



CONTE KUENBURG

Castel Sallegg

Line: Serenis

Karal

Alto Adige Pinot Nero DOC

Archduke Heinrich (1828 – 1891)

Lieutenant field marshal, man of feeling, romanticist

Pillar of strength

“Now all is well. All is forgiven.” – Four years are to pass after Archduke Heinrich’s morganatic marriage to Leopoldine Hofmann, before Emperor Franz Joseph utters these words during an audience. Heinrich’s reply: “Forgive me. Thank you. A thousand thanks. Only now can I delight in my domestic happiness.”

At this point, Heinrich has traveled a long road, which he has followed unflinchingly, as a man of feeling, always guided by the star of love. Born in Milan in 1828, the son of Rainer of Austria and Elisabeth of Savoy meets the woman who is to win his heart forever during his time in Graz. Leopoldine is an opera singer, and the Archduke a frequent visitor to the opera. They fall in love, but every effort is made to prevent the marriage, as the Emperor refuses to give his consent. Heinrich nevertheless asks for Leopoldine’s hand in marriage.

Nothing can separate the couple. Heinrich withdraws from all official duties, secretly prepares the wedding in Bolzano and, after the morganatic marriage, goes into exile in Switzerland with his wife. He gives up everything: title, privileges, rights, possessions and his entourage. He resigns from the Imperial House and may no longer set foot on the soil of the Austrian monarchy.

He himself thinks: I have won everything. Heinrich and Leopoldine live a secluded life in the Villa Tivoli in Lucerne. Their happiness is crowned by the birth of their daughter Maria Raineria in July 1872. In September of the same year, Heinrich is rehabilitated in a handwritten letter from Emperor Franz Joseph. He is reinstated in his archducal rights and his morganatic marriage retrospectively approved. Heinrich, Leopoldine and Maria Raineria return to Bolzano. They live in the palace of Archduke Rainer (now the Palais Campofranco) and also like to stay in Sallegg Castle. The people of Bolzano venerate the couple, who always have the good of the community in mind, providing for the poor, the sick and the orphans. During a visit to Vienna in 1891, Heinrich and Leopoldine contract pneumonia and die in one and the same night.

Archduke Heinrich Anton Maria Rainer Karl Gregor is the great-great-grandfather of the current owner Georg Graf Kuenburg.

