

HOWARD RIPLEY WINES
BURGUNDY, GERMANY & PIEDMONT

2022 GERMAN GG & 2021 GERMAN REDS EN PRIMEUR
SEPTEMBER 2023



2022 VINTAGE REPORT

2022 is a charming and accessible vintage – a brilliant and seductive surprise. The wines are tender and elegant, with bright acidity, excellent precision and lower alcohol levels than in previous years. However, the vintage does not fall into the category of the hot 2018, 2019 and 2020 vintages: although there was plenty of sunshine, 2022 is defined not by heat but by drought. Lack of water meant that ripening slowed over the summer, and although rain in September freshened the vines, the sugars never caught up, resulting in slender, transparent wines. They will show their glories earlier than the 2020 or 2021s, and also have the stuffing to last. The dry wines – both red and white – are excellent; in the off-dry category little was made above Spätlese level.

The vintage got off to a promising start. There was no frost, and a rapid vegetative growth was followed by trouble free flowering in early June. Although there was localised rain, it remained very dry for the rest of the summer, some areas seeing no precipitation at all between March and September, turning 2022 into the driest and sunniest vintage since records began. On the plus side, this meant that there was no disease pressure, and far fewer treatments were necessary: 2022 will go down as the most organic vintage of the last forty years. But the vines suffered in the drought. Older vines, with roots deep enough to seek out the ground water, managed better than young ones, and many growers irrigated these to ensure their survival. But the dry conditions meant that even older vines went into survival mode and photosynthesis stopped; sugar production slowed to a crawl or halted altogether, and acidity remained harsh and green. Growers worried that the grapes would not be fit to harvest, and took many steps to reduce the stress on their vines, for instance by spreading straw on the soil to preserve moisture, and above all by a rigorous program of green harvesting – the fewer grapes on a vine, the more easily they ripen. In many cases it worked. Some vines were harvested at the beginning of September with ripe grapes.

Torrential rain and cooler temperatures in early September came as a mixed blessing. On the one hand, the water refreshed the vines, releasing pent-up aromas into the grapes; on the other, there was fear of dilution. These fears were unfounded; nonetheless, when photosynthesis resumed, sugars could not catch up, and remained low when the grapes were harvested. Acidity, though ripe, was brisk. Most growers harvested in September. Those who did not were caught out by heavy rain late in the month, which continued intermittently throughout October. Lower sugar levels are often concentrated by botrytis, but the colder weather prevented it from developing, so there is little Auslese, and even fewer Goldkapsel style wines.

After such a difficult and varied growing season, what are the wines like? It is a vintage that defies expectations. These are not the rich, alcoholic wines we'd expect from a hot vintage; the slowed ripening in August created wines that are fresh and clear, with crisp mineral notes and nuanced spicy flavours. They are slim, smooth and strikingly accessible – pure charmers!

As ever, we will be visiting the auctions in September, where the finest cuvées will be released. Please let us know if you are interested.

Please let us have your En Primeur requests by 13th September 2023 to be included in the allocation process. Prices are in bond London. Offer prices are valid until 1st Jan 2024.

2021 VINTAGE REPORT

2021 is a cool vintage with wonderful energy and a smooth flowing quality. It has given excellent reds and whites, precise and racy, perfectly reflecting their vineyard origins. They are very transparent, each element clearly delineated by fresh fruit, bright ripe acidity and fine stony minerality. How we got there is pretty miraculous because weather conditions throughout the growing season were supremely challenging: growers were grateful to harvest anything at all, and very surprised by the quality of the resulting wines. Low temperatures and high rainfall harked back to the difficult 1980s – Germany as it used to be. Growers who had lived through these cooler years were able to draw on their experience to cope with the ‘new’ conditions. In the last thirty years, warmer temperatures resulting from global warming have made it much easier for fruit to ripen, so much so that growers have focussed on slowing down ripeness in order to preserve aromas and acidity. This year saw the opposite: late budbreak and flowering – at the end of June, several weeks later than the norm these days – quickly made them realise that the harvest would be that much later, and the window for ripeness therefore narrower. This meant that growers needed to speed up the ripening process as much as possible before the end of the season in November. A vine only has a certain amount of energy to distribute to its fruit: the more bunches, the longer it takes to ripen them. Growers thus began a rigorous program of green harvesting to reduce their crop – the less conscientious were faced with a large quantity of unripe grapes at the end of November which yielded thin, acidic wine.

The biggest problem of the season was the ample rainfall. On the one hand it was very welcome – several dry years in a row had depleted the water table, and it was delightful to see the countryside verdant again. But rain brought floods, sometimes with devastating effects. And it also resulted in severe outbreaks of downy mildew (*peronospora*), which attacks young shoots and flowers, as well as some rot. Flowering was disrupted by attacks of disease, and the crop was reduced as a result. Red wine growers were also challenged by the threat of Suzuki fly. A very careful spraying program was necessary, made all the more difficult when wet soils rendered vineyards almost impassable. Organic growers were particularly challenged: without systemic treatments, their options were limited, and they suffered the most. On the plus side, they were for the most part not obliged to do much green harvesting – Nature had done it for them!

At the end of August, growers looked at their vines and questioned whether they’d be able to harvest at all. But then the weather turned. September and October saw fine cool weather, with only the occasional bout of rain, and the vines profited from the sunshine with a steady increase in ripeness, so that by the time the harvest arrived in October and November, the grapes were perfectly ripe and free of rot: the perfect conditions for superb dry wines. These are cool, terroir wines with powerful minerality, lean and linear. The reds are vibrant, full of fresh red-berry fruit and fine integrated tannins. The wines do not shout, but impress with a cool intensity, and are well worth seeking out.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

We identify wines by the last four digits of the AP number, unique to the wine, for example [11 20]. This avoids confusion when telling them apart. In this example, '11' is the number assigned to the wine and '20' is the year it was submitted for approval by a tasting board.

Auctions: in September, the VDP's finest and rarest wines are auctioned in the Mosel, Rheingau and Nahe (which includes Ahr, Pfalz and Rheinhessen). Mostly the wines are of the current vintage, but older rarities are also on offer. Prices here are sometimes very high, but there are often bargains.

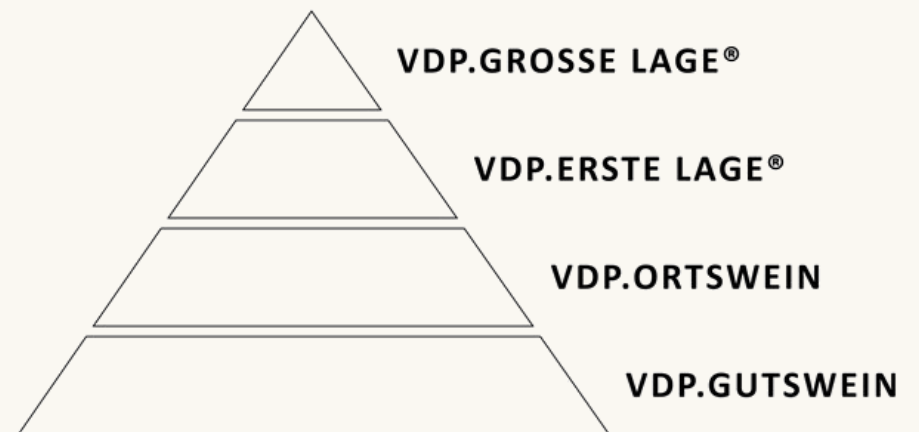
The VDP Classification Pyramid

The VDP (Verband deutscher Prädikatsweingüter) is an association of German wine estates dedicated to quality. It has its own rules regulating viticulture and vinification, and in recent years has introduced a new method of classifying wines akin to the Burgundian system. It has been widely adopted by serious growers who are not members.

Anyone familiar with Burgundy will recognise the terms:

Gutswein = regional
Ortswein = village
Erste Lage = 1er cru
Grosse Lage = Grand cru.

We do not identify every wine in this offer by their classification, but refer to the system from time to time.



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Strong domestic demand meant that until recently few of the region's wines were seen outside its borders. This now changing, and a new generation of growers are bringing superb red and white wines to the international market. Limestone soils produce mainly Riesling and Chardonnay, whereas the heavier marl and clay soils are known for rich, dark reds from Lemberger (better-known as Blaufränkisch or Kékfrankos) and increasingly, Pinot Noir.

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Once the land of Liebfraumilch (cheap sweet quaffers for export), the rolling hills of the Rheinhessen are now one of the most exciting regions in Germany, with a new generation of growers making world-class dry wines. It is also home to the Rheingau, a slope of red slate overlooking the Rhine and the site of some of Germany's best vineyards.

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WEINGUT HOLGER KOCH | BICKENSOHL/KAISERSTUHL



Holger Koch and Gabriele Engesser

Baden, and in particular the pretty range of hills known as the Kaiserstuhl ('Emperor's Chair'), is the traditional seat of German Pinot Noir production. This is a volcanic outcrop on the Rhine plain overlooking Alsace, with a mix of warm volcanic and stony loess soils; Holger Koch's small nine-hectare estate lies at its heart. On taking over from his parents in 1999, he immediately re-planted with small-berried French clones from Alsace and Burgundy. If you are after fine, delicately structured and long-lived Pinot Noir, these are the wines for you.

Climate change means that formerly favoured vineyards are becoming a little too warm, and cooler, more exposed sites are beginning to produce great wines. Rising temperatures and earlier harvests mean that Holger hires a refrigerated trailer to cool the grapes before pressing. Drought is another issue, so irrigation pipes were laid in some of the best vineyards in 2023.

2022 Vintage

The Kaiserstuhl was lucky in 2022 – while other regions had to endure a lack of rain throughout the summer, it rained plentifully in June, and a single day in July saw 35mm rainfall. In August, another storm gave just enough water to refresh the vines, and a plentiful crop of perfectly healthy grapes was harvested, beginning early on 30 August, so as to preserve acidity. The wines are rich, ripe and melting, with excellent freshness and moderate levels of alcohol.

2021 Vintage

2021 was cooler than the preceding three vintages, and yields were low as the result of a biting spring frost and poor flowering. Fine weather in August allowed the grapes to ripen apace, and harvest began in mid-September, a little later than the norm these days – a full two weeks after the warmer 2022. No whole bunches were used, as the berries were small with little juice, and Holger felt it was not needed. The reds have an appealing juicy purity and are lower in alcohol than in the past few years, which suits the Koch style of delicate purity better than warmer years. It is a great vintage.

Whites

2022 Chardonnay N* [L07/23] 12.5% abv

£102 | Case of 6 – 75cl

N stands for natural, so this has seen no sulphur or additives of any kind. It is a testament to Holger Koch's skill that the 'natural' is barely in evidence – it is simply a cracking wine. Two weeks of skin contact give a fine tannic structure and freshness to the rich fruit, and the finish is long and balanced. Drink 2024 – 2029

2022 Chardonnay Herrenstück [07 23] 12.5% abv

£84 | Case of 6 – 75cl

There is the typical weight of the vintage, but this remains brisk and pointed, with additional freshness from a little skin contact, driving to a long, slightly salty finish. Drink 2022 – 2028

WEINGUT HOLGER KOCH | BICKENSOHL/KAISERSTUHL

Whites

2022 Chardonnay* [14 23]** 13.5% abv

£114 | Case of 6 – 75cl

From two separate parcels in the Bitzenberg vineyard: one with a richer loess base, the other a steep windy site with stony soils. In this warm year it is a happy marriage: the loess gives a creamy richness, with grapefruit and tropical notes, the more exposed parcel provides lean, racy lemony fruit and a pure fine salty minerality.

Drink 2024 – 2028

2022 Chardonnay Reserve [L08/23] 13.5% abv

£180 | Case of 6 – 75cl

This is a big step up in finesse and intensity. A little more new wood than the other Chardonnays in the portfolio, but the fruit can easily take it. There is citrus, pronounced floral notes, a hint of tropical, and a powerful stony minerality that dominates through to the long juicy finish. It will take time to unfold. Drink 2025 – 2032

Reds

2021 Pinot Noir Herrenstück [14 22] 12.5% abv

£90 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Fresh warm strawberry fruit, clear and precise, balancing fine tannins: a perfect entry level Pinot. Drink 2024–2028

2021 Pinot Noir* [15 22] 13% abv

£126 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The red berry fruit is very forward here, sweet, ripe and rounded, with a subtle floral undertone; fine melting tannins provide just enough structure, and there is a long fresh juicy fruit-driven finish. Drink 2024–2031

2021 Pinot Noir* [16 22]** 12.5% abv

£186 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£198 | Case of 3 – 150cl

From the best site in the Herrenstück, a south-facing site with a constant freshening breeze. A thin layer of loess over volcanic bedrock forces the vines to dig deep for sustenance, which is plainly evident in the complex mineral structure in the wines – spicy, salty and herbal. The fruit is very seductive – fresh, perfumed strawberries are framed by fine lean tannins, and an animating vibrant energy drives the wine to a persistent finish.

Drink 2026 – 2033 for bottles

Drink 2029 – 2038 for magnums.

2021 Pinot Noir Reserve [L07/22] 13% abv

£234 | Case of 6 – 75cl

From two separate parcels, with poor volcanic soils – the Halbuck and Steinfelsen. The Halbuck is a subplot of the Herrenstück, and its highest point, with old vines in poor volcanic soils. The Steinfelsen is volcanic with limestone outcrops, also with old vines. It is a pure, backward wine, lean and silky, with enormous density and power. There is a dense knot of fresh red fruit at its core, it will be worth cellaring for some years. Drink 2029 – 2038

WEINGUT DR. HEGER | IHRINGEN



Heger Family

Dr. Heger has long been one of, if not the most famous estate in Baden. Joachim Heger has cultivated prime volcanic sites in the Kaiserstuhl vineyards of Winklerberg in Ihringen and Schlossberg in Achkarren since he took over the estate in the early nineties. The steep, rocky slopes in Pinot Noir's heartland produce not only Pinot, but also Riesling, Silvaner, and some of Germany's best Chardonnays. Joachim Heger is the third generation to run the estate and is currently handing control to his two daughters, Katharina and Rebecca, who joined in 2020.

In the last five years there has been a distinct change of style in the reds. The new wood is less in evidence, the tannins are finer, and the wines have greater freshness and purity.

Like Ziereisen, the estate releases its wines a year after most others, so 2020 reds and 2021 whites are offered here. We have also been able to purchase some back vintages of reds, listed below. The red Ortswein, just released, is from 2019.

2021 Vintage

After a warm start, the temperature dropped, and June and July were wet; ripening slowed, and only resumed properly during the fine August and September. This slow start made the harvest later than usual, but brought the advantage of a long, slow ripening period, allowing the grapes plenty of time to develop complexity. The wines are pure and defined, with cool fine aromatics, bright acidity and excellent energy.

2020 Vintage

A warm, dry year with early budbreak. Young vines suffered from drought, but the estate is lucky to have a large proportion of old vines, and these drew on water reserves deep in the soil, remaining largely unaffected. Ripening was steady, and the grapes remained small, with little juice. The wines are concentrated and ripe, but with an appealing freshness, smooth elegance, and fine ripe tannins. They have a very promising future. It is a great year here.

2019 Vintage

A magical year. The season saw both low and high temperatures, but rain fell at just the right times and the vines always had enough water. Warm days and cool nights ensured perfect ripening, and fine weather in September saw a leisurely harvest under perfect conditions. The wines have density, elegance and great potential for ageing.

Whites

2021 Ihringer Winklerberg Chardonnay [24 23] 12.5% abv

£114 | Case of 6 - 75cl

A bright, elegant wine with lemony zing and a creamy richness behind it, finishing on a smooth dark salty note. Drink 2024 - 2030

2021 Winklerberg Hinter Winklen 'Gras im Ofen' Chardonnay GG [13 23] 13% abv

£174 | Case of 6 - 75cl

A shaded site which gets the afternoon sun, perfectly suited to producing cool, mineral-driven Chardonnays. The 2021 is exceptional: floral and lemony with a cool herbal note, a dash of cream, and striking finesse and elegance driving to a long smooth salty finish. Drink 2024 - 2032

WEINGUT DR. HEGER | IHRINGEN

Reds

2019 Ihringen Spätburgunder [27 22] 13.5% abv

£78 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Fresh ripe red fruit with a cool smoky note is balanced by smooth fine tannins and a bright finish. Drink 2024 – 2030

2020 Vorderer Winklerberg Spätburgunder GG [22 22] 13.5% abv

£258 | Case of 6 – 75cl

One of the warmest sites in Baden, indeed all of Germany, with weathered volcanic soils, and yet the wines are slow to ripen, giving cool aromatics and great complexity. The 2020 is no exception. Drink 2026 – 2035

2019 Schlossberg Spätburgunder GG [21 21] 13.5% abv

£258 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Another warm site on a steep slope, with shallow loess soils on a fossil-rich volcanic bedrock. The 2019 is focussed and spicy with pointed raspberry fruit and a powerful floral element – mainly violets. The tannins are dark, rich and powerful, and there is a long fresh smooth finish. Drink 2025 – 2035

2020 Schlossberg Spätburgunder GG [24 22] 13.5% abv

£258 | Case of 6 – 75cl

An opulent, strawberry-fruited wine, with hints of cassis, spice and fine stony salty mineral flavours. The tannins are structured but balanced and elegant, and there is an appealing light freshness on the long finish. Drink 2025 – 2035

2019 Winklerberg Wanne 'Häusleboden' Spätburgunder GG [18 21] 13.5% abv

£402 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The best site in the Winklerberg, at the top of the hill where the volcanic rock is shot through with limestone. It is one of the only sites in Germany to have old vines from a Burgundian 'selection massale' planted in 1956, and the wines are always tightly wound and dense. The 2019 is indeed powerful, but also effortlessly elegant, with a lightness of touch in the winemaking that maintains purity and freshness. There is cherry and strawberry fruit, plenty of spice, very fine tannins and a long stony salty finish. Drink 2027 – 2038*

**The practice of replanting vineyards with cuttings taken from old vines, thus ensuring clonal diversity, rather than the easier method of using a single clone.*

2020 Winklerberg Wanne 'Häusleboden' Spätburgunder GG [23 22] 13.5% abv

£402 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The 2020 is a little more giving at this early stage than the 2019: the fruit is a little more charming, the tannins a mite softer. But like its predecessors, it is a tremendously concentrated, vibrant wine, exuding self-assurance and elegance. The fruit is pure strawberry, and there are complex notes of spice and smoke and a fine earthy minerality on the long ethereal finish. It has a great future. Drink 2027 – 2038

SHELTER WINERY | KENZINGEN/BREISGAU

ORGANIC



Hans-Bert Espe and Silke Wolf

Hans-Bert Espe and Silke Wolf are two Northerners who met while studying winemaking at Geisenheim and decided to found their own estate in 2003. They made their first wines in a bunker on an abandoned Canadian airfield (hence the name) and have since built themselves a winery based on the same design. They have vineyards with old vines in the villages of Kenzingen and Malterdingen, and produce some of the best wines of the region.

Shelter is an estate just under the radar of greatness. The wines are understated and need a couple of years in bottle to settle down – even the basic Spätburgunder. When they open up, they are seductive, balanced and pure.

2021 Vintage

A warm spring in 2021 saw early budding, so a severe frost in early April caused considerable damage, with a loss of 30–50% of the potential crop. A wet spring and summer brought disease pressure, though paradoxically the loss of leaves from downy mildew prolonged ripening, so the vines were able to take advantage of the fine weather in September. Botrytis pressure and the threat of the Suzuki fly were dealt with by rigorous leaf plucking to aerate the canopy. Harvest was two weeks later than normal, in early October. The estate's expensive optical sorting machine proved its worth, discarding another 10% of their crop, so the fruit that went into the vats was perfectly healthy. The wines are a revelation – beautifully structured and vibrant, packed with pure fresh fruit, full of complex minerality, and with lower alcohol levels than has become the norm.

Reds**2021 Spätburgunder [02 23]** 12.5% abv

£60 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Rounded, perfumed red berry fruit is balanced by smoky earthy flavours and fine tannins in this cool, fresh wine. Deliciously appealing. Drink 2024 – 2028

2021 Pinot Noir [03 23] 12.5% abv

£144 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Intensely floral and seductive, this is full of bright strawberry and ripe raspberry, a dash of smoke and a fine stony minerality. There are more structured tannins that promise a long life, and the wine is nicely framed by 50% new oak. Drink 2025 – 2036

2021 Pinot Noir N114 [04 23] 12.5% abv

£276 | Case of 6 – 75cl

From old vines, planted in 1971 on thin soils over the limestone bedrock. The vineyard does not face south and ripens later – so this year was spared damage from frost. A dense knot of sweet fresh raspberry fruit, melting silky tannins and a smooth fine salty minerality make up this ball of bright energy. It is one of the best Hans-Bert has made. Drink 2026 – 2038

PETER WAGNER | VOGTSBURG IM KAISERSTUHL



Peter Wagner

Peter Wagner bottled his first wines from half a hectare in 2016, and in a short time has become one of the hottest growers in Baden, now exporting all over the world – we were lucky to get in before demand completely outstripped supply. His eight hectares of vineyards lie in the heart of the volcanic soils of the Kaiserstuhl, many in GG sites, and with plantings mainly of Pinot Noir he produces pure, finely crafted wines that are appealing young but promise a long life.

Peter is the fifth generation to run his family estate, and he came with considerable experience. An apprenticeship at a nearby estate and studies in Geisenheim were followed by stints in Sonoma and New Zealand, followed by six years in the position of winemaker at the famous Franz Keller estate, a large operation of over forty hectares, which he left in 2017.

Helped by his father and his brother Lothar, a former Audi engineer, Peter converted to organic viticulture three years ago, and will be biodynamic from the 2023 vintage. Rather like their neighbour Holger Koch twenty years ago, they have embarked on an extensive replanting program to replace German clones with Burgundian ones.

His winemaking is minimalist, designed to maximise elegance and purity rather than extract power. A short pre-fermentation maceration is followed by a fermentation with wild yeasts. There is no punching down, only gentle pressing, very little new oak, long lees contact and no fining or filtration. The results are breathtaking.

2021 Vintage

The damp 2021 was a difficult year for Pinot Noir, and a particular challenge for organic growers. Leaf plucking to aerate the canopy and a later harvest set the agenda, and rigorous selection – three passes through each vineyard during the harvest – ensured that the Wagners gathered a healthy crop, but they decided not to bottle the top wines separately, blending all their grapes into their Ortsweine. Doesn't sound all that promising – but have no fear: these are lovely, elegant wines with plentiful pure fruit and superb balance

A note on the 2020 vintage...

Last year we were very taken with Peter Wagner's two top reds tasted in cask. When they were presented at our September tasting, however, they were oxidised, and we thought them faulty and withdrew them from sale.

Just before we sent them back, we tasted them one last time. To our astonishment, there was no sign of oxidation: the wines were as fresh and pure as they had been when first tried a year earlier. So we are offering a second chance to get hold of these extraordinary wines.

Whites

2022 Oberrotweil Chardonnay [09 23] 12.5% abv

£108 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A bright, fresh and very floral wine, with zippy lemony acidity and a creamy middle, finishing on an elegant stony note. Drink 2024 – 2028

Reds

2021 Spätburgunder vom Löss [05 23] 13% abv

£78 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A lean pure wine, with complex fruit – morello cherry, blackcurrant and a dash of raspberry, plus a cool spice note and smooth fine tannins. Longer than a regional wine has any right to be. Drink 2024 – 2028

2021 Oberrotweil Spätburgunder [06 23] 13% abv

£102 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The cool lean tannins point in the direction of angularity, but the sweet raspberry and blackcurrant fruit has so much energy that it threatens to burst out of the frame, deepening and broadening the wine. The result is a lovely fresh, lively wine with power and length. Drink 2024 – 2029

2021 Oberrotweil Spätburgunder alte Reben [07 23] 13% abv

£132 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A blend of declassified grapes from the GG sites Henkenberg and Eichberg. As one would expect, this has great intensity and power. The structure is pure and lean, and the abundant fruit – raspberry, cherry, spice and a delicate herbal note – is compact and precise. The tannins are perfectly judged with just the right amount of presence, and the finish is long and fresh. A big bang for your buck. Drink 2024 – 2031

2020 Henkenberg Spätburgunder [08 22] 13% abv

£216 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Henkenberg is a south-facing vineyard classified as GG. It is a windy site, with dark volcanic soils, and has produced an exciting wine with lots of drive and great intensity, full of blue fruit, lilac and fine rich tannins. A small amount of new oak adds a dash of complexity. Drink 2025 – 2032

2020 Eichberg Spätburgunder [10 22] 13% abv

£360 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The Eichberg is an elevated south-facing site on the outskirts of Oberrotweil with rocky volcanic soils. It has produced a wine of astonishing finesse, complexity and depth, with vibrant spicy red and black fruit, smooth suave tannins and a long energetic finish. It is one of the best reds of the vintage. Drink 2025 – 2032



Hanspeter and Edel Ziereisen

Hanspeter Ziereisen is quick-thinking and full of energy, and his wines get better every year.

After a love affair with new oak early this century, he has tempered its use so that it subtly supports, rather than dominates the wines. Based close to the Swiss and French borders just north of Basel, he makes a selection of Pinot Noirs (and a host of other varietals) that offer both purity and value.

Most of his vineyards are on a south-facing slope overlooking Basel, the vines grow at an altitude between 250 and 400 metres, and there is a constant breeze, allowing slower ripening. He used to harvest early, but now waits a little longer for riper fruit, with structure and freshness coming from a higher proportion of whole bunches.

He does not chaptalise, and uses 10 – 20% new wood across the range. The musts are handled very gently, with very little punching down and extraction, and the wines are breathtakingly pure and long-lived.

The estate holds back wines longer than most, so this year we are offering a mix of 2018 and 2020.

2020 Vintage

2020 was warm and dry, but a very wet spring meant the vines had enough water to last through the summer. The grapes remained small, but very juicy, and have given succulent, ripe and smooth wines, with excellent *terroir* definition.

2018 Vintage

A wet spring provided a good water supply to the vines, mitigating the impact of the hot dry summer. Although there were a couple of heat spikes, plentiful vegetation saved the grapes from sunburn, and a crop of beautifully healthy grapes was harvested. The old vines ensured proper *terroir* definition, giving balanced, warm wines with a great future ahead of them.

Whites

2020 Jaspis Gutedel 10⁴ 10.5% abv

£486 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Often mistaken for *grand cru Burgundy*, the 2020 is another great year. An explosion of flavours – juicy citrus, flowers, herbs, spice and a lean very fine salty stony minerality is framed by some new wood, and there is a fresh, melting finish. Drink 2024 – 2035

2020 Jaspis 'Nägelin' Chardonnay 12.5% abv

£276 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A warm, rich, melting wine, powerful and smooth, supported by new oak – around 50% – with ripe citrus fruit and a persistent salty finish. Drink 2024 – 2030

Reds

2020 Tschuppen Spätburgunder 13% abv

£60 | Case of 6 – 75cl

30% of whole bunches lifts the bright red-berry fruit. Maturation in aged barriques has given a round smooth wine, underpinned by fine tannins, dark smoky earthy mineral notes and a rich finish. Drink 2024 – 2030

2020 Talrain Spätburgunder 12.5% abv

£78 | Case of 6 – 75cl

60% of whole bunches gives freshness to the very ripe fruit from this elevated vineyard, full of blueberry fruit with the meaty edge that a high proportion of clay can give. It is elegant, fresh and structured, with a lovely fluidity and a smooth finish. Drink 2024 – 2030

2020 Schulen Spätburgunder 13% abv

£96 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A warm site, but the limestone soils keep the wine structured and lean. It is tender, ripe and elegant – almost ethereal – with ripe red-berry fruit, a hint of smoke, and smooth fine tannins emerging on the long finish. Drink 2024 – 2034

2020 Rhini Spätburgunder 13% abv

£138 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Iron-rich clay on limestone gives sweet spicy red-berry fruit with strong dark tannins. Vines trained in the cordon de royat method produce small berries which ripen unevenly, and this mix of ripe and less ripe fruit provides both richness and freshness, both abundantly present here. Hanspeter used to punch down three times a day, but has cut back to at most once a day. There is more elegance and delicacy here as a result, and a fine stony finish. Drink 2024 – 2036 for bottles

2020 Jaspis 'Zipsin' Pinot Noir (formerly Jaspis) 13.5% abv

£180 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Vines planted in 1958 on pure limestone soils give an intense, blueberry-fruited wine with floral overtones, spicy smoky accents and powerful ripe tannins, finishing on a long smooth saline note. Drink 2025 – 2036

2018 Jaspis 'Bürgin' Pinot Noir 13.5% abv

£276 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The best barrels of Zipsin are put aside for extra ageing and released several years later. It is an opulent, ripe wine, packed with red-berry fruit and almost painfully intense. The tannins are round and chocolatey, and there is a lovely freshness gaining in momentum as the wine glides to a persistent dark salty finish. Drink 2024 – 2030

2020 Gestad Syrah 12.5% abv

£96 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A delightful Cornas! Cool, smooth and peppery, the fruit is dark and spicy, the finish bright and fresh. Hard to believe it's from Germany. Drink 2024 – 2028

2018 Jaspis Syrah 10⁴ 13% abv

£534 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Vines planted to a density of 10,000 per hectare (hence the name 10⁴) give a wine of extraordinary complexity. Around 40% of whole bunches results in forward sweet red-berry and hedgerow fruit – blackberry, but also blackcurrant, as well as spicy savoury notes, some smoke and a vibrant juicy freshness, leading to a long finely textured finish. Drink 2022 – 2035

WEINGUT RUDOLF FÜRST | BÜRGSTADT



Sebastian Fürst

We are delighted to welcome the wines of Weingut Rudolf Fürst to our portfolio. Fürst were pioneers of quality German Pinot Noir production in the 1980s, and are now at the very top of the tree. Their wines are among the most sought-after in Germany, and international demand is also very strong. These are pure, fine, *terroir*-driven wines. They are balanced and textured, structured and firm, with a juicy integrated core, and they age supremely well.

The Fürsts have a long tradition of winemaking: their estate, lying in the western part of Franconia on the Main river not far from Frankfurt, dates back to the mid-seventeenth century. In 1979, Paul and Monika Fürst took over what was a mixed farm, and began to focus on wine, acquiring choice vineyards along the way, and growing the estate to its current 21 hectares, with over 60% Pinot Noir.

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From the beginning they prioritised quality, and were in regular contact with like-minded estates in Burgundy, Oregon and Switzerland. By 1989 the Fürsts had built a superb reputation. After studies in Geisenheim and extensive stints in Burgundy, Alsace, Spain and South Africa, as well as with other German estates, Sebastian Fürst joined in 2007, assuming control in 2018. Like his father, his focus is firmly on the vineyard: he has converted to organic methods and increased vine density, as well as embarking on an extensive replanting program of both Burgundian and German Pinot Noir varieties. Yields are kept extremely low.

The soils of the 'Mainviereck', in the far west of Franconia, are composed primarily of red sandstone with a high iron content. They are particularly suited to Pinot Noir production. The estate's three top sites are all on steep slopes: the Centgrafenberg and Hundsrück, in a side valley of the Main near Bürgstadt, and on the Main itself a few kilometres downriver, the Schlossberg, next to the village of Klingenberg. Riesling thrives on the lower slopes of the Centgrafenberg. Chardonnay is grown on limestone soils some distance to the east on the other side of Würzburg.

Winemaking is light touch, and influenced by traditional Burgundian methods. There is a high proportion of whole bunches, and after fermentation in open vats a basket press is used to press the grapes. Maturation is for 13–18 months in barriques, with varying degrees of new wood. After pressing, the whites are matured in a mixture of wood and stainless steel for 6–16 months.

2021 Vintage

As in most of Northern Europe, 2021 is a cool, classic vintage. The season started dry, which led to poor flowering and reduced yields, then rain came and didn't let up until good weather in August allowed the grapes to ripen. The wines are very fine and a little angular, with beautiful purity and clarity of fruit, and they have less alcohol than in previous warmer years.

2022 Vintage

2022 was warm and dry, with a late August harvest. The wines are pure, bright and zingy, without the pressure of ripeness one would normally expect from a hot year.

WEINGUT RUDOLF FÜRST | BÜRGSTADT

Whites

2022 Centgrafenberg Riesling GG [17 23] 12.5% abv

£342 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A juicy, lean, powerful wine, packed with generous citrus and cool orchard fruit, and a very fine velvety stony minerality building in intensity as it glides to the very long sa-line finish. Drink 2026 – 2035

Reds

2021 Pinot Noir Tradition [05 23] 12.5% abv

£120 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Just under half the fruit is from young vines in GG sites. Densely woven red berry fruit with notes of spice and smoke are balanced by fine pure tannins and a crisp clear finish. Drink 2024 – 2032

2021 Burgstädter Berg Spätburgunder 1G [13 23] 13% abv

£258 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A beautifully defined, pure wine, full of cool dark raspberry fruit, a hint of smoke and fine tannins, with a delicate salty stony flourish on the finish. Drink 2024 – 2035

2021 Centgrafenberg Spätburgunder GG [18 23] 13% abv

£282 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Lots of whole-bunch fermentation here, which gives both vibrant fruit and a hint of herbal freshness. There are floral notes too, along with flavours of spice and smoke. This is a dark, silky, rounded wine, with considerable reserves of power, but relaxed and superbly balanced, flowing effortlessly to a long rich finish. Drink 2026 – 2038

WEINGUT RUDOLF MAY | RETZSTADT



Benedikt & Rudolf May

Rudolf May founded his estate in 1998 with two hectares, and, through hard work and focus on quality, has grown it to nineteen. His main interest has always been Silvaner, and he is one of only a few growers to show that this often-overlooked varietal can produce distinctive wines with ageing potential. May's Silvaners are the best in Germany, his poor, fossil-rich soils yielding pure, mineral-driven wines. He believes in minimal intervention, and in 2016 he and his son Benedikt (who apprenticed at Mosbacher) adopted organic methods. They are already noticing that the vines are now more resilient and balanced: for example, they use far less sulphur as a stabiliser. This is an estate firmly established in the top rank.

Like many premium growers, it has gradually been trading up its vineyards, picking up choice parcels in steep sites which other growers are unable to farm profitably, and ditching lesser ones. In 2020 it sold off over two hectares of

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vineyards and purchased one and a half hectares in the Benediktusberg, a 1G (*1er cru*) site which may soon win recognition as a GG.

Another two and a half hectares of Benediktusberg were acquired in 2023, along with new plots in the Langenberg, including some in the prized subplot Der Schäfer. Instead of grubbing up and replanting, the Mays favour grafting high-quality Silvaner onto existing rootstocks, a policy that paid off in 2022 when the shallow roots of young vines were unable to cope with drought.

Silvaner has a mixed reputation in the UK, deemed a poor second to Riesling, but this is changing, with demand for May wines increasing rapidly – they are now Germany's leading Silvaner producer. This should come as no surprise: Silvaner is a perfect reflector of terroir, particularly adept at showcasing Franken's shell-limestone soils.

The Vintage

2022 was the opposite of 2021; instead of a rainy growing season with severe disease pressure, the very dry summer forced the Mays to irrigate some of their stonier vineyards. Even then many young vines died. The key to success was old vines, whose roots were able to access water deep in the soil. Very little vine treatment was required, as it was too dry for diseases to take hold, and the grapes, though small were beautifully healthy. The harvest began on 1st September, long before anyone else in the area, and most of the fruit was brought in before the rains began on 12th September. As normal in dry years, fermentation took longer than usual, with some casks still going strong in the spring. Over the years the Mays have reduced the quantity of sulphur they use, and now only add a minimal amount just before bottling. The wines are cool, lean and refreshing – quite a surprise in such a warm year.

2022 Rothlauf Silvaner GG [15 23] 13% abv

£228 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A bright, lemony wine with a juicy core of elegant fruit – ripe apples and yellow pears and a lean stony middle shading to a dark salty finish lasting for minutes. Drink 2025 – 2032

2022 Himmelspfad Silvaner GG [14 23] 13% abv

£228 | Case of 6 – 75cl

60-year-old vines give smaller berries, and the wine is more concentrated as a result. It is bright and juicy, but has a touch of opulent richness in the relaxed middle, before firming up on the salty stony finish. A very complex vino da meditazione. Drink 2025 – 2032

WEINGUT ALDINGER | FELLBACH

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Hansjörg and Matthias Aldinger

Until recently wines from Württemberg were little seen outside the region, as the capital Stuttgart has a seemingly insatiable demand for them. Now they are gradually making their way out, and the world is better for it: there are superb vineyards and talented growers making the most of them.

Leading the pack is Weingut Aldinger, based in the Remstal next to Stuttgart, making excellent reds – Pinot Noir and other varietals, and brilliant whites.

The estate's history goes back to 1492, but it has been making proper waves since the 1950s. An important milestone was the purchase of the vineyard Untertürkheimer Gips, with gypsum soils, which rapidly defined a new type of wine in the region: distinctive, pure and mineral-driven. The estate's other prime vineyard is the Fellbacher Lämmeler, a cooler site with marl soils. Together, the two of them make a winning combination.

In the late 1980s, Gert Aldinger was one of the first to plant international grape varieties, such as Chardonnay, Cabernet and Merlot, but he did not neglect his indigenous varieties either, turning out rich powerful Rieslings and Lembergers (aka Blaufränkisch). He has since handed control to his sons Hansjörg (vineyard management) and Matthias (winemaking).

Together they have dialled back the power, and now make some of the most supple and elegant wines in Germany, including one of the best Sekts. They have even made a seriously elegant version of Trollinger, the workhorse of Stuttgart's wine bars.

2022 Vintage

2022 was an atypical year. It was warm and dry, suggesting a vintage similar to 2018. But in September it began to rain, and temperatures cooled, slowing ripening, and delaying the harvest until the end of the month. The wines benefited from the warmth early in the season and have lower alcohol and a delightful freshness from the lower temperatures at the end.

2021 Vintage

2021 was cool and rainy in June and July, with lots of disease pressure. Hard work in the vineyard fought off all threats, and the result is a pure, lean set of wines with clear fruit and real finesse.

Whites

2022 Schnait Chardonnay [36 23] 12% abv

£72 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A smooth, fresh, elegant Chardonnay, floral and creamy, with a long, sweet finish.

Drink 2024 – 2027

2021 Gips Chardonnay 1G [12 23] 13% abv

£222 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£228 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Chardonnay is a perfect foil for the gypsum soils of the Gips. The Aldingers are not fans of new oak, preferring larger, neutral tonneaux to barriques, so there is little new wood here: it provides some support, but takes a backseat to the vibrant, pure citrus fruit – lemon, grapefruit, blood orange and even a hint of pineapple and aniseed. Gradually the fruit is joined by a gently building juicy minerality, leading to an intense stony salty finish. An astonishingly fine and subtle wine, one of the best Chardonnays we tasted.

Drink 2024 – 2032 for bottles

Drink 2024 – 2035 for magnums

2022 Gips Marienglas Riesling GG

£180 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Still fermenting during our visit (and not quite there even at time of writing in September), so not tasted.

2022 Lämmle Riesling GG

£156 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Still fermenting during our visit (and not quite there even at time of writing in September), so not tasted.

Reds

2021 Lemberger 'Nashorn' [04 23] 12.5% abv

£63 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A classic Lemberger – full of Mediterranean herbs – rosemary, thyme and fennel, blackberry fruit and a dash of clove-spiked orange. The tannins are light and delicate, and the finish fresh and vibrant. Drink 2024 – 2027

2022 Spätburgunder [42 23] 13% abv

£63 | Case of 6 – 75cl

An elegant, fine wine with cherry and blackcurrant fruit, a herbal freshness, gentle integrated acidity and a smooth finish. Drink 2024 – 2028

2021 Hanweiler Lemberger 1G [19 23] 13.5% abv

£90 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A high proportion of whole bunches lifts the elegant fruit. There is a lot going on: fresh blackcurrant mingles with smoky, spicy herbal notes, even a hint of leather; the tannins are fine and dense, and there is a dash of white pepper on the finish. Drink 2024 – 2030

2021 Lämmle 'Kaiser' Spätburgunder GG [31 23] 13% abv

£192 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Lots of whole bunches temper the power of the marl soils in this vibrant blackcurrant-fruited wine. There is a lean elegance and a finely textured purity, plenty of energy, and a long silky finish.

Drink 2024 – 2032

WEINGUT DAUTEL | BÖNNIGHEIM



Christian Dautel

The sleepy town of Bönnigheim, just north of Stuttgart in Baden-Württemberg, isn't the first place you'd think of for great wines. And yet Christian Dautel is producing them here. From four very different soil types he makes pure, precise wines that burst with energy and elegance.

The estate's story is similar to many in the region: the family was farming grapes in the early 16th century, and has continued for fourteen generations. Christian's father Ernst had ambition. He saw the potential in his vineyards, and was determined to make the quality wines he had tasted from France and Italy. His first act on returning from wine-making studies at Geisenheim in 1974 was to leave the cooperative.

He then began to enlarge his three hectares of vineyards, a process continued by his son, to its current size of eighteen hectares. He decided to mature his finest reds in oak, and against

much bureaucratic opposition, he pioneered planting Chardonnay, and maturing that in oak too, a practice quite unheard of at the time.

After studies in Geisenheim and Bordeaux, and internships in Australia, South Africa, Oregon and at Comte Lafon in Burgundy, Christian took over the estate in 2013. He continues the focus on Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, but also grows the more 'traditional' varieties of Riesling, Pinot Blanc and Lemberger. Together with Weingut Aldinger, he is battling with the authorities to have Chardonnay recognised as a GG in Württemberg.

His vineyards comprise limestone, gypsum, sandstone and marl soils, which are farmed organically.

2020 Vintage

2020 was warm and dry, but with rain at just the right times. However, a heavy frost on 13th May caused considerable damage, and yields of Pinot Noir are 30% down.

2021 Vintage

2021 was cooler compared to 2019 and 2020, and persistent rain meant the constant threat of disease. Lovely weather through September allowed perfect ripening, and a superb crop was harvested.

Whites

2021 Chardonnay Sonnenberg 1G 12.5% abv

£96 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The gypsum soils of the Sonnenberg give a lean crisp wine with pithy grapefruit and lemon flavours, framed by a little new wood, with a smooth saline finish.

Drink 2024 – 2030

2021 Niedernberg Chardonnay 'S' 1G [19 23] 12.5% abv

£180 | Case of 6 – 75cl

From the Niedernberg vineyard, a GG in all but name, and likely to be reclassified as such soon. It is a beautifully elegant wine, pure and bright, bursting with energy and power, showing sweet juicy citrus fruit, a delicate creamy note and a pronounced dark stony finish. Drink 2024 – 2034

WEINGUT DAUTEL | BÖNNIGHEIM

Reds

2021 Spätburgunder [31 23] 12.5% abv

£54 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Grown on marl and gypsum soils with a mix of German and French clones, this is a riot of wild leafy blackcurrant, a hint of smoke and earth, silky tannins and a bright fresh pure finish. Drink 2023– 2030

2021 Cleebronn Spätburgunder [32 23] 12.5% abv

£72 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Sandstone soils give a savoury note to the smooth, juicy blackcurrant fruit. There is a lot of stuffing here, but it is worn lightly, and the wine is elegant and pure through to the long finish. Drink 2024 – 2030

2020 Forstberg Spätburgunder GG [34 22] 13% abv

£192 | Case of 6 – 75cl

*Grown on marl soils. A more angular wine, with intense dark, juicy fruit, spice notes and finely woven smooth melting tannins gliding to an extremely long finish.
Drink 2026 – 2035*

2020 Schupen Spätburgunder GG [35 22] 13% abv

£192 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Grown on Gypsum soils, the French clones give a broader, more powerful wine than the Forstberg. There is generous smooth blackcurrant and spice – star anis, fine tannins and a long dark stony finish. Drink 2026 – 2035

HEYMANN-LÖWENSTEIN | WINNINGEN



Löwenstein Family

Reinhard Löwenstein's primary interest has always been in dry wines, and for many years his estate was known for its intense, powerful and long-lived Rieslings. His refusal to use cultured yeasts means that the wines often had levels of residual sugar that put them more into the off-dry category. Then, in 2011, he made a wine without any botrytised grapes that fermented dry. It was an epiphany. 2012 saw a complete change in style: a rigorous cull of botrytis-affected grapes made the wines more precise, focussed and approachable younger, and they are now amongst the most exciting the Mosel has to offer. In recent years he has gradually been handing over control to his daughter Sarah, who has brought fresh energy to the estate.

2022 Vintage

In 2022 the Löwensteins decided to harvest late. Their vines were refreshed by the rain, and able to transfer complex flavours to the grapes. The wines are harmonious, balanced, and quite delicious.

Wines from Uhlen will be shipped in late 2024

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2022 Kirchberg [06 23]

£156 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Kirchberg is a warm site, and its iron-rich sandy slate soils produce a floral, peachy wine with juicy herbal notes and a smooth slaty saline finish. Drink 2024 - 2032

2022 Stolzenberg GG

£168 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Sweet forward ripe peach and citrus fruit is balanced by cool fresh herbal notes on the long juicy saline finish. Drink 2026 - 2034

2022 Röttgen GG

£192 | Case of 6 - 75cl

£67 | Case of 1 - 150cl

The estate's warmest vineyard, with steep terraces, whose walls soak up the summer sun and radiate it back to the vines in the night. You might expect a hot blousy wine in year like this - and yes, the fruit is dense, ripe and exotic, but the powerful fine minerality is more than a match for it, tempering the sweet ripeness with a dark saline, slightly bitter note through to the long finish. A brilliantly constructed wine.

Drink 2026 - 2035 for bottles

Drink 2029 - 2040 for magnums

2022 Uhlen Laubach GG

£228 | Case of 6 - 75cl

£79 | Case of 1 - 150cl

Power and intensity are the hallmarks here, a finely woven deep core of smoky saline mineral forms its backbone, from which hangs peachy yellow fruit and smooth pithy citrus flavours, and a juicy long finish.

Drink 2027 - 2035 for bottles

Drink 2030 - 2045 for magnums

2022 Uhlen Blaufüsser Lay GG

£228 | Case of 6 - 75cl

Rich smoky slate flavours absorb the sweet peach and fresh herbal fruit, leading to a long harmonious saline finish. Drink 2027 - 2030

2022 Uhlen Roth Lay GG

£252 | Case of 6 - 75cl

£88 | Case of 1 - 150cl

£187 | Case of 1 - 300cl

Always the finest, most elegant wine in the line up. It is understated, smooth and elegant, with fine floral and citrus flavours, even a hint of strawberry, and a gentle, silky saline finish lasting for minutes.

Drink 2027 - 2039 for bottles

Drink 2030 - 2045 for magnums

Drink 2030 - 2045 for jeroboams

PETER LAUER | AYL (SAAR)



Florian Lauer

'This small traditional Saar wine producer in Ayl bottles some of the finest, most classic Rieslings in Germany: pure, precise, piquant, racy, mineral and chiselled, but also ripe, concentrated, compact and complex.' Stephan Reinhardt, The Finest Wines of Germany. From relative obscurity when he took over twenty years ago, Florian Lauer has elevated this estate to one of the foremost in the country.

Florian is one of the most thoughtful winemakers we have in our portfolio. He is an independent spirit – studying winemaking at Montpellier in southern France rather than at Geisenheim for example – but he is no maverick. He has a strong interest in science and is always ready with a detailed and fascinating explanation of his practices. Early on he decided to have as little adverse impact on the environment as he could, but did not apply for organic certification. Although he uses no herbicides, he abhors copper – pretty much the only weapon in the organic arsenal against fungus – for its harmful long-term effects on vineyard soils.

Instead, he employs an organic 'curative' fungicide, which reduces the amount of required treatments by half, thereby further lowering the environmental cost. His fertiliser is organic, sourced from local cattle and horse farms, and he has up-graded his agricultural machines to be as light as possible to avoid soil compaction.

In the cellar, only wild yeasts are used, and the wines are not fined. His corks are carbon neutral, and he does not use capsules – further reducing his carbon footprint. He derives most of his power from solar energy, with all estate vehicles now electric. And finally, his cartons are reusable, and require no tape to seal. But these environmental measures are secondary: Florian's primary goal is to make the best possible wines, ones that closely reflect the place where the grapes were grown. As such, he vinifies each parcel with different soils separately, even from within the same vineyard. To taste them is to see just how transparent a wine can be. It helps that he has very old vines of up to 100 years, and as you would expect, they are vibrant, pure and very exciting.

2022 Vintage

In the cool, damp Saar valley, a vintage like 2022 used to be a rarity, but as the climate changes, sunny and very dry years are becoming more common – both 2018 and 2020 followed the same patterns. 2022 was even more extreme, with more sunshine and less rainfall than any vintage in the last twenty years. On the plus side, low moisture levels on leaves and grapes meant that the vines enjoyed the best of health, and plant treatments were barely necessary during the growing season. 2022 can therefore be considered one of the most ecological vintages of the last 40 years – purely natural growth without human intervention! The downside was the damage the drought did to the vines: they shut down in August and ripening slowed, but even this proved to be a benefit, as there is no overripe baked character, acidity was preserved, and sugar levels are moderate, giving fresh balanced wines with great precision and energy. They are forward and extremely charming and have the intensity and balance to age well.

PETER LAUER | AYL (SAAR)

2022 Six Top Lauer Wines (6 pack)

£144 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A unique opportunity to sample Florian Lauer's top terroirs – all except one are from Grosse Lage (grand cru) sites. Four of them are dry, and two are feinherb, a little over the limit of sweetness to be considered dry. Fans of the very popular 'Senior', a more entry-level feinherb, will be in for a treat. The last three are only available in this mixed case.

Kupp GG [18 23]

Schonfels GG [11 23]

Saarfeiler GG [13 23]

Ayl 1. Lage [21 23] (from the best 1er cru sites)

Unterstenberg [12 23]: a feinherb – off-dry wine from very old vines in a separate parcel of the Kupp vineyard.

Neuenberg [17 23]: a feinherb – off-dry wine from a separate parcel of the Kupp vineyard.

2022 Saarfeiler Fass 13 GG [13 23] 12.5% abv

£150 | Case of 6 – 75cl

An opulent, creamy wine tightly framed by a dark stony minerality, which kicks in early and provides a smooth bass note to the complex herbal, citrus and peach fruit; there is a hint of smoke on the saline finish. Drink 2027 – 2036

2022 Schonfels Fass 11 GG [11 23] 12.5% abv

£120 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A wine completely at ease: perfectly balanced and self-contained. There is a core of pithy citrus with floral notes, juicy ripe yellow orchard fruit, smoke, spice and a vanishingly fine silky finish. Drink 2028 – 2038

2022 Kupp Fass 18 GG [18 23] 12.5% abv

£150 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Kupp is always the most backward in this line up. It is more angular and powerful, with a dense core of dark slate, tempered by pure fresh citrus and yellow pears, some smoke, and a long dark finish. A very special wine, but for the long haul. Drink 2027 – 2040

MAXIMIN GRÜNHAUS | MERTESDORF (RUWER)



Maximin and Carl von Schubert

Maximin von Schubert and his winemaker Stefan Kraml continue to produce some of the best wines in Germany from one of its very finest terroirs, a contiguous strip of the three vineyards Bruderberg, Herrenberg and Abtsberg. There is something magical about these wines: if you have the patience to wait, they acquire a melting elegance that calls you back for more. Our completely impartial advice is to buy more than you think you will need.

2022 Vintage

2022 was the driest year on record at the estate. In the second half of August, the vines shut down and ripening slowed; photosynthesis only started again after rain fell at the beginning of September. With more intermittent rain throughout the rest of the month, the vines directed the water into the grapes, providing welcome refreshment.

Cool weather and dilution from the rain meant that the sugar levels did not increase but the acidity ripened steadily and lost its harsh green edge, a process that is crucial for balanced, drinkable wines. The main harvest began on 20 September, with ripe, very aromatic and perfectly healthy fruit, producing wines of crystalline clarity and freshness – they are amongst the finest we tasted. No red wine was made in 2021. Instead, the estate has released the top cuvée from 2020 – The Gloria.

2022 Herrenberg GG [13 23] 12% abv

£162 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£61 | Case of 1 – 150cl

A bright, typically lean Herrenberg, showing vibrant pithy citrus fruit tinged with fresh soft herbs; a lovely purity and delicacy shines through to the long fine slaty finish.

Drink 2027 – 2040 for bottles

Drink 2030 – 2045 for magnums

2022 Abtsberg GG [14 23] 12% abv

£174 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£189 | Case of 3 – 150cl

£210 | Case of 12 – 37.5cl

The fruit is always a little rounder and richer than the Herrenberg, but shows no trace of over ripeness. There is a creamy quality to the juicy herbal, citrus and cool orchard fruit; an ethereal silky minerality emerges halfway through, building in intensity towards the salty long finish.

Drink 2027 – 2040 for bottles

Drink 2030 – 2045 for magnums

Drink 2022 – 2030 for halves

2020 Pinot Noir Gloria [29 22] 15% abv

£318 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£339 | Case of 3 – 150cl

A powerful, rich wine, bursting with spicy red and black fruit and smooth dark chocolatey tannins. There is purity and energy, and a fine stony minerality emerging on the long salty finish.

Drink 2027 – 2035 for bottles

Drink 2030 – 2038 for magnums

CLEMENS BUSCH | PÜNDERICH

BIODYNAMIC



Busch Family

Clemens Busch is a true pioneer. In 1984 he was one of the first Mosel growers to convert to organic practice, not an easy undertaking in one of the wettest corners of Germany. In 2015 he went even further and adopted biodynamic methods. Based in the lower Mosel village of Pünderich, his prime holdings are in the Marienberg vineyard, composed of several different types of slate along its 700m length – red, grey and blue. The wines from each slate-type are bottled separately, providing a fascinating comparison. He eschews trellising and his vines grow on traditional stakes, which he believes gives him greater flexibility, more even ripening and less disease pressure. The wines are famously pure and mineral driven. They ferment naturally and spend a long time on the lees, and most are released a year later than those of his colleagues.

2022 Marienburg GG [22 17] 12% abv

£144 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Not tasted

2022 Marienburg 'Rothenpfad' GG [22 18] 12% abv

£144 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Not tasted

2021 Marienburg 'Fahrlay' GG [21 24] 12.5% abv

£168 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Densely woven, almost woolly minerality in this huge, powerful wine, full of juicy citrus and stony salty minerality. Drink 2027 – 2040

2021 Marienburg 'Fahrlay Terrassen' GG [21 25] 12.5% abv

£234 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A super-elegant, juicy and pithy wine, with broad rich stony mineral flavours and a long salty finish. Drink 2028 – 2042

2021 Felsterrasse GG [21 28] 12% abv

£462 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Not tasted

2021 Raffes GG [21 29] 12.5% abv

£462 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Not tasted

FRITZ HAAG | BRAUNEBERG (MIDDLE MOSEL)



Oliver Haag and the Brauneberg

There are no German wines more elegant than those of Weingut Fritz Haag. They do not shout and are often overlooked in favour of more showy bottles, but for balance, finesse and subtlety they are hard to beat. With a pedigree like this, it's no surprise that the wines have a fantastic ability to age. The great Juffer vineyard in Brauneberg, one of the few designated grand cru by edict of Napoleon in 1804, has everything to do with it, of course. Its characteristic subtle floral notes and tensile mineral strength are an excellent foil for the estate's style, but none of the several owners can quite match what Fritz Haag does there*. The estate owes its greatness to Wilhelm Haag, who started in the late 1950s, crafting beautiful wines from the Juffer, and its heart, the Juffer-Sonnenuhr, where vines are clustered on a dauntingly steep and rocky slope around the sundial. While his older son Thomas bought the defunct Schloss Lieser, turning it into one of the Mosel's great success stories, his younger son Oliver took over the family estate in 2005. We can speculate that competition between the two

has driven them both into the ranks of the very best winemakers in Germany. While Thomas' wines are about energy, precision and character, Oliver's wines have an understated subtlety that becomes increasingly apparent as the wines age.

Oliver is constantly improving his vineyard sites: in 2021 three-quarters of a hectare of lesser vineyards were sold off and exchanged for better ones. In recent years there has been more focus on dry wines. An afterthought in the past, they now command the best grapes from the best sites and can take their place amongst the finest trockens in Germany.

**with the honourable exception of Schloss Lieser, a chip off the old block*

2022 Vintage

The Juffer is a dry site, but fortunately it has many old vines, whose roots can dig deep for water. Nevertheless, Oliver carried out a severe programme of green harvesting to reduce the burden on the vines, with many healthy bunches landing on the ground. Yields are thus very small, but he has produced a crop of perfectly ripe, balanced wines. He compares them to 2020, but they are gentler and more elegant, without the pressure of ripeness of that year.

2022 Juffer GG [24 23] 12.5% abv

£126 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£150 | Case of 12 – 37.5cl

A juicy, poised wine, smooth and bright, with lively citrus fruit and a well defined stony slaty middle building in power to a long juicy finish.

Drink 2024 – 2035 for bottles

Drink 2024 – 2028 for halves

2022 Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr GG [08 23] 12.5% abv

£174 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£201 | Case of 3 – 150cl

The old vines in the heart of the vineyard around the sundial cope much better with dry spells, and the wine is correspondingly more relaxed, and quite lovely. There is something inevitable about its seamless balance, taking in fine floral and citrus fruit, delicate ripe acidity, and a juicy silky dark slate core driving to a long, very elegant finish. One of the most complete wines we tasted.

Drink 2027 – 2040 for bottles

Drink 2030 – 2045 for magnums

MOSEL

FRITZ HAAG | BRAUNEBERG (MIDDLE MOSEL)

2022 Kestener Paulinshofberg GG [27 23] 12.5% abv

£141 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The weathered slate of the Paulinshofberg gives a richer wine than the adjacent Juffer vineyard, but you can see the similarities: there is juicy ripe fruit and a slaty core, the same seductive balance, but a little more weight and power, and a long lean finish. Drink 2027 – 2032

SCHLOSS LIESER | LIESER



Thomas Haag

If you're looking for energy, precision and character, look no further than the wines of Thomas Haag. It doesn't hurt that they age supremely well, reflect their terroirs brilliantly, and are quite delicious.

Thomas Haag's career is one of the great success stories of the Mosel. His pedigree is impeccable, starting with learning at the feet of his father, Wilhelm Haag, who made Weingut Fritz Haag great. Since taking over Schloss Lieser in 1992 and buying it outright in 1997, he has grown the estate from 6.5 to 30 hectares, now owning an impressive range of plots from Brauneberg (Juffer and Juffer-Sonnenuhr) to Piesport (Goldtröpfchen and Falkenberg), including Lieser (Helden), Wehlen (Sonnenuhr – now 2.5ha) and Graach (Himmelreich and Domprobst) as well as harvesting a tiny parcel in Bernkastel (Doctor). With an estate this size it would be no surprise if the quality began to suffer, but through brilliant organisation and hard work Thomas and his gifted vineyard manager

Philipp Vesper have made better wines together every year, teasing out the best of each vineyard they acquire. To taste these wines is to see the complexity and character of each separate site in a new light. They are a joy, and they are, incidentally, some of the most reasonably priced of the Mosel's great estates.

2022 Vintage

2022 was the driest summer Thomas Haag has ever experienced. The drought slowed ripening significantly, and the rain and cool weather in September meant that the sugar levels stabilised and did not increase. The result is wines with a cool freshness and tenderness – Thomas was grateful that that there was not more ripeness as further sweetness would have overwhelmed their delicate structure. They are forward and balanced, with a seductive charm making them hard to resist.

2022 Schloss Lieser GG Collection

£270 | Case of 6 – 75cl

1 bottle each:

2022 Himmelreich GG

2022 Niederberg Helden GG

2022 Juffer-Sonnenuhr GG

2022 Wehlener Sonnenuhr GG

2022 Goldtröpfchen GG

2022 Doctor GG

2022 Goldtröpfchen GG [33 23] 12.5% abv

£174 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Not Tasted

2022 Himmelreich GG [29 23] 12.5% abv

£174 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Not Tasted

2022 Juffer GG [28 23] 12.5% abv

£159 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Not Tasted

MOSEL

SCHLOSS LIESER | LIESER (MIDDLE MOSEL)

2022 Niederberg Helden GG [30 23] 12.5% abv

£174 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Not Tasted

2022 Juffer-Sonnenuhr GG [31 23] 12.5% abv

£174 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Not Tasted

2022 Wehlener Sonnenuhr GG [32 23] 12.5% abv

£174 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Not Tasted

DANIEL VOLLENWEIDER | TRABEN-TRARBACH



Moritz Hoffmann and the late Daniel Vollenweider

We were grieved by the passing of winemaker Daniel Vollenweider last summer. His work is being carried on by his protégé Moritz Hoffmann, who joined him in 2019.

During our time working with Daniel, we have focussed on the heart of his estate, the Goldgrube. The vineyard is too rocky and steep to be the subject of Flurbereinigung, a process that sees fragmented parcels rationalised, roads built if necessary and vines replanted, all to make mechanisation easier. It runs south to west, and its grey and red slate soils produce deep, spicy wines that need time in bottle to show their full glory.

2021 Vintage

Daniel's last vintage. Daniel Vollenweider was a perfectionist, never really happy with his wines, and always feeling he could have done better. The challenging 2021 growing season gave him plenty to worry about, not least because he lost half his crop, but it's hard to imagine better wines from the Goldgrube. They are truly authentic, full of elegance, balance and transparency.

2021 Goldgrube [06 22] 12% abv

£150 | Case of 6 – 75cl

No 'Aurum' was made in 2021, so this is the estate's top wine. It deserves the title: the very old ungrafted vines give a superbly concentrated smooth texture, full of lean dark stony slate flavours, spice, bright citrus fruit and a long fine finish with a saline hit. Drink 2024 – 2035



Konstantin Weiser

Like their late friend Daniel Vollenweider, Konstantin Weiser and Alexandra Künstler are newcomers to the region, attracted by a love of Riesling. Starting from nothing in 2005, they began building a portfolio of formerly famous sites around Traben-Trarbach that were on the point of being abandoned: steep, inaccessible and uneconomic, as everything had to be done by hand. But the soils were superb, the vines old and ungrafted, and they began to produce a dazzling range of organic wines which have given them cult status. Their production, from 3.8 hectares, is tiny. They are not interested in a fruity style, favouring oxidative winemaking that brings out minerality, and the wines benefit from decanting well ahead when young.

2021 Vintage

It all looked great until flowering: then the cold rainy weather brought an onslaught of mildew on the freshly-emerged stamens just when the vines were at

their most vulnerable.

Organic growers, unable to use systemic fungicides, were hardest hit. Half the crop was lost. On the plus side, this meant that no green harvesting was necessary, since nature had already done enough for the remaining grapes to ripen in time for harvest. This ran through October, and has produced a set of brilliant, pointed wines with huge energy and precision, some of the most exciting in our portfolio.

2021 Gaispfad 'Grosse Eule' [11 22] 11% abv

£144 | Case of 6 - 75cl

The estate's top dry wine this year. Old ungrafted vines planted on steep slate soils – the vineyard name translates as 'goat's path' – produce an intense, lean very pure and vibrant wine, full of bright citrus fruit, dark slaty flavours, and a fine elongated finish.

HERMANN DÖNNHOFF | OBERHAUSEN



Cornelius & Helmut Dönnhoff

Under the direction of Helmut Dönnhoff since 1966, Weingut Hermann Dönnhoff has become the powerhouse of the Nahe, expanding from a modest 3.5 hectares in 1966 to over 30 today. Not only that, but it has grown into one of Germany's leading estates, producing a dazzling array of wines to suit all tastes, from dry to very sweet, and all marked by precision and energy. Over the last 10 years he has handed over control to his son Cornelius, who has continued an unbroken run of fine vintages.

2022 Vintage

10mm of rain in three months was hard for the vines, particularly young ones, and Cornelius felt obliged to irrigate some parcels. 40km of piping was laid from a spring next to the winery, saving many vines. The drought came to an end with gentle rain at the end of August, refreshing the vines and allowing them to suck water up into the grapes. Cool weather meant that the sugar levels remained

stubbornly low, but the Riesling harvest began in mid-September with perfectly healthy grapes. By mid-October, though, the acidity began to collapse, and all the remaining grapes left on the vines in the hope of producing Auslese were picked. The wines are slimmer, with lower alcohol and an appealing breezy freshness and charm, as true to their terroirs as ever.

2022 Dellchen GG [25 23] 13% abv

£312 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£336 | Case of 3 – 150cl

During refurbishment of the stone walls in the Dellchen, small underground streams were discovered, which explained why it doesn't suffer from drought in hot dry years. 2022 is a case in point: The wine has a relaxed freshness, the ripe citrus fruit – grapefruit and even a hint of mandarin are counterpointed by the typical ethereal stony minerality, and there is a hot dark stony finish.

Drink 2027 – 2040 for bottles

Drink 2030 – 2045 for magnums

2022 Hermannshöhle GG [26 23] 13% abv

£360 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£369 | Case of 3 – 150cl

The Hermannshöhle doesn't dance like the Dellchen – there is no playfulness here. Instead, it impresses with a quiet, gentle authority: it is big but never blousy, powerful but never overbearing, and always elegantly turned out. There is spicy citrus fruit, some juicy white peach, and an intense, fine salty minerality.

Drink 2027 – 2040 for bottles

Drink 2030 – 2045 for magnums

SCHÄFER-FRÖHLICH | BOCKENAU



Tim Fröhlich

From his 21 hectares, Tim Fröhlich produces uncompromisingly angular wines that display breathtaking energy, precision and finesse. He took over responsibility for making the wine in 1993, at the tender age of 19. Supported by his father, who looks after the vineyards, Tim has elevated the estate to one of the very best in Germany. His principal holdings are in Bockenau – the flagships Felseneck and Stromberg – but he also has vines in the geologically diverse communes of Monzingen, with the Halenberg and Frühlingsplätzchen vineyards, and Schloßböckelheim, with Kupfergrube and Felsenberg. These are reductive wines that can be drunk young, but the best take years to showcase the *terroir* of their vineyards.

A large cuverie is under construction and will be ready for the vintage in 2023. Expect great things!

2022 Vintage

Ten times a year, the Schäfer-Fröhlich vineyard workers hand-pluck leaves from inside the canopy to provide ventilation for the grape bunches, while leaving the leaves on the outside to shade them. Tim says, 'I don't like the phenols from grape skins exposed to the sun – they make the tannins too hard and woody.'

Yields were kept low in order not to stress the vines. Fortunately, a little rain fell in August, so even young vines didn't suffer unduly, followed by heavier precipitation in early September, allowing the vines to draw up mineral flavours from the soil. The estate was lucky that there was almost no rain during the harvest between 20 September and 14 October and was able to bring in a crop of perfectly healthy grapes. 'If we'd had more rain, sugar levels in the grapes would have increased, and we would have lost precision,' said Tim. He has made a batch of delicate, fine and pure wines, with lower alcohol levels and real charm. They are astonishingly accessible and have the balance to age superbly. Tim believes he has made his best vintage ever.

Whites**2022 Weissburgunder 'R'**

£96 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Fifty-year-old vines planted in the steepest plots of the Frühlingsplätzchen are a superb foil to the hard red slate soils. It is a dense, smoky wine, juicy and creamy, full of vibrant energy and power, with a long pure stony finish. Pinot Blanc like you've never seen it.

Drink 2022 – 2028

2022 Chardonnay 'R' [18 23] 13% abv

£240 | Case of 6 – 75cl

From a few rows of very old Chardonnay wines near Bad Kreuznach, which Tim rescued from being grubbed up. There is juicy forward citrus fruit, a pure rounded middle, and then a massive hit of lean, elegant stony flavours driving to a persistent salty finish. Drink 2024 – 2030

2022 Frühlingsplätzchen GG [21 23] 12.5% abv

£252 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The steepest, oldest parts of the vineyard give the most elegant Frühlingsplätzchen. Red slate can mean red fruit, and there is a hint of strawberry in this dark, smoky, slaty wine. It has a vibrant citrus energy, and is finely textured, silky and persistent. Drink 2027 – 2040

SCHÄFER-FRÖHLICH | BOCKENAU

2022 GG Mixed Case

£269 | Case of 6 – 75cl

One bottle each of

2022 Stromberg GG [23 23]

2022 Frühlingsplätzchen GG [21 23]

2022 Halenberg GG [22 23]

2022 Kupfergrube GG [19 23]

2022 Felsenberg GG [20 23]

2022 Felseneck GG [24 23]

2022 Halenberg GG [22 23] 12.5% abv

£270 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Fine weathered blue slate produces a taut wine of clarity and intensity. There is herbal fruit, pithy citrus, and a round elegance in the middle moving seamlessly to a cool dark stony finish. Drink 2027 – 2040

2022 Kupfergrube GG [19 23] 12.5% abv

£270 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Kupfergrube – on the site of an old copper mine – is a narrow strip of vineyard between the river and a steep volcanic cliff and has correspondingly little airflow. The rocks reflect and store heat, and the grapes take on riper flavours even when they have the same must weight as those in other vineyards. In warm years Tim harvests early to preserve freshness and this year he chose the picking date just right. You sense the richness of the vintage and the warmth of the vineyard, but the wine is full of cool, herbal smoke and flint flavours, juicy, elegant and precise, with an almost ethereal minerality – stony, salty and astonishingly pure. Drink 2027 – 2040

2022 Felsenberg GG [20 23] 12.5% abv

£252 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The Felsenberg gets more sun than the Kupfergrube, but has fewer rocks around it, and is a cooler site as a result, so picking in good time to avoid overripeness is crucial. Tim has got it right again this year: it is a rich spicy wine, generous and juicy, with a pronounced smoky flint character and a long fresh stony saline finish. Drink 2027 – 2040

2022 Felseneck GG [24 23] 12.5% abv

£300 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£321 | Case of 3 – 1505cl

The estate's flagship, from a large holding in the steep slate soils of Bockenau's best vineyard. It is tightly structured and very intense, but effortlessly elegant too, with smooth spicy flint flavours, lean lemony fruit and a long dark almost tender stony saline finish.

Drink 2030 – 2045 for bottles

Drink 2032 – 2050 for magnums

Reds

2019 Spätburgunder 'R' 13.5% abv

£216 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Made entirely from free run juice, the wine is full of raspberry fruit and smoky earthy flavours, which mingle with spice and stony mineral notes on the long, pure finish. Drink 2024 – 2032



Family Kühn

Peter-Jakob Kühn started in 1979, the eleventh generation of his family to assume responsibility. This is one of the few estates in Germany to use biodynamic methods, and he and his family do it with awe-inspiring passion and thoroughness. The conversion was gradual and started at home: unhealthy food was banned – no white sugar, white flour or processed foods of any kind. They realised that the chemical industry was encouraging an unhealthy dependence in farmers on its products, side-lining nature in the process. So they abandoned herbicides and insecticides, anti-fungal sprays, and cultured yeasts; in 2001 they took the plunge and became biodynamically certified. They are now one of Germany's leading growers.

The estate comprises 21 hectares on prime sites in and around Oestrich, with 90% given over to Riesling. The wines are now made by Peter-Bernhard and his wife Viktoria, who have refined the biodynamic methods pioneered by his parents.

We are offering the dry wines of 2021.

2021 Vintage

The cool conditions of 2021 came as a relief from the three preceding hot vintages, but this year's challenge was to accelerate ripening rather than decelerate it, so all vineyard work was devoted to this goal. There was extensive debudding in early May to limit the number of shoots and thus ensure an airy canopy; there was also a rigorous green harvest that left only the ripest bunches hanging for the main event. The pressure of disease threatened throughout, and great vigilance was required to combat it, a task all the more difficult when only biodynamic treatments could be used. By harvest time, the crop had been reduced by a good third, resulting in the estate's smallest harvest ever. But the wines are delightful – intensely aromatic, transparent and bursting with energy.

2021 Sankt Nikolaus GG [07 22] 12% abv

£258 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Sankt Nikolaus's proximity to the Rhine makes it a little warmer, and the vineyard excels in cooler years. In 2021 it is perfectly charming, showing delicate pure citrus fruit with a hint of pith. The minerality takes a while to appear, and when it does, it starts gently, with a hint of fine stone, building gradually but always elegantly to a quiet, deep crescendo. It's quite a journey, and pure pleasure! Drink 2024 – 2035

2021 Doosberg GG [08 22] 12% abv

£258 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A big, rich wine, packed with energy. There are fresh green herb and juicy citrus flavours, a slightly earthy stony minerality and a long fine tapering saline finish. Drink 2024 – 2035

BATTENFELD-SPANIER | HOHEN-SÜLZEN KÜHLING-GILLOT | BODENHEIM



Carolin Gillot and Oliver Spanier

When Oliver Spanier of Battenfeld-Spanier married Carolin Gillot of Kühling-Gillot in 2016, it brought together two of Rheinhessen's leading estates, and created its most glamorous couple. The wines are marketed separately, but he is the winemaker for both.

Kühling-Gillot's prime holdings are on the Roter Hang (red slope), an iron-rich strip between Nierstein and Nackenheim along the Rhine, which includes the vineyards of Hipping, Pettenthal, Ölberg, Rothenberg, and Orbel. There are further vineyards in Oppenheim and Bodenheim.

Battenfeld-Spanier lies in the southernmost part of Rheinhessen, and the vines are grown on limestone, which gives them a lifted, citrus character. The estate converted to organic viticulture in 1992, and biodynamic in 1995. Both of them

BIODYNAMIC

are now farmed biodynamically. If Prüm made wines in Rheinhessen, this is what they would be like: beautifully pure, restrained, and with the promise of a long life.

In late 2019 Battenfeld-Spanier was given the coveted 5-grape-cluster award by the Gault-Millau guide, while Kühling-Gillot was promoted to 4-grape cluster. They are now amongst the most highly regarded producers in Germany, a fantastic achievement.

2022 Vintage

'It wasn't a hot vintage, it was a dry one,' remarked Carolin Spanier. As is becoming common in recent years, Nierstein was particularly affected. Inspired by Israeli winemakers, the Spaniers pioneered laying down straw mats to prevent evaporation from the soil, and this year for the first time they did it twice, in February and June. Nonetheless, the vines suffered from drought, and shut down; the sugars never caught up. The real difficulty was during fermentation, when a lack of potassium caused some tanks to falter, finishing four weeks later than usual. But the wines are lovely: pure and delicate with slightly lower alcohol levels and a cool vintage character.

2022 Frauenberg GG [54 23], Battenfeld-Spanier 12.5% abv

£330 | Case of 6 – 75cl

You sense the warmth of the year in the background, but this is classic Frauenberg: lean, lemony and pure, very juicy, pithy and fine, with a long stony salty finish. Drink 2027 – 2040

2022 Ölberg GG [58 23], Kühling-Gillot 12.5% abv

£240 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A smooth, rounded wine, full of citrus and spice, with a gentle earthy minerality, some peach flavours, and a fresh salty finish. Drink 2024 – 2032

2022 Pettenthal GG [60 23], Kühling-Gillot 12.5% abv

£330 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Juicy, fine and complete. There is elegance, purity, a clearly defined spicy dark mineral core, ethereal fresh juicy fruit, and a super smooth persistent saline finish. Wine is meant to shared, but you may be tempted to keep this all for yourself. Drink 2027 – 2035

2022 Hipping GG [56 23], Kühling-Gillot 12.5% abv

£285 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A much louder wine, showing what it has from the outset. And it offers a lot: pronounced sweet grapefruit and lemon flavours, ripe acidity and a dense, earthy stony minerality building to a juicy dark finish. Drink 2027 – 2035



Knewitz Family

Rheinhessen is a land of rolling hills, so the long, very even slope facing due south seems out of the ordinary. Which it is: forty million years ago, it was a coral reef in a prehistoric sea. It is almost pure limestone, and this makes the Knewitz wines particularly rich and taut.

Tobias Knewitz took over the twenty-five-hectare estate from his father in 2009, and together with his brother produces superbly crafted Rieslings and excellent Chardonnays, the latter well suited to the limestone soils.

Big news here: in 2021 the estate was invited to join the VDP, and from now on will be able to release their best dry wines as GGs.

2021 Vintage

The Knewitzes coped well with the drought. 'Our grapes are small, they are

marathon runners and in balance, and able to cope with the difficult conditions,' said Tobias of 2021, and it applies equally to the 2022 vintage. Intensive green harvesting reduced vine stress, even in older parcels, and some young ones were denuded of grapes altogether to allow them to survive. Tobias welcomed the rain – it refreshed the grapes and set the aromas free. He even tolerated it during the harvest, as it rounded out the phenolic structure, and there was never so much that the berries split. The challenge was to preserve vitality. He needn't have worried: the wines are forward and bright, but they have elegance and balance, and more than enough stuffing to give pleasure for many years to come.

2021 Chardonnay [08 23] 13% abv

£99 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A lively, rich and round wine, full of bright lemony acidity, a creamy middle and a fresh finish. The new wood – around 30% – is nicely integrated. Drink 2022 – 2028

2021 Chardonnay Réserve [19 23] 13% abv

£198 | Case of 6 – 75cl

From the 1G sites Goldberg and Honigberg, this is classic limestone Chardonnay – lean, and pure with smoky, spicy notes and a delightfully vibrant citrus character. Toward the finish, the richness of the vintage appears but, buoyed by the fresh acidity, it is never heavy. There is more new wood here – around 40% – but it is effortlessly digested. Drink 2024 – 2028

2022 Gau-Algersheim Goldberg 1G [16 23] 13% abv

£144 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Goldberg is the estate's warmest site, but you wouldn't know it: the clay and limestone soils keep the wine fresh and juicy even in warm years. The only hint of the heat is a little softness in the middle. There is a slender elegance, intense yellow fruit and a dark very stony finish. Drink 2025 – 2035

2022 Hundertguldern GG [22 23] 13% abv

£213 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A taut, linear wine with a core of melting fruit – pear and yellow plum framed by bright citrus flavours and a densely woven fine stony minerality. The acidity is brisk, lending a racy energy, and the finish is pure, long and a little creamy. Drink 2027 – 2040

KNEWITZ | APPENHEIM

2022 Honigberg IG [20 23] 13% abv

£189 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Lying directly between Hundertgulden and Steinacker, the fact that Honigberg is not a GG must be an oversight, one that will hopefully be rectified soon because this has all the intensity and complexity of its neighbours. The soil is a little redder here, the citrus fruit and spicy notes are joined by softer strawberry and redcurrant flavours, and there is a gentle elegant stony finish. A wine of great charm. Drink 2025 – 2035

2022 Steinacker GG [21 23] 13% abv

£213 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A very stony nose presages austerity, but it's misleading: on the palate there is generous juicy citrus fruit with herbal flavours, and an ethereal salty minerality driving to a long, very fine and balanced finish. Drink 2027 – 2040



Daniel Wagner

Rheinhessen is known primarily for two famous growing regions: the red slate soils overlooking the Rhine to the east (Roter Hang), and the limestone hills around Westhofen and Appenheim in the south. The volcanic soils further west are often overlooked, but there are some great vineyards here, particularly the Heerkretz, much of it owned by Wagner-Stempel, which has risen to be one of the region's top estates in the last twenty years. The family has run the estate since 1845, producing bulk wine, but it wasn't until Daniel Wagner took over in the early 1990s that it rose to prominence. After a stint in California, Daniel snapped up parcels of prime volcanic vineyard around his home village of Siefersheim, and began producing acclaimed wines.

The estate's two top sites are the Heerkretz and the Höllberg. The Heerkretz was a largely abandoned vineyard until Daniel recognised its potential, and it now produces world class wines. Grapes from the best patch, the more recently

acquired EMT parcel, go into the acclaimed auction wine. The Höllberg is a warmer, drier site, and gives wines with a fuller body.

Today, Daniel runs the estate alongside his wife and his right-hand man Oliver Müller.

2022 Vintage

July is normally the wettest month in Western Rheinhessen, but 2022 saw just 8mm of rain, followed by 1mm in August. The vines shut down, and only resumed photosynthesis when the rain returned with a vengeance in September, with 100mm in 30 minutes in some areas, but fortunately not in the Wagner-Stempel vineyards! While the acidity ripened, the sugars never properly caught up, so the wines are lighter and less dense, more akin to a cool vintage rather than a sunny one. They are flowing, forward and very charming.

2022 Höllberg Riesling GG [16 23] 12.5% abv

£144 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The Höllberg has the same volcanic soil composition as the Heerkretz, but a warmer microclimate and a less reliable water supply. It is richer and more powerful, riper and more fruit-driven, but there is also a pronounced juicy stony minerality to give balance and freshness. Drink 2024 – 2035

2022 Heerkretz Riesling GG [17 23] 12.5% abv

£180 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A slim, dark, salty wine which blossoms into something fine, graceful and seductive, with generous yellow fruit, flavours of plum cake and spice, cool herbal notes, ripe smooth acidity and a long fresh juicy finish. On a side note, I recently attended a twenty vintage vertical going back to 2002. The consistency was remarkable: though each wine showed the character of the vintage, every year the terroir shone through: even the oldest vintages were fresh, pure and elegant. It is a great vineyard. Drink 2025 – 2040

WITTMANN | WESTHOFEN



Philipp Wittmann

Wittmann is based in Westhofen, the heart of southern Rheinhessen, surrounded by some of the region's best vineyards. The Wittmans are not exactly newcomers to the area, having made wine here since 1663, and perhaps this gives them a sense of responsibility for the soils in their vineyards: they were pioneers in adopting organic methods in 1990.

A conversion to biodynamic viticulture followed in 2004, and Philipp Wittmann reports that his wines now have more character and depth. The estate makes wine from a number of varieties, but predominantly Riesling. Most holdings are in Westhofen, but like their colleague Klaus-Peter Keller, they also have vineyards in Nierstein.

2022 Vintage

'Old vines were the key in 2022,' said Philipp Wittmann. 'Our younger vines

BIODYNAMIC

struggled, and we destressed them with green harvesting and even irrigated them a little in particularly dry sites.' When the rain came in early September, the Riesling harvest had not yet begun, so the estate used the time needed for the vines to absorb the water to pre-harvest GG sites and pick the fruit from some of the younger vines. By 30th September, all the grapes had been brought in. The late rain had provided welcome relief and freshened the vines, and the estate has produced a crop of balanced, elegant wines with perfect ripeness and intensity. The bad news is that yields are down by 25% in comparison to the (already small) 2021 vintage.

2022 GG Mixed Case – 6-bottle case

£254 | Case of 6 – 75cl

2 bottles each of Aulerde and Kirchspiel, 1 bottle of Brunnenhäuschen and Morstein.

2022 Aulerde GG [16 23] 13% abv

£204 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£225 | Case of 3 – 150cl

Old vines give concentration, but this charming wine is carried primarily by its forward fruit – juicy grapefruit, lemon, and fresh herbal notes than by its minerality, which peeks through at the end in the form of gentle stoniness.

Drink 2026 – 2038 for bottles

Drink 2030 – 2040 for magnums

2022 Kirchspiel GG [17 23] 12.5% abv

£252 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£264 | Case of 3 – 150cl

A densely textured, firmer wine than the Aulerde. There is smooth elegant lemony fruit from start to finish, and finely structured stony minerality darkening towards the long saline finish.

Drink 2030 – 2042 for bottles

Drink 2032 – 2045 for magnums

2022 Morstein GG [19 23] 13% abv

£312 | Case of 6 – 75cl

£324 | Case of 3 – 150cl

The coolest vineyard in the line-up, with clay soils on a rocky limestone base, consistently produces not only the estate's most powerful wine, but also by a long stretch its finest. It is silky, tender and pure, full of generous yellow citrus fruit tautened by a cool smooth stony base. Despite its density, it appears airy and bright; for all its power, it has effortless elegance. Morstein is the greatest limestone vineyard in Rheinhessen, and in the hands of a master, it shows.

Drink 2030 – 2045 for bottles

Drink 2034 – 2050 for magnums

F.E. HUFF | SCHWABSBURG



Huff Family

Schwabsburg lies a little inland from the Rhine, just behind Nierstein. The Huff family has been farming here since 1700, vines always part of the mix. Ekkehard Huff transitioned to making wines exclusively with five hectares in the 1980s. After studies in Geisenheim and stints at Keller in nearby Dalsheim and Aldinger in Württemberg, his daughter Christine joined in 2010. Very much part of the young 'golden generation' of winemakers, she and her husband Jeremy, originally from New Zealand, are producing a range of very exciting wines from their now ten-hectare estate, including sites in the great Roter Hang (red slope) of Orbel, Pettenthal and Schloss Schwabsburg. Schwabsburg is an underrated commune, in the shadow of its glamorous neighbour, but it possesses great vineyards, and the wines are extremely good value.

2022 Vintage

In the last few years, the Huffs have noticed their vines adapting to drier

conditions, slowing growth and producing fewer leaves when drought threatens. So the extreme conditions of 2022 could have been far worse. Nonetheless, the vines – especially young ones – suffered. The Huffs too have adapted, focussing on shading their bunches, and resorting to irrigating some young vines in particularly stony plots. They decided to harvest early, to preserve freshness in the grapes, and were pleasantly surprised when it rained. Although rain during harvest is not exactly an ideal scenario, it provided much needed refreshment to the vines, and as temperatures dropped, and there was no danger of rot, they could afford to leave the vines to absorb the water and wait for perfect ripeness before picking. The harvest finished after five weeks on 7 October, and the Huffs were very pleased with the result: the grapes were healthy and aromatic, producing elegant, well-balanced wines.

2022 Orbel [07 23] 12% abv

£96 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A cool, fresh and very elegant wine, showing soft reddish and pear fruit and a lovely fine mineral core. Gradually the fruit thickens, and there is a touch of earth on melting, dark and salty finish. Drink 2025 – 2035

2022 Pettenthal [15 23] 12.5% abv

£120 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Pettenthal benefited from a little more rain in the summer, and the grapes were able to ripen more rapidly. As a result, it is denser and rounder than the other whites in the Huff stable. There is cool fresh stone fruit, with floral and herbal notes, a juicy salty middle and a long powerful finish. Drink 2026 – 2037

2022 Nierstein Schloss Schwabsburg 'Rabenturm' [19 23] 12% abv

£120 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A cooler site gives a very fresh perfumed wine with cool juicy stone fruit, lifted by a pure, almost ethereal stony minerality, bright lemony acidity and a persistent clear dark smooth finish. Drink 2026 – 2037



Eva and Matthias Seyler

The Dengler-Seyler estate in the southern Pfalz is a superb resource for beautifully made wines at very reasonable prices. There is talk of promotion to the prestigious VDP, which would be well deserved. Since last year, the Seylers are now officially certified organic and have greatly reduced their use of sulphur as a result.

Matthias Seyler had a background in business, but he married into a wine estate, so he retrained and now he runs it together with his wife. Maikammer is one of the principal wine-growing villages in the Southern Pfalz, with a history of viticulture dating back to Roman times. At Dengler-Seyler, a wide variety of soils allows many different varietals to be grown successfully, and there is minimal intervention in the cellar to allow the terroirs to shine through. The estate's prime site is the Heiligenberg: its top wines will be released in the autumn.

2022 Vintage

After explosive vegetative growth and perfect flowering in spring, ripening slowed in the summer as the drought took hold. To ensure ripe grapes at the end of the season, Matthias Seyler kept potential yields low with an aggressive green harvesting regime, so come September perfect maturity was achieved. Contrary to his usual practice, he allowed less skin contact to preserve acidity, and has produced a range of perfectly balanced wines.

2022 Im Obern Weinspar [22 23] 12.5% abv

£96 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The well drained limestone-gravel soil prevents grapes from ripening too quickly, and the constant breeze in the vineyards keeps the wines fresh. Sweet, perfumed floral notes are joined by vibrant citrus and a cooling stony minerality, leading to a fresh saline finish.

Drink 2024 – 2030

2022 Am Heiligen Berg [21 23] 12.5% abv

£96 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Heavier soils have given a broad, rich wine. There is so much sweet floral and tropical fruit that the salty mineral flavours barely get a look in, and will need time to emerge. The finish is spicy, fine and juicy, and promises a long life ahead. Drink 2024 – 2030

WEINGUT JÜLG | SCHWEIGEN-RECHTENBACH



Johannes Jülg

Recently invited to join the prestigious VDP, Johannes Jülg has taken his place as a producer of some of Germany's finest Pinot Noir.

Weingut Jülg is a stone's throw from the French border, and half its vineyards are in Alsace. A further French connection is Johannes's spell under Thierry Brouin at Domaine des Lambrays, which taught him to focus on complexity and elegance rather than obvious primary fruit. He also spent seven years working at top German estates, including Weingut Keller, before returning home in 2011, to take the reins of the twenty-hectare family estate from his father.

His primary focus has been to improve the vineyard with new French clones and denser planting, and the resulting wines have become finer and more balanced, with impressive Riesling and superb Pinot Noir. Johannes is gradually expanding his Pinot Noir holdings – seizing any opportunity when choice vineyards become

ORGANIC

available, and replanting with Burgundy clones as he does so. The estate now has 25 hectares under vine, and work has begun on a new cuverie, which will be ready for the harvest in 2024. In 2021 the estate converted to organic practice.

2021 Vintage

2021 was Johannes Jülg's first year as an organic grower, and it turned out to be a baptism of fire. The year started promisingly, but June and July were wet and cold, with poor flowering and constant disease pressure in the form of downy mildew and the threat of Suzuki fly. But Johannes is one of the most determined and well organised growers in our portfolio, and through sheer hard work, he and his team rose to the challenge, working late into the night, and pushing them to their limits. Fortunately, August and September were fine, the fruit ripened evenly and harvesting began on 20 September, later than usual these days. The grapes were destemmed completely, as the stems were not ripe enough to go into the vats. The wines were left in cask longer than usual, so that they could gain structure, and less new oak was used – around 25% – so as not to overwhelm them. The wines are delicate, finely fruited and extraordinarily elegant: they have extract, ripeness, concentration, and purity. In Johannes's view this will be a great, age worthy year. Sadly, yields are down over 50%.

2022 Vintage

2022 was dry and hot, but rain fell at just the right times, and the crop, while still small has produced an outstanding set of wines: balanced, fresh and perfectly ripe.

WEINGUT JÜLG | SCHWEIGEN-RECHTENBACH

Whites

2022 Schweigen Chardonnay [16 23] 12.5%

£102 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A fresh, bright wine with cool floral citrus fruit, delicate creaminess and an energetic structured finish. Drink 2024 – 2028

2022 Chardonnay Pfarrwingert 1G [22 23] 12.5% abv

£150 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Meursault clones from a famous grower (begins with C) were planted in this vineyard. It has depth and roundness, but the fruit is racy, lean and citrus-driven, with delicate floral overtones, and there is a long fresh fine stony finish. Drink 2024 – 2029

2022 Chardonnay 'Opus Oskar' [29 23] 13% abv

£324 | Case of 6 – 75cl

From older vines in the Wormberg. An intense, profound wine with silky, creamy citrus fruit, bright acidity and a powerful very finely textured stony salty minerality driving to a very long finish. Can take its place amongst the world's great Chardonnays. Drink 2026 – 2034

Reds

2021 Spätburgunder vom Kalk [12 23] 13% abv

£69 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Well! Normally a regional wine like this would merit a couple of lines in my notebook before getting on the serious stuff, but this year there is a long stream of breathless wonder: 'so pure, so delicate, lovely fresh red fruit, floral, perfectly balanced, and is that a hint of smoke?...dark fine tannins, smooth, drive and roundness without the pressure of ripeness, so long!' You get the idea. Drink 2024 – 2029

2021 Schweigen Spätburgunder [19 23] 13% abv

£117 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A more intense, complex version of the basic Spätburgunder, showing very floral ripe red cherry fruit with a hint of iodine and a rich, Gevrey-like bloodiness. There is a soft, elegant charm to it, rich fine tannins and a long, silky finish. Drink 2024 – 2030

2021 Spätburgunder Sonnenberg Wormberg 1G [24 23] 13% abv

£174 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Johannes considers this to be his signature wine. It has spectacular energy and drive, with compact raspberry and red cherry fruit, bright acidity and juicy integrated tannins. There is richness, courtesy of the warm summer, and then a pure lean stony salty minerality giving elegance and structure, carrying the wine to a long finish. Drink 2025 – 2032

2021 Spätburgunder Sonnenberg Kammerberg GG [28 23] 13% abv

£288 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Pure, sweet juicy crushed raspberry and strawberry are underpinned by racy fresh acidity in this dense, finely woven wine, and the new oak has been dialled back to about 20% to give it full expression. Everything is perfectly judged – the fruit is ripe, the tannins have just the right amount of extraction to balance it, and there is a long lean fresh salty finish. Drink 2025 – 2035

2021 Spätburgunder Sonnenberg Kostert GG [27 23] 13% abv

£258 | Case of 6 – 75cl

More clay in the soil gives a smoother, denser wine. The tannins are a little firmer than the Kammerberg, but the fruit is correspondingly richer, with a hint of blackcurrant behind the fresh red berries, and a hint of chocolate too. It is silky, pure and seductive, with an animating energy driving it to a long stony finish. Quite brilliant! Drink 2025 – 2035

GEORG MOSBACHER | FORST

ORGANIC



Sabine and Jürgen Mosbacher-Düringer

Sabine Mosbacher and Jürgen Düringer are based in the heart of the best area of the Pfalz, and the estate now comprises 21 hectares. Their wines are never showy, never rich nor heavy, but excel through finesse and elegance. They have now converted fully to organic viticulture, and all harvesting is done by hand.

2022 Vintage

After a promising start, drought took its toll over the dry summer months, a particular challenge for the sandy soils in some of the vineyards here. Some vines shut down, but yields are always kept low, and the grapes were ripe enough for picking to start in early September. Torrential rain on the 6th – 60mm in an hour in some vineyards – gave pause, but after a short period to allow absorption of the moisture, the harvest began again, finishing towards the end of September with the GGs, which benefited from an extra three weeks of ripening. They were lucky: just after they had finished, rain began again, and didn't stop. The wines

are gentle and understated as always, with pitch-perfect ripeness and balance. It is a charming forward vintage.

2022 Mosbacher GG Case

£154 | Case of 6 – 75cl

1 bottle of each GG: 2022 Kieselberg GG, 2022 Pechstein GG, 2022 Freundstück GG, 2022 Ungeheuer GG, 2022 Jesuitengarten GG, 2022 Langenmorgen GG

2022 Kieselberg GG [41 23] 12% abv

£144 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Bright and fresh, this appealing lemony wine's energetic dancing fruit is grounded by a smooth fine juicy dark minerality, finishing on a gentle saline note. Drink 2026 – 2035

2022 Pechstein GG [43 23] 12.5% abv

£156 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Tasted in a line up of six Pechsteins from the Pfalz's most famous estates, this emerged as the most relaxed and balanced, the fruit perfectly ripe – yellow orchard, some herbal flavours, and a smoky smooth fine pithy minerality. Drink 2026 – 2035

2022 Freundstück GG [42 23] 12.5% abv

£150 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A smooth, rich and elegant wine, full of dense ripe yellow fruit and some mandarin pith. It is juicy and fine, and has a long stony finish. Drink 2026 – 2035

2022 Ungeheuer GG [44 23] 12.5% abv

£150 | Case of 6 – 75cl

At first sight the Ungeheuer is a little strict this year. The densely woven ripe fruit is tightened by bright acidity and a long, dark stony character, but it relaxes in the glass, gradually putting on weight, and after a few minutes it shows its true colours – fine, smooth and poised.

Drink 2026 – 2035

2022 Jesuitengarten GG [45 23] 12.5% abv

£168 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A spicy, poised, ethereal wine, lean and angular, with intense bright lemony fruit and orange peel, broadening towards the fine stony finish, with a faint creamy note courtesy of some new wood. Drink 2026 – 2035

2022 Langenmorgen GG [46 23] 13% abv

£156 | Case of 6 – 75cl

There is fresh yellow fruit with a herbal note in this powerful deep wine, a bright lemony acidity carrying the rich earthy minerality through to a persistent fine stony finish.

Drink 2026 – 2035



Steffen and Andi Rings

Rings has an unusual story. Situated in the Pfalz's most famous winemaking area, the Mittelhardt, it was a mixed farm until 2000, producing a little wine that was sold off in bulk. That year Steffen Rings took over the estate and decided to focus entirely on wine. An ambitious growth plan was hatched, the goal to net the best vineyards in the area. Over twenty years later, the estate comprises almost forty hectares, including a fabulous range of grand cru sites. Along the way, Steffen was joined by his brother Andi, fresh from a stint at Wagner-Stempel in Rheinhessen, and by their sister Simone.

The estate is divided equally between white and red, mostly Riesling and Pinot Noir. A vast new carbon-neutral cuverie built into the hillside has enabled the brothers to work extremely precisely with their large volumes. The Pinot Noirs are made from mostly Burgundian clones planted in 2005.

The brothers are obsessed with terroir, and make uncompromising, very dry wines of astonishing transparency and purity. They have been farming organically since 2012 and were invited to join the prestigious VDP in 2015.

2022 Vintage

'2022 was like 2020, but drier,' said Andy Rings. 'It was hard for us because it didn't rain in Freinsheim until late September, by which time we had harvested most of our crop. Anything harvested after that we sold off in bulk, as we were not happy with the dilution.' There was intense work in the vineyards throughout the growing season to mitigate drought – a low canopy and straw on the ground kept moisture levels up, and green harvesting ensured low yields so vines were not unduly stressed. There was no irrigation – 'that's just done to get yields up,' he maintains 'and the vines get lazy. We want them to send roots down deep.' You may be picking up that this is not a man who compromises on quality, and he produced a set of fantastically pure, elegant set of wines with no residual sugar at all. They will be bottled over the summer after a long time on the lees.

2021 Vintage

Like everywhere else in Northern Europe in 2021, the crop is much smaller than usual. Flowering was troubled, with much millerandage (poor fertilisation, resulting in small, seedless berries), and during June and July, cool wet conditions meant disease pressure and attacks by Suzuki fly. Thankfully, a fine autumn allowed the vines to catch up, yielding ripe grapes with good freshness and acidity. The harvest was delayed as long as possible to ensure ripe tannins, and rigorous grape selection the rule, once in the vineyard and twice at the winery. Like his colleague Johannes Jülg, Andreas Rings destemmed completely, as he judged the stems not ripe enough to add to the fermentation vats. The acquisition of a basket press allowed a more tender extraction, vital to preserve the delicate fruit. As with so many 2021s across Northern Europe, these are pure, vibrant wines, long, smooth and terroir-driven.

RINGS | KALLSTADT

Whites

2022 Weilberg GG [31 23] 12.5% abv

£234 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Wines from two different soil types – sandstone and iron-rich limestone, are vinified separately before blending after maturation. There is lean citrus from the limestone, and ripe orchard fruit from the sandstone – a wonderful marriage, elegant and balanced, with power on the long finish. Drink 2027 – 2039

2022 Saumagen GG [29 23] 13% abv

£276 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Andreas Rings timed the picking date just right here: the acidity is present but ripe, and the fruit character avoids both the harsh appley tones of an early harvest as well as the lush opulence of over ripeness. It is perfectly in balance, relaxed and self-assured, showing spicy lemony fruit, a gentle stony minerality, and a long juicy finish. One of the most 'complete' Rieslings we tried this year. Drink 2028 – 2042

2022 Kreid [30 23] 13% abv

£408 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The poor limestone soils of the upper part of Saumagen are not a GG site but produce the estate's best wine. It is not made every year, and even then, only in tiny quantities, in honour of Rings père, who died in 2019. The smallest, ripest berries are fermented separately, giving an exciting wine: super smooth, silky, angular and pure, with an ethereal stony citrus core, and a very long salty finish. Drink 2028 – 2042

Reds

2021 Spätburgunder [17 23] 13% abv

£90 | Case of 6 – 75cl

A fresh, elegant wine, full of juicy raspberry and blackcurrant fruit – the latter courtesy, in Andreas Rings's opinion, of young vines. It is pure and fine, and finishes long for a wine at this level. Drink 2024 – 2028

2021 Kallstadt Spätburgunder 'vom Kalk' [18 23] 13% abv

£156 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Young vines from GG sites give a smooth, finely woven wine. It is transparent and pure, and there is a gentle energy to the sweet juicy raspberry fruit, perfectly balanced by silky tannins and the long dark stony finish. Drink 2024 – 2029

2021 Kallstadter Steinacker Spätburgunder 1G [197 23] 13% abv

£252 | Case of 6 – 75cl

The estate's driest site, not a problem in 2021, when there was a plentiful supply of rain. More problematic was an attack of Suzuki fly, which necessitated especially rigorous selection during the harvest usual, leading to very small yields indeed – less than 1000 bottles from 1.7 hectares (just under 6 hectolitres per hectare). But it sure is a lovely wine! Compact crushed raspberry, blackcurrant and spice flavours are framed by dense, very fine tannins and a long black finish. Although very dense, it is never heavy, and a vibrant energy keeps it flowing smoothly. Drink 2025 – 2030

2021 Saumagen Spätburgunder GG [21 23] 13% abv

£408 | Case of 6 – 75cl

More marl in the soil than in the Felsenberg lends a greater richness of fruit to this seductive, juicy wine, which has a breathtaking purity. The tannins have a touch more power, but without sacrificing elegance – indeed they are positively silky, and the dark lean stony core drives it to a long finish. Drink 2025 – 2032

2021 Felsenberg Spätburgunder GG [22 23] 13% abv

£540 | Case of 6 – 75cl

Vines planted at a very high density – 20,000 per hectare on iron-rich limestone soils produced an even smaller yield than the 10 hectolitres per hectare harvested last year. We get a smooth, velvety wine with lovely energy and an appealing lightness and elegance. It is bright and juicy: the plentiful pure blackcurrant fruit is balanced by very fine tannins, a little bloodiness, and a long linear dark stony finish. Drink 2025 – 2032

MIXED CASES

Every year, we have had requests for En Primeur mixed cases of German wines, so this year we have put together four cases for those who are new to German Pinot Noir and Chardonnay or those wanting to explore a broad range of styles.

Both Pinot and Chardonnay from Germany have been steadily increasing in quality, and we find more exciting examples every year. These cases represent some of the best and most interesting wines we are releasing this year. If you want to dip your toes in, you have come to the right place.

There are a limited number of each case, so please let us know your requests as soon as possible.

Introduction to German Chardonnay

£96 | Case of 6 – 75cl

2022 Schnait Chardonnay [36 23], Weingut Aldinger
2021 Sonnenberg Chardonnay, Weingut Dautel
2022 Schweigen Chardonnay [16 23], Weingut Jülg
2022 Chardonnay N (LO7/23), Weingut Holger Koch*
2022 Oberrotweil Chardonnay [09 23], Weingut Peter Wagner
2021 Chardonnay [08 23], Weingut Knewitz

Top German Chardonnay

£258 | Case of 6 – 75cl

2021 Gips Chardonnay 1G [12 23], Weingut Aldinger
2021 Chardonnay Niedernberg 'S' [19 23], Weingut Dautel
2022 Chardonnay Pfarrwingert 1.Lage [22 23], Weingut Jülg
2022 Chardonnay Reserve [LO8/23], Weingut Holger Koch
2022 Chardonnay 'R' [18 23], Weingut Schäfer-Fröhlich
2020 Jaspis 'Nägelin' Chardonnay, Weingut Zierysen

Introduction to German Pinot Noir

£72 | Case of 6 – 75cl

2022 Spätburgunder [42 23], Weingut Aldinger
2019 Ihringen Spätburgunder [27 22], Weingut Dr. Heger
2021 Spätburgunder vom Kalk [12 23], Weingut Jülg
2021 Spätburgunder [17 23], Weingut Rings
2021 Spätburgunder [02 23], Shelter Winery
2021 Spätburgunder vom Löss [05 23], Weingut Peter Wagner

Top German Pinot Noir

£264 | Case of 6 – 75cl

2021 Lämmle 'Kaiser' Spätburgunder GG [31 23], Weingut Aldinger
2019 Winklerberg Wanne 'Häusleboden' Spätburgunder GG, Weingut Dr. Heger
2021 Spätburgunder Sonnenberg Kostert GG [27 23], Weingut Jülg
2021 Pinot Noir Reserve [LO7/22], Weingut Holger Koch
2020 Henkenberg Spätburgunder [08 22], Weingut Peter Wagner
2018 Jaspis 'Bürkin' Pinot Noir, Weingut Zierysen