. Today the wines are characterised by the utmost finesse and freshness, yet Fabian Lassak says, the beginning was difficult. Not everyone could or wanted to even understand their idiosyncratic Rieslings. Then the Stuttgart wine merchant Bernd Kreis tasted them, and suddenly there was a great deal of attention for the Lassak wines, which seems to unsettle Fabian a little. What lies ahead? Step by step. Despite the hype of the hype of the last years, the Lassaks want to stay true to themselves. Considering that their winery is just ten years old, I can only marvel at the level of quality already achieved.

Tasting Notes:

Lassak Württemberg Riesling trocken 2024 - 11.5% / A stunning entry-level wine! The youthful nose already hints at lime, with a touch of sweetness and ripe orange, then citrusy, ethereal and vibrant on the palate. Delicate, very fine bitterness and caressing acidity. **93** (FE)

Lassak Württemberg Riesling Hambach trocken 2024 – 12.5% / Enormously layered and complex, with remarkable tension and concentration, yet everything remains very delicate and in perfect balance. Although there is so still much to unfold, the wine already tastes irresistible today, dancing on your palate. Breathtaking! **99** (FE)

Lassak Württemberg Lemberger trocken 2024 - 12% / A spectacular nose with cherry, cassis, ripe citrus freshness, cranberry, white pepper. Great finesse and freshness, very delicate black cherry, just a hint of percieved sweetness on the palate, then a very elegant and refined finish. **95** (FE)

Lassak Württemberg Lemberger Steige trocken 2024 - 12% / A sweet, delicate nose with cherry, white pepper, slightly spicy, very complex, needs plenty of air. Enormous depth on the palate, sweet cherry but without sweetness, very delicate and wonderfully fresh thanks also to the fine, creamy tannins. A monument to Lemberger elegance! **96** (FE)

Lassak Württemberg Lemberger Wurmberg trocken 2024 - 12% / The Lemberger monarch enters the room, and all goes quiet. One is almost dazzled by the nobility, finesse and elegance (sadly, only 360 bottles produced). **97** (FE)

Lassak Württemberg Spätburgunder trocken 2024 - 12% / Delicate spice, sweet cherry, also slightly citrusy – very fine, soft tannins, lovely freshness, concentrated, very elegant. Due to severe frost damage, Lassak did not produce a single-vineyard Pinot Noir in this vintage. It all (a yield of just eight hectolitres per hectare!) went into this wine. Great future. **95**

Lassak Württemberg Trollinger trocken 2024 - 11.5% / Initially smells of wood, then with aeration, rosehip and morello cherry come into play. Extremely refined and elegant with plenty of substance. Could pass for an outstanding Beaujolais. Wonderful freshness with plenty of drive. Shows what Trollinger is capable of when grown in a top vineyard and yields are reduced (here to 30 hectolitres per hectare). From 70-year-old vines in the Wurmberg. 94 (FE)

Quelle: www.Stuartpigott.com