



ROYAL TOKAJI 2009 MÉZES MÁLY, 6 Puttonyos

SINGLE-VINEYARD, GREAT FIRST GROWTH

Varietals:	Furmint, Hárslevelű
AVA:	Tokaj, Hungary
Alcohol:	9.5%
Sugar:	220 g/L
Total Acidity:	8.3 g/L
Bottled:	June 7, 2012

The Mézes Mály Vineyard

Mézes Mály (MAIZE-esh my) is arguably the world's original "superstar" vineyard. The first classification of the already legendary vineyards of Tokaji took place in 1700, the earliest of any wine region, and Mézes Mály was designated as a "Great First Growth" – one of only two vineyards with that classification. Royal Tokaji and Hugh Johnson jointly own this vineyard, which is the winery's only vineyard with loess topsoil, providing the wines with honey and floral characteristics.

Less than one vintage in two is suitable for the production of this exceptional wine and even in these vintages only between 1,500 and 4,000 500 ml bottles can be released. In historical records of the great cellars of Europe the wines of Mézes Mály are often followed by the words: "pro mensa caesaris primus haberi," or "to be the first choice at the royal table". Although we now live in more egalitarian times this wine will always remain a true rarity.

2009 Vintage Notes:

Until the end of March conditions were very much in line with historical averages and budding started perfectly with lovely sunny days and high temperatures. By the middle of May, we were experiencing serious drought followed by the coldest June in the last ten years. An extremely hot period in July and September helped ripening, and humidity which remained above 65% produced Botrytis. Mézes Mály was harvested relatively early and fortunately just before the rains came.

The individually picked aszú berries were macerated in the press with base wine from the same vineyard. The juice was inoculated with our own indigenous yeast and after fermentation, the wine was aged in used Hungarian oak barrels until bottling in 2012.

Tasting Notes:

A medium old gold color. Dried honeyed plums on the nose with hints of spice. Creamy, buttery. Extremely rich and very rounded. Beautifully balanced and elegant.

