



Korona Borhaz Egri Bikaver 2013

A famous red wine blend from the Eger region of N E Hungary. Bikaver, or bulls' blood, is based on the famous battle of 1552 when the Ottoman Empire laid siege to Eger castle. Legend has it only a thousand Hungarian men, women and children were pitched against 100,000 Ottoman soldiers. The night before the final battle Dobo Istvan, the Hungarian defender, opened the castle cellars and told the people to eat and drink on their last night! The following day the Hungarians fought ferociously (or drunkenly!) looking a fearful sight with red wine stained beards and tunics, and against all the odds won the battle. The losing Ottomans declared they must have been drinking bulls' blood to have been so strong!

Classified in 1912, Bikaver must have at least 50% Kekfrankos and at least two other grapes. Ours is a blend of 60% Kekfrankos, 20% Cab Sauv and 20% Merlot. Under Russian occupation, Bikaver was marketed aggressively and exported in huge volumes with little regard for quality. However in recent years Hungarian winemakers have imposed stringent quality controls and enforced an appellation control on this wine.

Deeply coloured & intense, on the nose there are cherries, black pepper, and ripe plum. On the palate there is a core of dark, tarry fruit with plum and pepper and oak. The colour is a medium ruby with violet towards the rim.

Traditionally fermented on the skin in holding vats, and bottled after 12 months of ageing in lightly toasted Hungarian oak barrels.

Producer: Korona Borhaz (The Crown Wine House)

Winemaker: (not specified)

Country of Origin: Hungary

Region of Origin: Eger

Grapes: Kekfrankos (60%), Cab Sauv (20%), Merlot (20%)

ABV: 12.0 %

Closure Type: cork

