



CONTE KUENBURG

Castel Sallegg

Line: Nobilis

Cuvée Rénier

Vigneti delle Dolomiti Rosso IGT

Viceroy Archduke Rainer (1783 – 1853)

Viceroy, visionary, botanist, doer

A combination of heart and mind

The Habsburgs have many children. So when Rainer loses his parents in 1791 at the age of nine, he is placed in the care of his brother, Emperor Francis II. At the time his family has no equal in terms of importance and influence: Empress Maria Theresa is his grandmother and the French queen Marie Antoinette his aunt.

As befits his rank, Rainer is educated in military and political theory, his intellect groomed for the tasks ahead.

Flowers, blossoms, trees: Rainer's heart beats equally for the flora and also for minerals – a love of nature that he is to retain throughout his life. He is doubtless enchanted to discover that his future wife Elisabeth of Savoy-Carignano shares this love and will make a name for herself as a painter of flowers.

Following their married in Prague in 1820, the family live in Milan and Venice. Rainer conducts government business as Viceroy of Lombardy-Venetia with prudence and social awareness. As a doer, he leaves his mark and knows how to harmonize the best of different worlds and let them flourish. He provides both stability and progress, and lays many a foundation stone: for the country with the Venice-Milan railway, for his personal passion with the royal gardens at the family's summer residence in Monza, and for his family with the acquisition of Sallegg Castle in 1851.

His wife bears him eight children before the family moves to Bolzano in 1848 and takes up residence in Archduke Rainer's palace there (now Palais Campofranco). Rainer resigns from his political offices and becomes a private citizen, providing support for cultural and socio-political projects. He also devotes himself passionately to growing flowers, a passion that still resonates in Bolzano today, ever since the first flower shows he initiated there. He dies in 1853 and is buried in the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary.

Viceroy Archduke Rainer is the great-great-great-grandfather of the current owner Georg Count Kuenburg.

