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Using fresh mozzarella

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It makes a change to use fresh mozzarella when you are making lasagna: just dot pieces on top of the white sauce layer and sprinkle on some parmesan to add that indescribable umami flavour. Because fresh mozzarella leaches water, give it a squeeze to remove the excess before you pull it apart. Also, it's worth dabbing the top of the lasagna with a piece of paper towel to mop up excess moisture ten minutes before the end of cooking.

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**Wine of the Week: Charming Gruner Veltliner**

Gruner Veltliner is an ancient European vine. It is grown principally in Austria where it is used to make crisp, delicious white wines that finish with a distinct spiced edge, says our wine critic Kevin Ecock.

**Charming** is made by Laurenz Moser V. Over the past few years he has been tireless in his promotion of this, his native grape. He uses quirky names and hilarious newsletters to bring us closer to what is a very serious wine. Charming shows ripe green apple beneath rich overtones of ripened peach. It has clean lines of acid and rich interesting edges of spiciness balanced brilliantly to the ripe fruit. The overall effect is playful and smooth.

**Charming Gruner Veltliner is a perfect match for all sea foods** and other dishes that require a cutting edge to the wine. The spiced finish however elevates Gruner Veltliner above many other white grapes as it can work quite superbly with spiced Thai or tongue smacking, and slightly salty, Sichuan dishes also.

**Laurenz Moser V** is only working with the one type of white grape. To this end he ensures that each of his four wines is distinctly different to one another and yet each displays strong family resemblances as he brings out and shows off the grape time and time again.



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