

DOMAINE WEINBACH

“THE CLOS DES CAPUCINS RESTS AT THE FOOT of the Schlossberg hill, protected from winds and weathering by ancient monastery walls covered in old-growth roses. Originally planted and tended by Capucin monks, its warm sand and gravel soils yield what is today the earliest-ripening fruit at Domaine Weinbach, the basis for this historic range of wines...After the French Revolution, the property changed from sacred to secular hands, purchased by the Faller family in 1898; they have since amassed key parcels in several grand crus, including Schlossberg, Furstentum and Mambourg as well as the Altenbourg *lieu-dit*.

Since 1979, it's the ladies of the house who oversee production, with mother Colette having turned over the keys to daughters Catherine and Laurence, business and vinification mavens, respectively. They completed the conversion of all their vineyard hold to biodynamic practices in 2005 and continue to turn out some of the most luscious and enticing wines of the region. Late harvests and low yields are a common theme; *les dames Faller* also abide long fermentation in old oak foudres with only indigenous yeasts, no malolactic fermentation and seven months of aging before bottling.

Domaine Weinbach stole the show in our Alsace tasting panels this year, with some of the highest-ranking wines in every category. The '09 Altenbourg Pinot Gris impressed with its exotic range of fruits – thick mangosteen and guava – along with a limestone mineral tone. It's bold and mouth-filling up front, focused into a long, sleek finish with lasting pear flavors.

The Fallers grow their Réserve Personnelle Riesling at the estate's original clos. The 2009 is succulent in true Weinbach style, with lively white peach and passion fruit tones and an energy that could match any of the region's *saucisses*.”



The Faller Family

Founded: 1612**Winemakers:**Laurence Faller,
Ghislain Berthiot**Viticulturist:**

Théo Leiber-Faller

Acres owned: 72**Annual Production:**

11,600 cases

Estate grown: 100%**Owners:** Colette, Catherine
and Laurence Faller**Known for:** Bold-fruited
whites from Alsace's noble
grapes**Importer:** Vineyard BrandsTOP-SCORING
WINES93
92
92

'09 Altenbourg Pinot Gris

'08 Quintessence de Grains Nobles Altenbourg Pinot Gris

'09 Réserve Personnelle Riesling

YEAR'S BEST ALSACE

DOMAINE WEINBACH GEWURTZTRAMINER

"Laurence Faller captured a full range of ripe tropical fruits in a wine that feels impressively dry. Though juicy and voluptuous at its core, it's tethered by tart acidity and chalky minerality, the aromas of hibiscus and rose keeping it fresh and full of life. A great pairing solution for the foie gras appetizer."

20 CUVÉE
10 LAURENCE

91
points

