

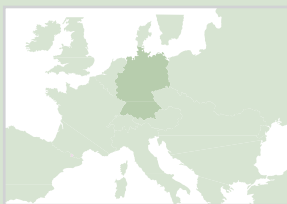
# Germany

More heavily-shaded areas are the wine-growing regions



The following abbreviations of regional names are used in the text:

<b>Bad</b>	Baden
<b>Frank</b>	Franken
<b>M-M</b>	Mittelmosel
<b>M-S-R</b>	Mosel-Saar-Ruwer
<b>Na</b>	Nahe
<b>Pfz</b>	Pfalz
<b>Rhg</b>	Rheingau
<b>Rhh</b>	Rheinhessen
<b>Würt</b>	Württemberg



German wines should be enjoying a worldwide boom today. New ideas, easier labelling on many wines, reasonable prices, and an unprecedented string of sixteen good-to-great vintages are all in their favour. Yet in most places outside Germany they are still a hard sell. What is wrong? Pure, penetrating flavours and low-to-moderate alcohol should be ideal for modern tastes. Instead, Germany has everyone confused. Kabinett, Spätlese, and Auslese might all be sweet, dry, or in the middle. Their appellations might mean single vineyards, whole communes, or entire regions. This, and the failure to create excitement for their wines, is a turn-off for the average consumer.

This is a pivotal time in the politics of German wine. With the 2000 vintage two new designations were introduced nationally. The term “Classic” denotes dry wines from a single variety intended for good, everyday drinking. “Selection” is intended as the top designation for dry wines; the rules include a maximum yield and a blind tasting test. However the international impact of these new categories has been almost zero. Instead, German wine fanciers sensibly focus on the producers whose wines they enjoy most. Most German wines are still classified according to grape ripeness levels. German wine from grapes ripe enough not to need extra sugar is made and sold as a separate product: *Qualitätswein mit Prädikat*, or QmP. Within this top category, natural sugar content is expressed by traditional terms in ascending ripeness: *Kabinett*, *Spätlese*, *Auslese*, *Eiswein*, *Beerenauslese*, *Trockenbeerenauslese*.

QbA (*Qualitätswein bestimmter Anbaubetriebe*), the second level down, is for wines that needed additional sugar. Basic QbA wines can be chaptalised – an advantage in average years. The third level, *Tafelwein*, like Italian *vino da tavola*, is free of restraints. Officially it is the lowest grade, but impatience with the outdated law can make it the logical resort for innovative producers who set their own high standards. Though there is much more detail in the laws, this is the gist of the quality grading. In theory, all any German vineyard has to do to make the best wine is to grow the ripest grapes – even of inferior varieties – which is patent nonsense.

The law does distinguish between degrees of geographical exactness – but in a way that just leads to confusion. In labelling “quality” wine, growers or merchants are given a choice. They can (and often still do) label their best wines with the name of a single vineyard or *Einzellage*. Germany has about 2,600 *Einzellage* names. Obviously, only a few are famous enough to help sell the wine, so the 1971 law created another grouping: the *Grosslage*. This is a group of *Einzellagen* of supposedly similar character. Because there are fewer *Grosslage* names, and far more wine from each, they have the advantage of familiarity – a poor substitute for hard-earned fame. What’s more, a *Grosslage* such as Niersteiner Gutes Domtal need not, and probably won’t, contain a single drop of wine from Nierstein itself. This is entirely legal, but treats the consumer with contempt. Thirdly, growers or merchants may choose to sell their wine under a *Bereich* or regional name. These are so broadly defined as to be meaningless. Thus “Bereich Johannisberg” covers the entire 3,000-hectare Rheingau: this is another avenue to consumer disappointment that should be closed.

In 2002, the leading German growers association, the VDP, established its own vineyard classification system, which non-members are also free to join. The idea is to identify and validate the true *Grosses Gewächs*, the German equivalents of the Burgundian *grands crus*. Strict quality criteria specifying grape varieties, yield, styles (usually dry or nobly sweet), plus strict tasting panels, do ensure that standards are very high. It is hoped this will usher in an international renaissance of German wine appreciation.

Acceptance within Germany has been encouraging; the international market as yet lags behind. (The Rheingau has established a different classification system. See p.154.) Make a vow to drink a fine German wine once a month at least. It will change your perception of purity and finesse, and make most Chardonnay taste gross.

## Recent vintages

### Mosel-Saar-Ruwer

Mosels (including Saar and Ruwer wines) are so attractive young that their keeping qualities are not often enough explored, and wines older than about eight years are unusual. But well-made Riesling wines of *Kabinett* class gain from at least five years in bottle and often much more, *Spätlese* from 5 to 20, and *Auslese* and *Beerenauslese* anything from 10 to 30 years. As a rule, in poor years the Saar and Ruwer make sharp, lean wines, but in the best years, above all with botrytis, they can surpass the whole world for elegance and thrilling, steely “breed”.

- 2004** A humid summer led growers to fear the worst, but the vintage was saved by a glorious autumn. At harvest grapes were healthy and very ripe, so this has the makings of a fine year.
- 2003** Hot weather brought high ripeness levels but rather low acidity. Ironically, some great sites suffered from drought, while less-esteemed cooler sites often fared better. So there will be considerable variation in quality, with the best, including some powerful dry wines, superb.
- 2002** It is a small miracle how the Riesling grapes survived one of the wettest harvests on record to give ripe, succulent, lively wines (mostly *Kabinett* and *Spätlese*) which will be very attractive drunk young or mature.
- 2001** Golden Oct resulted in the best Mosel Riesling since 1990. Saar and Ruwer less exciting but still perfect balance. Lots of *Spätlesen* and *Auslesen*.
- 2000** Riesling stood up to harvest rain here better than most other places. Dominated by good QbA and *Kabinett*. *Auslesen* rarer, but exciting.
- 1999** Excellent in Saar and Ruwer, lots of *Auslesen*; generally only good in the Mosel due to high yields. Best will both drink well young and will age.
- 1998** Riesling grapes came through a rainy autumn to give astonishingly good results in the Middle Mosel; the Saar and Ruwer were less lucky, with mostly QbA. Plenty of *Eiswein*.
- 1997** A generous vintage of consistently fruity, elegant wines from the entire region. Marvellous *Auslesen* in the Saar and Ruwer.
- 1996** A very variable vintage with fine *Spätlesen* and *Auslesen*, but only from top sites. Many excellent *Eisweins*.
- 1995** Excellent vintage, mainly of *Spätlesen* and *Auslesen* of firm structure and long ageing potential. Try to resist drinking too early.
- 1994** Another good vintage, mostly QmP with unexceptional QbA and *Kabinett*, but many *Auslesen*, *Beerenauslesen*, and *Trockenbeerenauslesen*. Rich fruit and high acidity. Drinking well now but will keep.
- 1993** Small, excellent vintage: lots of *Auslesen*/botrytis; near perfect harmony. Ready to drink except top *Auslesen*.
- 1992** A very large crop. Mostly good QbA, but 30% QmP. To drink soon.
- 1991** A mixed vintage. To drink soon.
- 1990** Superb vintage, though small. Many QmP wines were the finest for 20 years. Try to resist drinking them all too soon.
- 1989** Often outstanding, with noble rot giving many *Auslesen*, etc. Saar wines best; the Mittelmosel overproduced, causing some dilution. Except for top *Auslesen*, ready to drink.

**1988** Excellent vintage. Much ripe QmP, esp in the Mittelmosel. Lovely now but no hurry.

Fine older vintages: 76 71 69 64 59 53 49 45 37 34 21.

### Rheinhessen, Nahe, Pfalz, Rheingau

Even the best wines can be drunk with pleasure when young, but *Kabinett*, *Spätlese*, and *Auslese* Riesling gain enormously in character by keeping for longer. Rheingau wines tend to be longest-lived, improving for 15 years or more, but best wines from the Nahe and Pfalz can last as long. Rheinhessen wines usually mature sooner, and dry Franken and Baden wines are generally best at 3–6 years. Rheingau and Nahe are the longest-living.

- 2004** After an indifferent summer, a fine autumn delivered ripe healthy grapes throughout the Rhein lands. A larger than average crop so there could be some dilution, though not at top estates. The Nahe experienced frost, storms, and hail, which may affect some wines.
- 2003** Very hot weather led to rich wines in the Rheingau; many lack acidity. The Pfalz produced superb Rieslings. Red wines fared well everywhere.
- 2002** Few challenge the best from 01, but should prove very good for both classic style *Kabinett*/*Spätlese* and for dry; balance very good. Excellent Pinot Noir.
- 2001** Though more erratic than in the Mosel, here, too, this was often an exciting vintage for both dry and classic styles; excellent balance.
- 2000** The further south, the more difficult was the harvest, the Pfalz catching worst of harvest rain. However, all regions have islands of excellence.
- 1999** Quality was average where yields were high, but for top growers an excellent vintage of rich, aromatic wines with lots of charm.
- 1998** Excellent: rich, balanced wines, many good *Spätlesen* and *Auslesen* with excellent ageing potential. Slow-maturing; many wines still a bit closed.
- 1997** Very clean, ripe grapes gave excellent QbA, *Kabinett*, *Spätlese* in dry and classic styles. Little botrytis, so *Auslese* and higher are rare.
- 1996** An excellent vintage, particularly in the Pfalz and the Rheingau, with many fine *Spätlesen* that will benefit from long ageing. Great *Eiswein*.
- 1995** Rather variable, but some excellent *Spätlesen* and *Auslesen* maturing well – like the 90s. Weak in the Pfalz due to harvest rain.
- 1994** Good vintage, mostly QmP, with abundant fruit and firm structure. Some superb *Auslesen*, *Beerenauslesen* and *Trockenbeerenauslesen*. Just about ready.

#### German vintage notation

The vintage notes after entries in the German section are given in a different form from those elsewhere, to show the style of the vintage as well as its quality. Three styles are indicated:

**Bold type** (eg **99**) indicates classic, super-ripe vintages with a high proportion of natural (QmP) wines, including *Spätlesen* and *Auslesen*.

Normal type (eg 98) indicates “normal” successful vintages with plenty of good wine but no great preponderance of sweeter wines.

*Italic type* (eg 96) indicates cool vintages with generally poor ripeness but a fair proportion of reasonably successful wines, tending to be over-acidic. Few or no QmP wines, but correspondingly more selection in the QbA category. Such wines sometimes mature more favourably than expected.

N.B. Where no mention is made, the vintage is generally not recommended, or most of its wines have passed maturity.

- 1993** A small vintage of very good to excellent quality. Plenty of rich Spätlesen and Auslesen, which are just beginning to reach their peak.
- 1992** Very large vintage, would have been great but for Oct cold and rain. A third were QmP of rich, stylish quality. Most drinking well now.
- 1991** A middling vintage. Some fine wines are emerging. Most drinking well.
- 1990** Small and exceptionally fine. Drink now, but will keep many years.
- 1989** Summer storms reduced crop in Rheingau. Very good quality elsewhere, up to Auslese level. Most wines mature, but no hurry to drink.
- Fine older vintages: 83 76 71 69 64 59 53 49 45 37 34 21.

**Achkarren** Bad w (r) ★★ Village on the KAISERSTUHL, known esp for GRAUBURGUNDER. First Class v'yd: Schlossberg. Wines generally best drunk during first five yrs. Gd wines: DR HEGER and co-op.

**Ahr** Ahr r ★→★★ 90 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Traditional specialized red-wine area, S of Bonn. Light, at best elegant, SPÄTBURGUNDER, esp from Adeneuer, Deutzerhof, Kreuzberg, MEYER-NÄKEL, Nelles, Stodden.

**Amtliche Prüfungsnummer** See PRÜFUNGSNUMMER.

**APNr** Abbreviation of AMTLICHE PRÜFUNGSNUMMER.

**Assmannshausen** Rhg r ★→★★★ 76 89 90 93 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 RHEINGAU village known for its usually pale, light SPÄTBURGUNDERS. First Class v'yd: Höllenberg. Growers inc AUGUST KESSELER, Robert König, Hotel Krone, and the STATE DOMAIN.

**Auslese** Wines from selective harvest of super-ripe bunches, the best affected by noble rot (*Edelfäule*) and correspondingly unctuous in flavour. Dry Auslesen are usually too alcoholic and clumsy for me.

**Ayl** M-S-R (Saar) w ★★ 76 83 85 88 89 90 91 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 One of the best villages of the SAAR. First Class v'yd: Kupp. Growers inc BISCHÖFLICHE WEINGUTER, Lauer, DR WAGNER.

**Bacchus** Modern, perfumed, often kitsch, grape found mostly in FRANKEN. Best for KABINETT wines.

**Bacharach** ★→★★★ 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Main wine town of MITTELREIN. Racy, austere RIESLINGS, some very fine. First Class v'yds: Hahn, Posten, Wolfshöhle. Growers inc: BASTIAN, JOST, Randolph Kauer, Helmut Mades, RATZENBERGER.

**Bad Dürkheim** Pfz w (r) ★★→★★★ 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Main town of MITTELHAARDT, with the world's biggest barrel and an ancient September wine festival, the *Würstmarkt* (sausage market). First Class v'yds: Michelsberg, Spielberg. Growers: Kurt Darting, Fitz-Ritter, Egon Schmitt, Karl Schäfer.

**Bad Kreuznach** Nahe w ★★→★★★ 76 79 83 85 86 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 Pleasant spa town with fine v'yds. First Class: Brückes, Kahlenberg, and Krötenpfuhl. Growers inc Anheuser, Anton Finkenauer, Carl Finkenauer, VON PLETTEBERG.

**Baden** Bad Huge SW area of scattered v'yds with a reputation for substantial, generally dry but supple wines that are gd with food. Fine Pinots, SPÄTBURGUNDER, RIESLING, GEWÜRZTRAMINER. Best areas: KAISERSTUHL, ORTENAU.

**Badische Bergstrasse/Kraichgau (Bereich)** Widespread district of N BADEN. WEISSBURGUNDER and GRAUBURGUNDER make best wines.

**Badischer Winzerkeller** Germany's (and Europe's) biggest co-op, at BREISACH; 25,000 members with 4,856 hectares, producing almost half of BADEN's wine: dependably unambitious.

**Badisches Frankenland** See TAUBERFRANKEN.

**Barriques** Small new-oak casks arrived tentatively in Germany 20 yrs ago. Results are still rather mixed. Oak aromatics can add substance to the

white Pinots, SPÄTBURGUNDER, and LEMBERGER. But they ruin RIESLING.

**Bassermann-Jordan** ★★ 83 86 88 89 90 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 MITTELHAARDT family estate with many of the best v'yds in DEIDESHEIM, FORST, RUPPERTSBERG, etc. Winemaker Ulrich Mell has put this historic estate back on top. Now one of the most dependable large estates.

**Bastian, Weingut Fritz** ★★ 5.6-hectare BACHARACH estate. Racy, austere RIESLINGS with MOSEL-like delicacy, best from the First Class Posten v'yd.

**Becker, J B** ★★→★★★ Dedicated family estate and brokerage house at WALLUF. 12 hectares in ELTVILLE, MARTINSTHAL, WALLUF. Specialist in dry RIESLING.

**Beerenauslese, BA** Luscious sweet wine from exceptionally ripe, individually selected berries, usually concentrated by noble rot. Rare, expensive.

**Bensheim** See HESSISCHE BERGSTRASSE.

**Bercher** ★★ KAISERSTUHL estate; 22.6 hectares of white and red Pinots at Burkheim. Excellent WEISSBURGUNDER, RIESLING, and SPÄTBURGUNDER.

### Beware of Bereich

District within an *Anbaugebiet* (region). "Bereich" on a label should be treated as a flashing red light. Do not buy. See Introduction, p.137, and under Bereich names, eg Bernkastel (Bereich).

**Bernkastel** M-M w ★→★★★ 71 75 76 83 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Top wine town of the MITTELMOSEL; the epitome of RIESLING. Great First Class v'yd: Doctor, 3.2 hectares; First Class v'yds: Graben, Lay. Top growers inc KERPEN, LOESEN, Markus Molitor, PAULY-BERGWEILER, PRÜM, Studert-Prüm, THANISCH, WEGELER.

**Bernkastel (Bereich)** Inc all the MITTELMOSEL. Wide area of deplorably dim quality and superficial flowery character. Mostly MÜLLER-THURGAU. Avoid.

**Biffar, Josef** ★★ Important DEIDESHEIM estate. 13 hectares (also WACHENHEIM) of RIESLING. Dependable, classic wines.

**Bingen** Rhh w ★→★★★ 76 83 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 Rhine/NAHE town. Fine v'yds inc First Class Scharlachberg. Best grower: Villa Sachsen.

**Bingen (Bereich)** District name for NW RHEINHESSEN.

**Bischöfliche Weingüter** M-S-R ★★→★★★ Famous M-S-R estate located at TRIER, a union of the cathedral property with two other charities, the Bischöfliches Priesterseminar and the Bischöfliches Konvikt. Owns 97 hectares of top v'yds, esp in SAAR and RUWER. Recent vintages are returning to former fine form.

**Bocksbeutel** Squat, flask-shaped bottle used in FRANKEN and N BADEN.

**Badensee (Bereich)** Idyllic district of S BADEN, on Lake Constance. Dry wines are best drunk within five yrs. RIESLING-like MÜLLER-THURGAU a speciality.

**Boppard** ★→★★★ 88 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 Important wine town of MITTELREIN where quality is rapidly improving. Best sites all in amphitheatre of vines called Bopparder Hamm. Growers: Heinrich Müller, August Perll, Weingart. Unbeatable value for money.

**Brauneberg** M-M w ★★ 75 83 85 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 Top M-S-R village nr BERNKASTEL (304 hectares), unbroken tradition for excellent full-flavoured RIESLING – *grand cru* if anything on the Mosel is. Great First Class v'yd: Juffer-Sonnenuhr. First Class v'yd: Juffer. Growers: FRITZ HAAG, WILLI HAAG, Paulinshof, Richter, THANISCH.

**Breisach** Frontier town on Rhine nr KAISERSTUHL. Seat of largest German co-op, the BADISCHER WINZERKELLER.

**Breisgau (Bereich)** Little-known BADEN district. Gd reds and pink WEISSHERBST.

**Breuer, Weingut Georg** ★★ Family estate of 24 hectares in RUDESHEIM and 7.2

- hectares in RAUENTHALER. Both have given superb quality, full-bodied dry RIESLING in recent years. Pioneering winemaker Bernhard Breuer died suddenly, and young, in 2004, but the estate stays in his family.
- Buhl, Reichsrat von** ★★★ Historic PFALZ estate, returning to historic form as of 1994. 65 hectares (DEIDESHEIM, FORST, RUPPERTSBERG). Leased by Japanese firm.
- Bundesweinprämierung** The German State Wine Award, organized by DLG (see below): gives great (*grosse*), silver, or bronze medallion labels.
- Bürgerspital zum Heiligen Geist** ★★ Ancient charitable WURZBURG estate. 111 hectares: WURZBURG, RANDERSACKER, etc. Rich, dry wines, esp SILVNER, RIESLING; can be v.g.d.
- Bürklin-Wolf, Dr** ★★★→★★★★ Famous PFALZ family estate. 95 hectares in FORST, DEIDESHEIM, RUPPERTSBERG, and WACHENHEIM, inc many First Class sites. The full-bodied dry wines from these are often spectacular.
- Castell'sches Fürstlich Domänenamt** ★→★★★★ Historic 58-hectare princely estate in STEIGERWALD. SILVNER, RIESLANER. Back on form since 1999.
- Chardonnay** Now grown throughout Germany; with over 725 hectares. A few gd wines from recent vintages. Best growers: JOHNER, REBHOLZ, Wittman.
- Christmann** ★★★ 14-hectare estate in Gimmeldingen (PFALZ) making rich, dry RIESLING from First Class v'yds, notably Königsbacher Idig.
- Christoffel, J J** ★★★ Tiny domain in ERDEN, URZIG. Polished, elegant RIESLING.
- Clevner (or Klevner)** Synonym in WURTEMBERG for Frühburgunder red grape, a mutation of Pinot N or Italian Chiavenna (early ripening black Pinot). Confusingly also ORTENAU (BADEN) synonym for GEWÜRTZRAMINER.
- Crusius** ★★→★★★★ 13.3-hectare family estate at TRAISEN, NAHE. Vivid RIESLING from Bastei and Rotenfels of TRAISEN and SCHLOSSBÜCKELHEIM. Top wines age very well. Also gd SEKT and fresh fruity SPÄTBURGUNDER dry rosé.
- Deidesheim Pfz w (r)** ★★→★★★★ **71 83 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04** Largest top-quality village of the PFALZ (405 hectares). Richly-flavoured, lively wines. Also SEKT. First Class v'yds: Grainhübel, Hohenmorgen, Kalkofen, Kieselberg, Langenmorgen, Leinhöhle. Top growers: BASSERMANN-JORDAN, BIFFAR, BUHL, BÜRKLIN-WOLF, DEINHARD, WOLF.
- Deinhard** In 1997 the WEGELER family sold the 200-yr-old merchant house and SEKT producer Deinhard to sparkling wine giant Henckell-Söhnlein. But the splendid Deinhard estates remain in family ownership (see WEGELER).
- Deinhard, Dr** ★★★ Fine 30-hectare estate: some of DEIDESHEIM's best v'yds.
- Deutscher Tafelwein** Officially the term for very humble German wines. Now, confusingly, the flag of convenience for some costly novelties as well (eg BARRIQUE wines).
- Deutsches Weinsiegel** A quality seal (ie neck label) for wines that have passed a statutory tasting test. Seals are: yellow for dry, green for medium-dry, red for medium-sweet. Means little; proves nothing.
- Diel, Schlossgut** ★★★ Fashionable 12-hectare NAHE estate; made its name by ageing GRAUBURGUNDER and WEISSBURGUNDER in BARRIQUES. Its traditional RIESLING is among the finest of NAHE wines. Makes delectable AUSLESE.
- DLG (Deutsche Landwirtschaftsgesellschaft)** The German Agricultural Society at Frankfurt. Awards national medals for quality – far too generously – at BUNDESWEINPRÄMIERUNG.
- Domäne** German for “domain” or “estate”. Sometimes used alone to mean the “State domain” (STAATSWEINGUT or Staatliche Weinbaudomäne).
- Dönnhoff, Weingut Hermann** ★★★★★ **88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03** 12.5-hectare leading NAHE estate with fine RIESLING from NIEDERHAUSEN, Oberhausen, SCHLOSSBÜCKELHEIM. Produces some of Germany's greatest wines.
- Dornfelder** Red grape making deep-coloured, usually rustic wines. An astonishing 7,487 hectares are now planted throughout Germany.
- Durbach** Baden w (r) ★★→★★★★ **90 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03** Village with 314 hectares of v'yds inc a handful of First Class sites. Top growers: A LAIBLE, H Männle, Schloss Staufenberg, WOLFF METTERNICH. Choose their KLINGELBERGERS (RIESLING) and CLEVNER'S (TRAMINER).
- Edel** Means “noble”. *Edelfäule* means “noble rot”.
- Egon Müller zu Scharzhof** ★★★★★ **75 76 79 80 81 82 83 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04** Top SAAR estate of 8 hectares at WILTINGEN. Its rich and racy SCHARZHOFBERGER RIESLING in AUSLESEN vintages is among the world's greatest wines; best are given gold capsules. Vintages: 93 95 97 99 01 are sublime, honeyed, immortal. Le Gallais is a second estate in WILTINGER Braune Kupp.
- Eiswein** Dessert wine made from frozen grapes with the ice (ie water content) discarded, producing very concentrated wine in flavour, acidity, and sugar – of BEERENAUULESE ripeness or more. Alcohol content can be as low as 5.5%. Very expensive. Sometimes made as late as Jan/Feb of following year. 02 looks to be the best Eiswein vintage since 98, possibly since 96 and 83.
- Eitelsbach** M-S-R (RUWER) w ★★→★★★★ **71 75 83 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04** RUWER village bordering TRIER, inc superb Great First Class KARTHAUSERHOFBERG v'yd site. GROSSLAGE: Römerlay.
- Elbling** Grape introduced by the Romans, widely grown on upper MOSEL. Can be sharp and tasteless, but capable of real freshness and vitality in the best conditions (eg at Nittel or SCHLOSS THORN in the OBERMOSEL).
- Eltville** Rhg w ★★→★★★★ **83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04** Major wine town with cellars of RHEINGAU STATE DOMAIN, FISCHER, and VON SIMMERN estates. First Class v'yd: Sonnenberg.
- Emrich-Schönleber** ★★★ Located in the obscure NAHE village of Monzingen. Since the late 1980s winemaker Werner Schönleber has shown that his RIESLING can match those of any other producer in the region, esp his sumptuous EISWEIN.
- Enkirch** M-M w ★★→★★★★ **85 88 89 90 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04** Little-known MITTELMOSEL village, often overlooked but with lovely light, tasty wine. The best grower is Immich-Batterieberg.
- Erbach** Rhg w ★★→★★★★ **76 83 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04** RHEINGAU area: big, perfumed, ageworthy wines, inc First Class v'yds: Hohenrain, MARCOBRUNN, Siegelsberg, Steinmorgen, Schlossberg. Major estates: SCHLOSS REINHARTSHAUSEN, SCHLOSS SCHÖNBORN. Also BECKER, Jakob Jung, KNYPHAUSEN, VON SIMMERN, etc.
- Erben** Word meaning “heirs”, often used on old-established estate labels.
- Erden** M-M w ★★→★★★★ **71 75 83 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03** Village between Urzig and Kröv: noble, full-flavoured, vigorous wine (more herbal and mineral than the wines of nearby BERKASTEL and WEHLEN but equally long-living). Great First Class v'yds: Prälat, Treppchen. Growers inc BISCHÖFLICHE WEINGÜTER, CHRISTOFFEL, LOESEN, Meulenhof, Mönchhof, Peter Nicolay.
- Erstes Gewächs** Literally translates as “first growth”. See box on p.152.
- Erzeugerabfüllung** Bottled by producer. Being replaced by “GUTSABFÜLLUNG”, but only by estates. Co-ops will continue with *Erzeugerabfüllung*.
- Escherndorf** Frank w ★★→★★★★ **83 88 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04** Important wine town near WURZBURG. Similar tasty, dry wine. First Class v'yd: Lump. GROSSLAGE: Kirchberg. Growers inc: Michael Fröhlich, JULIUSSPITAL, HORST SAUER, Rainer Sauer, Egon Schäffer.

To decipher codes, please refer to “Key to symbols” on front flap of jacket, or to “How to use this book” on p.6.

- Eser, Weingut August** \*\* 8-hectare RHEINGAU estate at OESTRICH. V'yds also in Hallgarten, RAUENTHAL (esp Gehr, Rothenberg), WINKEL. Variable wines.
- Filzen M-S-R (Saar) w** \*\*→\*\*\* 88 89 90 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Small SAAR village near WILTINGEN. First Class v'yd: Pulchen. Grower to note: Piedmont.
- Fischer Erben, Weingut** \*\*\* RHEINGAU estate at ELTVILLE, with high traditional standards. Long-lived classic wines.
- Forschungsanstalt Geisenheim** See HESSISCHE FORSCHUNGSANSTALT.

### Germany's quality levels

The official range of qualities in ascending order are as follows:

- 1 Deutscher Tafelwein:** sweetish light wine of no specified character. (From certain producers, can be very special.)
- 2 Landwein:** dryish Tafelwein with some regional style.
- 3 Qualitätswein:** dry or sweetish wine with sugar added before fermentation to increase its strength, but tested for quality and with distinct local and grape character.
- 4 Kabinett:** dry or dryish natural (unsugared) wine of distinct personality and distinguishing lightness. Can occasionally be sublime.
- 5 Spätlese:** stronger, often sweeter than Kabinett. Full-bodied. Today many top Spätlesen are *trocken* or completely dry.
- 6 Auslese:** sweeter, sometimes stronger than Spätlese, often with honey-like flavours, intense and long. Occasionally dry and weighty.
- 7 Beerenauslese:** very sweet, sometimes strong, intense. Can be superb.
- 8 Eiswein:** (Beeren- or Trockenbeerenauslese) concentrated, sharpish, and very sweet. Can be very fine or too extreme, unharmonious.
- 9 Trockenbeerenauslese:** intensely sweet and aromatic; alcohol slight. Extraordinary and everlasting.

- Forst Pfz w** \*\*→\*\*\* 71 83 89 90 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 MITTELHAARDT village with over 200 hectares of Germany's best v'yds. Ripe, richly fragrant, full-bodied but subtle wines. First Class v'yds: Jesuitengarten, Kirchenstück, Freundstück, Pechstein, Ungeheuer. Top growers inc: BASSERMANN-JORDAN, BURKLIN-WOLF, DEINHARD, MOSBACHER, Eugen Müller, H Spindler, Werlé, WOLF.
- Franken** Frank Franconia region of distinctive dry wines, esp SILVANER, always bottled in round-bellied flasks (BOCKSBEUTEL). The centre is WÜRZBURG. Bereich names: MAINDREIECK, STEIGERWALD. Top producers: BURGERSPITAL, Castell, FÜRST, JULIUSSPITAL, LÖWENSTEIN, Ruck, HORST SAUER, STAATLICHER HOFKELLER, WIRSCHING, etc.
- Friedrich-Wilhelm Gymnasium** \*\* Important charitable estate based in TRIER, with v'yds throughout M-S-R.
- Fuhrmann** See PFEFFINGEN.
- Fürst** \*\*\* Small estate in Bürgstadt making some of the best wines in FRANKEN, particularly Burgundian SPÄTBURGUNDER and oak-aged WEISSBURGUNDER.
- Gallais Le** See EGON MÜLLER ZU SCHARZHOFF.
- Geisenheim Rhg w** \*\*→\*\*\* 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Village famous for Germany's best-known wine school and v.gd aromatic wines. First Class v'yds: Kläuserweg, Rothenberg. Top growers: JOHANNISHOF, SCHLOSS SCHÖNBORN, WEGELER, VON ZWIERLEIN.
- Gemeinde** A commune or parish.
- Gewürztraminer** (or Traminer) Highly aromatic grape, speciality of Alsace, also impressive in Germany, esp in PFALZ, BADEN, SACHSEN, and WÜRTEMBERG.
- Gimmeldingen Pfz w** \*\* 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Village just S of MITTELHAARDT. At best, rich succulent wines. GROSSLAGE:

Meerspinne. Growers inc: CHRISTMANN, MÜLLER-CATOIR.

- Graach M-M w** \*\*\* 71 75 83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Small village between BERNKASTEL and WEHLEN. First Class v'yds: Domprobst, Himmelreich, Josephshof. Many top growers: VON KESSELSTAT, LOOSEN, PRÜM, SCHAEFER, SELBACH-OSTER, WEINS-PRÜM.
- Grans-Fassian** \*\*\* Fine MOSEL estate at Leiven. V'yds there and in TRITTEINHEIM. EISWEIN a speciality. Dependable high quality since 1995.
- Grauburgunder** Synonym of RULÄNDER or Pinot Gr: grape giving soft full-bodied wine. Best in BADEN and S PFALZ.
- Grosser Ring** Group of top (VDP) MOSEL-SAAR-RUWER estates, whose annual September auction regularly sets world-record prices.
- Grosses Gewächs** Translates as "great/top growth". This is the top tier in the v'yd classification launched in 2002 by the growers' association VDP, except in the RHEINGAU, which has its own ERSTES GEWÄCHS classification (see box, p.152). Wines released as *Grosses Gewächs* must meet strict quality criteria.
- Grosslage** See Introduction, p.137.
- Gunderloch** \*\*\*→\*\*\*\* 89 90 92 93 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 NACKENHEIM estate making some of the finest RIESLING on the entire Rhine, inc spectacular BEERENAUULESEN and TROCKENBEERENAUULESEN. Also owns well-known Balbach estate in NIERSTEIN.
- Guntrum, Louis** \*\* Large (27-hectare) family estate in NIERSTEIN, OPPENHEIM, etc. Gd SILVANER and GEWÜRZTRAMINER as well as RIESLING.
- Gutedel** German name for the ancient Chasselas grape, used in S BADEN. Fresh, but neutral, white wines.
- Gutsabfüllung** Estate-bottled. Term for genuinely estate-bottled wines.
- Haag, Weingut Fritz M-S-R** \*\*\*\* 69 71 75 76 77 78 79 82 83 84 85 86 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Top estate in BRAUNEBERG run by Wilhelm Haag, president of GROSSER RING. MOSEL RIESLING of crystalline purity and racy brilliance for long ageing. Haag's son runs the SCHLOSS LIESER estate.
- Haag, Weingut Willi M-S-R** \*\* 2.8-hectare BRAUNEBERG estate. Full, old-style RIESLING. Some fine AUSLESE. Improving quality since 1995.
- Haart, Reinhold** \*\*\* The best estate in PIESPORT, and growing in repute. Refined, aromatic wines capable of long ageing.
- Halbtrocken** Medium-dry (literally "semi-dry"). Containing fewer than 18 but more than 9 grams per litre unfermented sugar. Popular category of wine intended for mealtimes, often better balanced than TROCKEN.
- Hattenheim Rhg w** \*\*\*→\*\*\*\* 71 83 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Superlative 202-hectare wine town, though not all producers achieve its full potential. The First Class v'yds are Mannberg, Nussbrunnen, Pfaffenberg, Wisselbrunnen, and most famously STEINBERG (ORTSTEIL). Estates inc: KNYPHAUSEN, Lang, RESS, SCHLOSS SCHÖNBORN, VON SIMMERN, STATE DOMAIN.
- Henkell** See DEINHARD.
- Heger, Dr** \*\*\* Leading estate of KAISERSTUHL in BADEN with excellent dry WEISSBURGUNDER, GRAUBURGUNDER, and powerful oak-aged SPÄTBURGUNDER reds.
- Heilbronn Würt w r** \*\*\*→ 93 94 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Wine town with many small growers. Best wines are RIESLING and LEMBERGER. Top growers inc: Amalienhof, Drautz-Able, Schäfer-Heinrich.
- Hessen, Prinz von** \*\*\*→\*\*\* Famous 40-hectare estate in JOHANNISBERG, KIEDRICH, and WINKEL. Rapidly improving quality since 1995 vintage.

Remember that vintage information for German wines is given in a different form from the ready/not ready distinction applying to other countries. See the explanation at the bottom of p.139.

**Hessische Bergstrasse** w ★★→★★★ **90 93 94 95 96 97 98 99** 00 01 02 **03 04**  
Smallest wine region in W Germany (405 hectares), N of Heidelberg.  
Pleasant RIESLING from STATE DOMAIN VYDS at BENSHEIM, Bergsträsser co-op,  
Simon-Bürkle, and Stadt Bensheim.

**Hessische Forschungsanstalt für Wein-Obst & Gartenbau** Famous wine school  
and research establishment at GEISENHEIM, RHEINGAU. Gd wines inc reds. The  
name on the label is Forschungsanstalt.

**Heyl zu HERNESHEIM** ★★★ Leading NIERSTEIN estate, 60% RIESLING. Since fine  
96 vintage owned by Ahr family. Dry RIESLING, SILVANER, WEISSBURGUNDER of  
classical elegance.

**Heymann-Löwenstein** ★★★ Young estate in Lower or “Terrace Mosel” with most  
consistent dry RIESLING in MOSEL-SAAR-RUWER and some remarkable AUSLESE and  
TROCKENBEERENAUSLESEN. Spectacular wines in 01. A rapidly rising star.

**Hochgewächs** Supposedly superior level of QBA RIESLING, esp in MOSEL-SAAR-RUWER.

**Hochheim** Rhg w ★★→★★★ **71 75 83 85 86 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99**  
00 01 02 **03 04** 242-hectare wine town 15 miles E of main RHEINGAU area,  
once thought of as best on Rhine. Wines with an earthy intensity, body,  
and fragrance of their own. First Class VYDS: Domdechaney, Hölle,  
Kirchenstück, Königin Viktoria Berg (12-acre monopoly of Hupfeld of  
OESTRICH). GROSSLAGE: Daubhaus. Growers inc Hupfeld, FRANZ KUNSTLER, WJ  
SCHAEFER, SCHLOSS SCHÖNBORN, STAATSWEINGUT, WERNER.

**Hock** Traditional English term for Rhine wine, derived from HOCHHEIM.

**Hoensbroech, Weingut Reichsgraf** zu ★★ Top KRAICHGAU estate. Dry  
WEISSBURGUNDER, GRAUBURGUNDER, SILVANER, eg Michelfelder Himmelberg.

**Hohenlohe-Oehringen, Weingut Fürst** zu ★★ Noble 19-hectare estate in  
Oehringen, WURTEMBERG. Earthy, bone-dry RIESLING and powerful reds from  
SPÄTBURGUNDER and LEMBERGER grapes.

**Hövel, Weingut von** ★★★ Very fine SAAR estate at OBERMOSEL (Hütte is 4.8-  
hectare monopoly) and in SCHARZHOFFBERG. Superb wines since 1993.

**Huber, Bernhard** ★★★ Rising star of Breisgau area of BADEN with powerful oak-  
aged SPÄTBURGUNDER reds and Burgundian-style WEISSBURGUNDER, CHARDONNAY.

**Ihrlingen** Bad r w ★→★★★ **90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99** 00 **01 02 03 04** One of  
the best villages of the KAISERSTUHL, BADEN. Proud of its SPÄTBURGUNDER red,  
WEISSHERBST, and GRAUBURGUNDER. Top growers: DR HEGER, Stigler.

**Ingelheim** Rhh r w ★★ **90 93 95 96 97 98 99** 00 01 **02 03 04** Town opposite  
RHEINGAU historically known for its SPÄTBURGUNDER. Few wines today live up to  
reputation. Top VYDS are Horn, Pares, Sonnenberg, and Steinacker.

**Iphofen** Frank w ★★→★★★ **85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99** 00 **01 02 03**  
**04** Village nr WURZBURG. Superb First Class VYDS: Julius-Echter-Berg, Kalb.  
GROSSLAGE: Burgweg. Growers: JULIUSPITAL, Ruck, WIRSCHING.

**Jahrgang** Year – as in “vintage”.

**Johannisberg** Rhg w ★★→★★★ **71 75 76 83 85 86 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97**  
**98 99** 00 **01 02 03 04** A classic RHEINGAU village with superlative subtle RIESLING.  
First Class VYDS: Hölle, Klaus, SCHLOSS JOHANNISBERG. GROSSLAGE: Erntebringer.  
Top growers: JOHANNISHOF, SCHLOSS JOHANNISBERG, HESSEN.

**Johannisberg (Bereich)** District name for the entire RHEINGAU. Avoid.

**Johannishof** ★★★ JOHANNISBERG family estate, aka HH Eser. RIESLINGS that justify the  
great Johannisberg name. Since 1996 also fine RÜDESHEIM wines.

**Johner, Karl-Heinz** ★★★ Small BADEN estate at Bischoffingen, in the front line  
for New World-style SPÄTBURGUNDER and oak-aged WEISSBURGUNDER.

**Josephshof** First Class VYD at GRAACH, the sole property of VON KESSELSTATT.

**Jost, Toni** ★★★ Perhaps the top estate of the MITTELREIN. Ten hectares, mainly  
RIESLING, in BACHARACH, and also in the RHEINGAU.

**Juliusspital** ★★★ Ancient WÜRZBURG religious charity with 140 hectares of top

FRANKEN VYDS and many superb wines. Look for its dry SILVANERS and RIESLING.

**Kabinett** See “Germany’s quality levels” box on p.144.

**Kaiserstuhl (Bereich)** Outstanding BADEN district, with notably warm climate and  
volcanic soil. Villages inc ACHKARREN, BURKHEIM, IHRINGEN. GROSSLAGE: Vulkanfels.

**Kallstadt** Pfz w (r) ★→★★★ **88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99** 00 **01 02 03 04**  
Village of N MITTELHAARDT. Often underrated fine, rich, dry RIESLING and Pinot  
N. First Class VYD: Saumagen. GROSSLAGEN: Feuerberg, Kobnert. Growers inc  
Henninger, KOEHLER-RUPPRECHT.

**Kanzem** M-S-R (Saar) w ★★★ **88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99** 00 **01 02 03**  
**04** Small neighbourhood of WILTINGEN. First Class VYD: Altenberg. GROSSLAGE:  
SCHARZBERG. Growers inc Othegraven, J P Reinert, Reverchon.

**Karlsmühle** ★★★ Small estate with two Lorenzhöfer monopoly sites making  
classic RUWER RIESLING, also wines from First Class KASEL VYDS sold under  
Patheiger label. Consistently excellent quality since 1994.

**Karthäuserhofberg** ★★★ Top RUWER estate of 19 hectares at Eitelsbach. Easily  
recognized by bottles with only a neck-label. Since 1993 estate has been  
back on top form. Also gd TROCKEN wines.

**Kasel** M-S-R (Ruwer) w ★★→★★★ **71 83 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98**  
**99** 00 **01 02 03** Stunning flowery RIESLING. First Class VYDS: Kehrnel,  
Nies’chen. Top growers: KARLSMÜHLE, VON KESSELSTATT.

**Keller** Wine cellar.

**Keller, Weingut** ★★★ Deep in unfashionable southern RHEINHESSEN, the Kellers  
show what can be achieved with scrupulous site selection. Great RIESLING  
from Dalsheimer Hubacker.

**Kellerei** Winery (ie a big commercial bottler).

**Kerner** Modern aromatic grape variety, earlier ripening than RIESLING. Makes  
wines of fair quality but without the inbuilt grace and harmony of RIESLING.  
Best in SACHSEN.

**Kerpen, Weingut Heribert** ★★ Small gd estate in BERNKASTEL, GRAACH, WEHLEN.

**Kessler, Weingut August** Rhg ★★★ 14-hectare estate making the best  
SPÄTBURGUNDER reds in ASSMANNSHAUSEN. Also v.gd classic-style RIESLING.

**Kesselstatt, von** ★★★ The largest private MOSEL estate, 650 yrs old. Now  
belongs to Reh family. Some 60 hectares in GRAACH, KASEL, PIESPORT, WILTINGEN,  
etc, producing aromatic, generously fruity MOELS. Consistently high quality,  
often magnificent, wines from JOSEPHSHOF monopoly VYD and SCHARZHOFFBERG.

**Kesten** M-M w ★→★★★ **83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99** 00 **01 02 03 04**  
Neighbour of BRAUNEBERG. Best wines (from Paulinshofberg VYD) similar. Top  
growers: Bastgen, Kees-Kieren, PAULINSHOF.

**Kiedrich** Rhg w ★→★★★ **83 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99** 00 **01 02**  
**03 04** Neighbour of RAUENTHAL; equally splendid and high-flavoured.  
First Class VYDS: Gräfenberg, Wasseros. Growers inc: KNYPHAUSEN, Speicher-  
Schuth. R WEIL now top estate.

**Klingelberger** ORTENAU (BADEN) term for RIESLING, esp at DURBACH.

**Kloster Eberbach** Rhg Glorious 12th-C Cistercian abbey in HATTENHEIM forest.  
Monks planted STEINBERG, Germany’s Clos de Vougeot. Now the label of the  
STATE DOMAIN with a string of great VYDS in ASSMANNSHAUSEN, RÜDESHEIM,  
RAUENTHAL, etc. The new director has the right ideas.

**Klüslerath** M-M w ★→★★★ **90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99** 00 **01 02 03 04** Little-  
known MOSEL village whose wine growers have joined forces to classify  
its top site, Brüderschaft. Growers: Bernhard Kirsten, FRIEDRICH-WILHELM-  
GYMNASIUM, Regnery.

**Knyphausen, Weingut Freiherr** zu Rhg ★★→★★★ Noble 22-hectare estate on  
former Cistercian land (see KLOSTER EBERBACH) in ELTVILLE, ERBACH, HATTENHEIM,  
and KIEDRICH. Classic RHEINGAU wines, many dry.

**Koehler-Ruprecht** \*\*\*\* 76 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Highly rated KALLSTADT grower. Traditional winemaking; very long-lived dry RIESLING from K Saumagen. Outstanding SPÄTBURGUNDER and striking BARRIQUE-aged wines under the Philippi label.

**Kraichgau** Small BADEN region S of Heidelberg. Top grower: HOENSBROECH.

**Krone, Weingut Rhg** \*\* The cosy Hotel Krone in ASSMANNSHAUSEN has its own estate, producing a wide range of SPÄTBURGUNDER in every conceivable style.

**Kröv M-M w** \*→\*\*\* 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 03 04 Popular tourist resort famous for its GROSSE name: Nacktarsch, or “bare bottom”. Be very careful. Best grower: Martin Müllen.

**Künstler, Franz Rhg** \*\*\*\* HOCHHEIM estate expanded in 1996 by purchase of well-known Aschrott estate. Superb dry RIESLING, esp from First Class Domdechaney, Hölle, and Kirchenstück; also excellent AUSLESE.

**Kuntz, Sybille M-S-R** \*\* Successful protagonist of untypical dry MOSEL RIESLING of AUSLESE strength.

### Liebfraumilch

Much-abused name, once accounting for 50% of all German wine exports – to the detriment of Germany's better products. Legally defined as a QBA “of pleasant character” from RHEINHESSEN, PFALZ, NAHE, or RHEINGAU, of a blend with at least 51% RIESLING, SILVANER, KERNER, or MÜLLER-THURGAU. Most is mild, semi-sweet wine from Rheinhessen and the Pfalz. Rules now say it must have more than 18 grams per litre unfermented sugar. Its definition makes a mockery of the legal term Quality Wine. With sales falling fast everywhere, this category is in the process of disappearing.

**Laible, Weingut Andreas** \*\*\* 4-hectare DURBACH estate. Fine sweet and dry RIESLING, SCHEUREBE, GEWÜRZTRAMINER (First Class Plaelrain v'yd). KLINGELBERGER can be utter joy. Superb quality since 1997.

**Landwein** See “Germany's quality levels” box on p.144.

**Leitz, J** \*\*\* Fine RÜDESHEIM family estate for elegant dry and sweet RIESLING. A rising star.

**Lemberger** Red variety imported to Germany and Austria in the 18th C, from Hungary, where it is known as Kékfrankos. Blaufränkisch in Austria. Deep-coloured, moderately tannic wines; can be excellent. Or rosé.

**Liebfrauenstift** A 10.5-hectare v'yd in city of Worms; origin of LIEBFRÄUMLICH.

**Lieser M-M w** \*\* 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 Little-Mown neighbour of BERNKASTEL. Lighter wines. First Class v'yd: Niederberg-Helden. Top grower: SCHLOSS LIESER.

**Lingenfelder, Weingut** \*\* Small innovative Grosskarlbach (PFALZ) estate: gd dry and sweet SCHEUREBE, full-bodied RIESLING, etc.

**Loewen, Carl** \*\*\* Top grower of Leiwen on MOSEL making ravishing AUSLESE from town's First Class Laurentiuslay site. Also fine EISWEIN.

**Loosen, Weingut Dr M-M** \*\*\*\* 71 76 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Dynamic 9.7-hectare St-Johannishof estate in BERNKASTEL, ERDEN, GRAACH, URZIG, WEHLEN. Deep, intense RIESLINGS from old vines in great First Class v'yds. Also WOLF in the Pfalz since 1996. Superlative quality since 1990. Joint-venture RIESLING in Washington State with Ch Ste Michele: Eroica (dry) first vintage 99.

**Lorch Rhg w (r)** \*→\*\*\* 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 Extreme W of RHEINGAU. Some fine MITTELHEIM-like RIESLING. Best grower: von Kanitz.

**Löwenstein, Fürst** \*\*\* Top FRANKEN estate. Excellent 01. Intense savoury

SILVANER from Homberger Kallmuth, very dramatic slope. Also Hallgarten estate long rented by SCHLOSS VOLLRADS, independent since 1997.

**Maindreieck (Bereich)** District name for central FRANKEN, inc WÜRZBURG.

**Marcobrunn** Historic RHEINGAU v'yd; one of Germany's very best. See ERBACH.

**Markgräflerland (Bereich)** District S of FREIBURG, BADEN. Typical GUTEDEL wine can be delicious refreshment when drunk very young, but best wines are the BURGUNDERS: WEISS-, GRAU-, and SPÄT-. Also SEKT.

**Maximin Grünhaus M-S-R (Ruwer) w** \*\*\*\* 71 75 76 83 85 86 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Supreme RUWER estate of 32 hectares at Mertesdorf. Wines of fine elegance and great subtlety to mature 20 yrs+.

**Meyer-Näkel, Weingut** \*\*\* AHR estate; six hectares. Fine SPÄTBURGUNDERS in Dernau and Bad Neuenahr exemplify modern oak-aged German reds.

**Mittelhardt** The N central and best part of the PFALZ, inc DEIDESHEIM, FORST, RUPPERTSBERG, WACHENHEIM, largely planted with RIESLING.

**Mittelhardt-Deutsche Weinstrasse (Bereich)** Name for N and central PFALZ.

**Mittelmosel M-M** The central and best part of the MOSEL, inc BERNKASTEL, PIESPORT, WEHLEN, etc. Its top sites are (or should be) entirely RIESLING.

**Mittelrhein** Northern Rhine area of domestic importance (and great beauty), inc BACHARACH and BOPPARD. Some attractive, steely RIESLING, often underrated.

**Morio-Muskat** Stridently aromatic grape variety now on the decline.

**Mosbacher, Weingut Pfz** \*\*\* Fine 9.3-hectare estate for some of best dry and sweet RIESLING of FORST. Best wines are dry GROSSES GEWÄCHS.

**Mosel** The TAFELWEIN name of the area. All quality wines from the Mosel must be labelled MOSEL-SAAR-RUWER. (Moselle is the French – and English – spelling.)

**Mosel-Saar-Ruwer M-S-R** 10,522-hectare QUALITÄTSSWEIN region between TRIER and Koblenz; inc MITTELMOSEL, RUWER, and SAAR. See box below.

**Moselland, Winzergenossenschaft** Huge MOSEL-SAAR-RUWER co-op, at BERNKASTEL, inc Saar-Winzerverein at WILTINGEN. Its 5,200 members produce 25% of M-S-R wines (inc classic method SEKT), but little is above average.

**Müller-Catoir, Weingut Pfz** \*\*\*\* 83 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96

### Germany's most dynamic region: Mosel-Saar-Ruwer

Nowhere else in Germany are there so many exciting new producers to be discovered as in the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer. Perhaps this is the result of the special mentality of the *Moselaner* as much as the international interest in the elegant and subtly aromatic Rieslings that this archetypal cool-climate region produces. These are four names to watch for:

**Clemens Busch** Clemens and Rita Busch's organic estate in Pündrich is situated in one of the least well-known sections of the Mosel Valley and produces unusually powerful, dry Rieslings as well as great Auslese.

**Herrenberg** A tiny Saar estate owned and run by Claudia and Manfred Loch. The styles of wine vary according to vintage conditions: some years give mostly sweet wines, other years give rich dry wines of surprising power and complexity.

**Daniel Vollenweider** A young Swiss who bought vines in the forgotten Mosel top site of Wolfer Goldgrube in 2000 and specializes in classic-style Spätlese and Auslese inspired by famous names of Middle Mosel.

**Van Volxem** An historic Saar estate brought back to life by owner Roman Niewodniczanski and winemaker Gernot Kollmann. Good classic Kabinett and Spätlese, but it is the vineyard-designated dry wines that stand out.

97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Outstanding NEUSTADT estate. Very aromatic powerful wines (RIESLING, SCHEUREBE, GEWÜRZTRAMINER, RIESLANER, WEISSBURGUNDER, GRAUBURGUNDER, and MUSKATELLER). Consistent quality and gd value; dry/sweet equally impressive.

**Müller-Thurgau** Fruity, early ripening, usually low-acid grape; most common in PFALZ, RHEINHESSEN, NAHE, BADEN, and FRANKEN; decreasingly planted in favour of RIESLING over the past eight yrs. Should be banned from all top v'yds by law.

**Münster Nahe** w ★→★★★ 76 83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Best N NAHE village; fine, delicate wines. First Class v'yds: Pittersberg, Dautenpfänzer, Kapellenberg. Top growers: Göttelmann, Kruger-Rumpf.

**Muskateller** Ancient aromatic white grape with crisp acidity. A rarity in the PFALZ, BADEN, and WÜRTTEMBERG, where it is mostly made dry.

**Nackenheim Rhh** w ★→★★★★ 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 NIERSTEIN neighbour also with top Rhine terroir; similar best wines (esp First Class Rothenberg). Top grower: GUNDERLOCH.

**Nahe** Na Tributary of the Rhine and high-quality wine region. Balanced, fresh, clean but full-bodied, even minerally wines; RIESLING best. BEREICH: NAHETAL.

**Nahetal (Bereich)** BEREICH name for amalgamated BAD KREUZNACH and SCHLOSSBÖCKELHEIM districts.

**Neckar** The river with many of WÜRTTEMBERG's finest v'yds, mainly between Stuttgart and HEILBRONN.

**Neipperg, Graf von** ★→★★★ Noble estate in Schwaigern, WÜRTTEMBERG: elegant dry RIESLING and TRAMINER, and gd reds, esp from LEMBERGER.

**Neumagen-Dhron** M-M w ★★ Fine neighbour of PIESPORT. The top grower is Heinz Schmitt.

**Neustadt** Central town of PFALZ with a famous wine school. Top growers: MÜLLER-CATOIR, Weegmüller.

**Niederhausen** Nahe w ★→★★★★ 71 75 76 83 88 89 90 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Neighbour of SCHLOSSBÖCKELHEIM. Graceful, powerful wines. First Class v'yds inc Hermannsberg, Hermannshöhle. Growers: esp CRUSIUS, DÖNNHOFF, Gutsverwaltung Niederhausen-SCHLOSSBÖCKELHEIM, Mathem.

**Nierstein Rhh** w ★→★★★★ 83 85 86 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Famous but treacherous village name. 526 hectares. Superb First-Class v'yds: Brüdersberg, Glöck, Hipping, Oelberg, Orbel, Pettenthal. Notorious GROSSLAGEN: Auflangen, Rehbach, Spiegelberg. Ripe, aromatic, elegant wines. Beware GROSSLAGE Gutes Domtal: a supermarket deception now disappearing from shelves. Try Braun, GUNTRUM, HEYL ZU HERRNSHEIM, ST-ANTONY, SCHNEIDER, Strub.

**Nierstein (Bereich)** Large E RHEINHESSEN district of ordinary quality.

**Nierstein Winzergenossenschaft** ★→★★ The leading NIERSTEIN co-op, with above-average standards. (Formerly traded under the name Rheinfrott.)

**Nobling** New white grape: light fresh wine in BADEN, esp MARKGRÄFLERLAND.

**Norheim** Nahe w ★→★★★★ 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Neighbour of NIEDERHAUSEN. First Class v'yds: Dellchen, Kafels, Kirschheck. GROSSLAGE: Burgweg. Growers: CRUSIUS, DÖNNHOFF, Mathem.

**Oberrammel M-S-R (Saar)** w ★→★★★★ 83 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Next village to WILTINGEN. Very fine from First Class v'yd Hütte, etc. GROSSLAGE: Scharzberg. Growers: VON HÖVEL, VON KESSELSTATT.

**Obermosel (Bereich)** District name for the upper MOSEL above TRIER. Wines from the ELBLING grape, generally uninspiring unless very young.

**Ockfen M-S-R (Saar)** w ★→★★★★ 71 75 76 83 85 86 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Superb fragrant, austere wines. First Class v'yd: Bockstein. GROSSLAGE: Scharzberg. Growers: DR FISCHER, Sankt Urbans-Hof, WAGNER, ZILIKEN.

**Oechsle** Scale for sugar content of grape juice (see p.283).

**Oestrich Rhg** w ★→★★★★ 75 83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Big village; variable but some splendid RIESLING. First Class v'yds: Doosberg, Lenchen. Top growers: AUGUST ESER, Peter Jakob Kühn, Querbach, Spreitzer, WEGELER.

**Offene weine** "Wines by the glass", the way to order it in wine villages.

**Oppenheim Rhh** w ★→★★★★ 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Town S of NIERSTEIN; spectacular 13th-C church. First Class Herrenberg and Sackträger v'yds: top wines. Growers inc: GUNTRUM, C Koch, Kühling-Gillot. None of these, though, is realizing the full potential of these sites.

**Ortenau (Bereich)** District just S of Baden-Baden. Gd KLINGELBERGER (RIESLING), SPÄTBURGUNDER, and RULÄNDER. Top village: DURBACH.

**Ortsteil** Independent part of a community allowed to use its estate v'yd name without the village name, eg SCHLOSS JOHANNISBERG, STEINBERG.

**Palatinate** English for PFALZ.

**Pauly-Bergweiler, Dr** ★★ Fine BERNKASTEL estate. V'yds there and in WEHLEN, etc. Peter Nicolay wines from URZIG and ERDEN are usually best.

**Pelrwein** Semi-sparkling wine.

**Pfalz** Pfz 22,662-hectare v'yd region S of RHEINHESSEN (see MITTELHAARDT and SÜDLICHE WEINSTRASSE). Warm climate: grapes ripen fully. The classics are rich wines, with dry RIESLING increasingly fashionable and well-made. Biggest RIESLING area after MOSEL-SAAR-RUWER. Formerly known as the Rheinpfalz.

**Pfeffingen, Weingut** ★★ Messrs Fuhrmann and Eymael make v.gd RIESLING and SCHEUREBE at UNGSTEIN.

**Piesport M-M** w ★→★★★★ 71 75 76 83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 Tiny village with famous vine amphitheatre: at best glorious rich aromatic RIESLING. Great First Class v'yds: Goldtröpfchen & Domherr. Treppchen far inferior. GROSSLAGE: Michelsberg (mainly MÜLLER-THURGAU; avoid). Esp Frans Fassian, HAART, Kurt Hain, VON KESSELSTATT, St Urbans-Hof, Weller-Lehnert.

**Plettenberg, von Na** ★★ 41-hectare estate at BAD KREUZNACH. Mixed quality.

**Portugieser** Second-rate red-wine grape now often used for WEISSHERBST.

**Prädikat** Special attributes or qualities. See QMP.

**Prinz, Fred** Rhg w ★★ Best RIESLING in the village of Hallgarten.

**Prüfungsnummer** Official identifying test-number of a quality wine, the APN.

**Prüm, J** ★★ 69 71 73 75 76 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Superlative and legendary 13.7-hectare MOSEL estate in BERNKASTEL, GRAACH, WEHLEN, ZELTINGEN. Delicate but long-lived wines, esp in Wehlener SONNENUHR. Plain Prüm RIESLING is a bargain.

**QbA, Qualitätswein bestimmter Anbaubetriebe** The middle quality of German wine, with sugar added before fermentation (as in French chaptalization), but controlled as to areas, grapes, etc.

**QmP, Qualitätswein mit Prädikat** Top category, for all wines ripe enough not to need sugaring (KABINETT to TROCKENBEERENAUSLESE). See p.137 and p.144.

**Randersacker Frank** w ★→★★★★ 76 83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Leading village for distinctive dry wine. First Class v'yds inc: Marsberg, Pfüben, Sonnenstuhl. GROSSLAGE: Ewig Leben. Top growers inc BURGERSPITAL, JULIUSSPITAL, STAATLICHER HOFKELLER, Robert Schmitt, Schmitt's Kinder.

**Ratzenberger, Jochen** ★★ Estate making racy dry and off-dry RIESLING in

Remember that vintage information for German wines is given in a different form from the ready/not ready distinction applying to other countries. See the explanation at the bottom of p.139.



BACHARACH; best from First Class Posten and Steeger St-Jost v'yds.

**Raenthal** Rhg w ★★★→★★★★ 83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Supreme village: spicy, complex wine. First Class v'yds: Baiken, Gehrn, Nonnenberg, Rothenberg, Wülfen. GROSSLAGE: Steinmächer. Top growers: BREUER, KLOSTER EBERBACH, SIMMERN.

**Rebholz** Pfz ★★★→★★★★ Top SÜDLICHE WEINSTRASSE estate for 50 yrs. Makes some of the best dry MUSKATELLER, GEWÜRZTRAMINER, CHARDONNAY (Burgundian style), and SPÄTBURGUNDER in Pfalz.

**Reß, Balthasar** ★★ RHEINGAU estate (32 hectares), cellars in HATTENHEIM. Also runs SCHLOSS REICHHARTSHAUSEN. Variable quality; original artists' labels.

**Restsüsse** Unfermented grape sugar remaining in (or in cheap wines added to) wine to give it sweetness. TROCKEN wines have very little, if any.

**Rheingau** Rhg Best v'yd region of Rhine, W of Wiesbaden. 2,833 hectares. Classic, substantial but subtle RIESLING, yet on the whole recently eclipsed by brilliance elsewhere. BEREICH name for whole region: JOHANNISBERG.

### Erstes Gewächs

From 1 September 2000, the **Rheingau's** vineyard classification came into force and with it the designation *Erstes Gewächs* or "First Growth". It applies to wines produced according to strict rules (including maximum yield and blind-tasting test). The weakness of the scheme is that the classification takes in just over 35 per cent of the region's vineyards, including some rather poor sites. The scheme is open for SPÄTBURGUNDER and RIESLING, which may be dry or sweet. With each successive vintage, the ranks of *Erstes Gewächs* are growing and usually represent the finest efforts of each participating estate.

**Rheinhessen** Rhh Vast region (24,685 hectares of v'yds) between Mainz and Worms, bordered by River NAHE, mostly second rate, but inc top RIESLINGS from NACKENHEIM, NIERSTEIN, OPPENHEIM, etc.

**Rheinhessen Silvaner (RS)** New uniform label for earthy dry wines from SILVANER – designed to give a modern quality image to the region.

**Rheinpfalz** See PFALZ.

**Richter, Weingut Max Ferd** ★★★ Top MITTELMOSEL estate, at Mülheim. Fine barrel-aged RIESLING made from First Class v'yds: BRAUNEBERG Juffer-SONNENUHR, GRAACH Domprobst, Mülheim (Helenenkloster), WEHLEN SONNENUHR.

**Rieslaner** Cross between SILVANER and RIESLING; makes fine AUSLESEN in FRANKEN, where most is grown. Also superb from MÜLLER-CATOIR.

**Riesling** The best German grape: fine, fragrant, fruity, long-lived. Only CHARDONNAY can compete as the world's best white grape.

**Rüdesheim** Rhg w ★★→★★★★ 71 75 76 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Rhine resort with First Class v'yds; the three best are called Rüdesheimer Berg-. Full-bodied wines, fine-flavoured, often remarkable in off years. Many of the top RHEINGAU estates own some Rüdesheim v'yds. Best growers: BREUER, JOHANNISHOF, AUGUST KESSELER, LEITZ, SCHLOSS SCHÖNBORN, STATE DOMAIN.

**Ruländer** Pinot Gris: now more commonly known as GRAUBURGUNDER.

**Ruppertsberg** Pfz w ★★→★★★★ 89 90 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Southern village of MITTELHAARDT. First Class v'yds inc: Linsenbusch, Nussbein, Reiterpfad, Spiess. Growers inc: BASSERMANN-JORDAN, BIFFAR, BUHL, BÜRKLIN-WOLF, CHRISTMANN.

To decipher codes, please refer to "Key to symbols" on front flap of jacket, or to "How to use this book" on p.6.

**Ruwer** 76 83 88 89 90 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Tributary of MOSEL nr TRIER. Very fine, delicate but highly aromatic and well-structured wines. Villages inc EITELSBACH, KASEL, Mertesdorf.

**Saale-Unstrut** 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Region of 526 hectares around confluence of these two rivers at Naumburg, nr Leipzig. The terraced v'yds of WEISSBURGUNDER, SILVANER, GEWÜRZTRAMINER, RIESLING, etc, and red PORTUGIESE have Cistercian origins. Quality leaders: Lützkendorf, Landesweingut Kloster Pforta, Pawis, Thüringer Weingut.

**Saar** 75 76 79 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Hill-lined tributary of the MOSEL S of RUWER. The most brilliant, austere, steely RIESLING of all. Villages inc: Ayl, OCKFEN, Saarb, SERRIG, WILTINGEN (SCHARZHOFBERG). GROSSLAGE: Scharzberg. Many fine estates here.

**Saar-Ruwer (Bereich)** District covering these two regions.

**Sachsen** 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 A region of 364 hectares in the Elbe Valley around Dresden and Meissen. MÜLLER-THURGAU dominant, but WEISSBURGUNDER, GRAUBURGUNDER, TRAMINER, RIESLING give dry wines with real character. Best growers: SCHLOSS PROSCHWITZ, Vincenz Richter, Klaus Seifert, Schloss Wackerbarth, Klaus Zimmerling.

**St-Antony, Weingut** ★★★ Excellent estate. Rich, intense, dry and off-dry RIESLING from First Class v'yds of NIERSTEIN.

**St-Ursula** Well-known merchants at BINGEN.

**Salm, Prinz zu** Owner of SCHLOSS WALLHAUSEN in NAHE and Villa Sachsen in RHEINHESSEN. President of VDP.

**Salwey, Weingut** ★★★ Leading BADEN estate at Oberrotweil, esp for RIESLING, WEISSBURGUNDER, and RULÄNDER.

**Samtrot** Red WÜRTTEMBERG grape. Makes Germany's closest shot at Beaujolais.

**Sauer, Horst** ★★★ Escherndorfer Lump is one of FRANKEN's top sites, and no one makes better SILVANER and RIESLING from here than Sauer. Notable dry wines, and sensational TROCKENBEERENAUSELEN.

**Schaefer, Willi** ★★★ The finest grower of GRAACH (but only 2 hectares).

**Schäfer-Fröhlich, Weingut** ★★★ Increasingly fine RIESLINGS, dry and nobly sweet, from this 9.7-hectare estate in Nockenau, Nahe.

**Scharzhofberg** M-S-R (Saar) w ★★★ 71 75 76 83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Superlative SAAR v'yd: austere beautiful wines, the perfection of RIESLING, best in AUSLESEN. Top estates: BISCHÖFLICHE WEINGÜTER, EGON MÜLLER, VON HÖVEL, VON KESSELSTATT, Van Volxem.

**Schaumwein** Sparkling wine.

**Scheureil** Aromatic grape of high quality (and RIESLING parentage), esp used in PFALZ. Excellent for botrytis wine (BEERENAUSELEN, TROCKENBEERENAUSELEN).

**Schillerwein** Light red or rosé QBA; speciality of WÜRTTEMBERG (only).

**Schloss Johannisberg** Rhg w ★★★ 76 83 85 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Famous RHEINGAU estate of 35 hectares owned by Princess Metternich and the Oetker family. The original Rhine first growth. Wines inc fine SPÄTLESE, KABINETT TROCKEN. Since 1996 there has been a dramatic return to form. The 01 vintage are the best wines since 75 and 76.

**Schloss Lieser** ★★★ Small estate run by Thomas Haag, from FRITZ HAAG estate, making pure racy RIESLINGS from underrated v'yds of Lieser.

**Schloss Neuweier** ★★★ Leading producer of dry RIESLING in BADEN.

**Schloss Proschwitz** ★★ A resurrected princely estate at Meissen, which leads former E Germany in quality, esp with dry WEISSBURGUNDER and GRAUBURGUNDER.

**Schloss Reichartshausen** Rhg Four-hectare HATTENHEIM v'yd run by RESS.

**Schloss Reinhartshausen** ★★ Fine estate in ERBACH, HATTENHEIM, KIEDRICH, etc. Originally property of Prussian royal family, now in private hands. Model

RHEINGAU RIESLING. The mansion beside the Rhine is now a luxury hotel. The last few vintages were nothing special.

**Schloss Schönborn** ★★★ One of the biggest RHEINGAU estates, based at HATTENHEIM. Full-flavoured wines, variable, at best excellent. Also v.gd SEKT.

**Schloss Thorn** Ancient OBERMOSEL estate, remarkable ELBLING, RIESLING, and castle.

**Schloss Vollrads** Rhg w ★★★☆☆ 71 76 83 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 One of the greatest historic RHEINGAU estates, owned by a bank since the sudden death of owner Erwein Count Matuschka in 1997. Since 1998 vintage quality is much improved.

**Schloss Wallhausen** ★★ The 10-hectare NAHE estate of the PRINZ ZU SALM, one of Germany's oldest. 65% RIESLING. V.gd TROCKEN. Variable quality.

**Schlossböckelheim** Nahe w ★★★☆☆ 75 83 85 86 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Village with top NAHE v'yds, inc First Class Felsenberg, In den Felsen, Königsfels, Kupfergrube. Firm yet delicate wine. Top growers: CRUSIUS, DÖNNHOF, Gutsverwaltung NIEDERHAUSEN-SCHLOSSBÖCKELHEIM.

### German regions to watch out for in 2006

**Mittelrhein** had a string of poor vintages to contend with, but 2001 and 2003 it proved that it is capable of producing great classic Rieslings.

**Rheinessen** is producing a wave of new-style, clean, harmonious dry white wines that are often excellent value for money.

**Saale-Unstrut** has finally shaken off the legacy of its communist past and is starting to make some surprisingly full-bodied, supple dry whites.

**Sachsen** too, has overcome the same problems and is making sleeker and more aromatic dry whites than Saale-Unstrut.

**Schneider, Weingut Georg Albrecht** ★★ An impeccably run 13-hectare estate. Classic off-dry and sweet RIESLING in NIERSTEIN, the best from Hipping v'yd.

**Schoppenwein** Café (or bar) wine, ie by the glass.

**Schwarzer Adler, Weingut** ★★★ Franz Keller and son Fritz make top BADEN dry GRAU-, WEISS-, and SPÄTBURGUNDER on 14 hectares at Oberbergen, KAISERSTUHL.

**Schweigen** Pfz w r ★★ 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Southern PFALZ village. Best growers: Fritz Becker, esp for SPÄTBURGUNDER, Bernhart.

**Sekt** German (QBA) sparkling wine, best when the label specifies RIESLING, WEISSBURGUNDER, or SPÄTBURGUNDER.

**Selbach-Oster** ★★★ ZELTINGEN estate among MITTELMOSEL leaders.

**Serrig M-S-R** (Saar) w ★★★☆☆ 71 75 83 88 89 90 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Village giving steely wines, excellent in sunny years. First Class v'yds: Herrenberg, Saarstein, WÜRZBERG. Top growers: Schloss Saarstein, Bert Simon.

**Silvaner** Third most-planted German white grape variety, generally underrated; best examples in FRANKEN: the closest thing to Chablis in Germany. Worth looking for in RHEINHESEN and KAISERSTUHL too.

**Simmern, Langwerth von** ★★★ Famous ELTVILLE family estate. Top v'yds: Baiken, Mannberg, MARCOBRUNN. After disappointing quality during the 1990s back on form with 01.

**Sonnenuhr** Sundial. Name of several v'yds, esp First Class sites at WEHLEN and ZELTINGEN.

**Spätburgunder** Pinot Noir: the best red-wine grape in Germany – esp in BADEN and WÜRTTEMBERG and increasingly PFALZ – generally improving quality, but most still underflavoured or over-oaked.

**Spätlese** Late harvest. One better (riper, with more alcohol, more substance and usually more sweetness) than KABINETT. Gd examples age at least five yrs,

often longer. TROCKEN Spätlesen can be very fine with food. See box, p.144.

**Spreitzer, Weingut** ★★ Since 1997, brothers Andreas and Bernd Spreitzer in OESTRICH, RHEINGAU, have been making deliciously racy RIESLING.

**Staatlicher Hofkeller** ★★→★★★ The Bavarian STATE DOMAIN. 150 hectares of the finest FRANKEN v'yds with spectacular cellars under the great baroque Residenz at WÜRZBURG.

**Staatsweingut** (or **Staatliche Weinbaudomäne**) The state wine estates or domains; esp KLOSTER EBERBACH. Some have been privatized in recent yrs.

**State Domain** See STAATSWEINGUT.

**Steigerwald (Bereich)** District name for E part of FRANKEN.

**Steinberg** Rhg w ★★★ 71 76 83 86 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Famous 32-hectare HATTENHEIM walled v'yd, planted by Cistercian monks 700 yrs ago. Now owned by STATE DOMAIN, ELTVILLE. Some glorious wines; some in the past were sadly feeble.

**Steinwein** Wine from WÜRZBURG's best v'yd, Stein.

**Südlische Weinstrasse (Bereich)** District name for S PFALZ. Quality has improved tremendously in last 25 yrs. See ILBESHEIM, REHBOLZ, SCHWEIGEN.

**Tafelwein** See "Germany's quality levels" box on p.144.

**Tauberfranken (Bereich)** New name for minor Badisches Frankenland BEREICH of N BADEN: FRANKEN-style wines.

**Tesch, Weingut** ★★ Since 1996 Dr Martin Tesch has transformed a previously unremarkable estate in Langenlonsheim, NAHE, into a fine source of rich, rounded dry Rieslings.

**Thänisch, Weingut Dr H** ★★→★★★ BERNKASTEL estate, inc part of the Doctor v'yd. Confusingly two estates share the same name.

**Traben-Trarbach** M-M w ★★ 89 90 93 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Major wine town of 324 hectares, 87% of it RIESLING. Top v'yds: Ungsberg, Würzgarten. Top growers: Louis Klein, Martin Müllen, and RICHTER.

**Traisen** Nahe w ★★ 75 76 79 83 85 86 88 89 90 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Small village inc First Class Bastei and Rotenfels v'yds, capable of making RIESLING of concentration and class. Top grower: CRUSIUS.

**Traminer** See GEWÜRZTRAMINER.

**Trier M-S-R** w ★★→★★★ Great wine city of Roman origin, on MOSEL, nr RUWER, now also inc Avelsbach and EITELSBACH. Big Mosel charitable estates have cellars here among imposing Roman ruins.

**Trittenheim** M-M w ★★ 76 85 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Attractive S MITTELMOSEL light wines. Top v'yds were Altärchen, Apotheke, but now inc second-rate flat land; First Class v'yds are Felsenkopf, Leiterchen. GROSSLAGE: Michelsberg (avoid). Growers inc: E Clüsserath, Clüsserath-Weiler, GRANS-FASSIAN, Milz.

**Trocken** Dry. Trocken wines have max nine grams per litre unfermented sugar. Some are austere, others (better) have more body and alcohol. Quality has increased dramatically since the 1980s, when the majority were tart, even sour.

**Trockenbeerenauslese, TBA** Sweetest, most expensive category of German wine, extremely rare, with concentrated honey flavour. Made from selected shrivelled grapes affected by noble rot (botrytis). See also EDEL. *Edelbeerenauslese* would be a less confusing name.

**Trollinger** Pale red grape variety of WÜRTTEMBERG; over-cropped but locally very popular.

**Ungstein** Pfz w ★★→★★★ 85 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 MITTELHAARDT village with fine harmonious wines. First Class v'yds inc: Herrenberg, Weilberg. Top growers inc: Darting, FITZ-RITTER, PFEFFINGEN, Pflüger, Karl Schäfer.

**Ürzig** M-M w \*\*\*\* 75 83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Village on red sandstone and red slate famous for firm, full, spicy wine unlike other MOSELS. First Class v'yd: Würzgarten. Growers inc: CHRISTOFFEL, LOOSEN, Mönchhof, Peter Nicolay, WEINS-PRÜM.

**VDP, Verband Deutscher Prädikats und Qualitätsweingüter** The pace-making association of premium growers. Look for its eagle insignia on wine labels. President: PRINZ ZU SALM.

**Vereinigte Hospitien** \*\* "United Hospices". Ancient charity at TRIER with large holdings in PIESPORT, SERRIG, TRIER, WILTINGEN, etc; wines recently well below their wonderful potential.

**Wachenheim Pfz** w \*\*\*→\*\*\*\* 83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 340 hectares, inc exceptionally fine RIESLING. First Class v'yds: Belz, Gerpümpel, Goldbächel, Rechbächel, etc. Top growers: BIFFAR, BÜRKLIN-WOLF, WOLF.

**Wagner, Dr** \*\*\* Saarburg estate. Many fine wines inc TROCKEN.

**Walluf Rhg** w \*\*\* 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Neighbour of ELTVILLE; formerly Nieder- and Ober-Walluf. Underrated wines. First Class v'yd: Walkenberg. Growers inc BECKER, JOST.

**Walporzheim Ahrtal (Bereich)** District name for the whole AHR Valley.

**Wawern** M-S-R (Saar) w \*\*→\*\*\* 83 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Small village, fine RIESLING. First Class v'yd: Herrenberg.

**Wegeler** \*\* Important family estates in OESTRICH, MITTELHARDT, and BERNKASTEL. The Wegelers owned the merchant house of DEINHARD until 1997.

**Wehlen** M-M w \*\*\*→\*\*\*\* 83 85 86 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Neighbour of BERNKASTEL with equally fine, somewhat richer wine. Location of great First Class v'yd: SONNENUHR. GROSSLAGE: Münzlay. The top growers are: Heribert Kerpen, LOOSEN, PRÜM, S A Prüm, Studert-Prüm, SELBACH-OSTER, WEGELER, and WEINS-PRÜM.

**Weil, Weingut Robert** \*\*\*\* 76 83 85 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Outstanding estate in KIEDRICH; now owned by Suntory of Japan. Superb QMP, EISWEIN, TROCKENBEERENAUSLESEN, BEERENAUSLESEN; standard wines also v.gd since 1992. Widely considered to be RHEINGAU's No 1 in sweet wines.

**Weingut** Wine estate. (See under name, eg Loosen, Weingut Dr.)

**Weinkellerei** Wine cellars or winery. See KELLER.

**Weins-Prüm, Dr** \*\*→\*\*\* Classic MITTELMOSEL estate; 4.8 hectares at WEHLEN. WEHLENER SONNENUHR is usually top wine.

**Weinstrasse** Wine road: a scenic route through v'yds. Germany has several.

**Weintor, Deutsches** See SCHWEIGEN.

**Weissburgunder** Pinot Blanc Most reliable grape for TROCKEN wines: low acidity, high extract. Also much used for SEKT.

**Weissherbst** Usually a pale pink wine, QBA or above and occasionally BEERENAUSLESE, made from a single variety. Speciality of BADEN, PFALZ, and WÜRTTEMBERG.

**Werner, Domdechant** \*\*\* Family estate on best HOCHHEIM slopes: top wines excellent, others only fair.

**Wiltingen** M-S-R (Saar) w \*\*→\*\*\*\* 83 85 86 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 The centre of the SAAR. 320 hectares. Beautifully subtle, austere wine. Great First Class v'yd is SCHARZHOFBERG (ORTSTEIL); and First Class are Braune Kupp, Hölle. Top growers: EGON MÜLLER, VON KESSELSTATT, Von Volxem, etc.

**Winkel** Rhg w \*\*\* 76 83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Village famous for full, fragrant wine. First Class v'yds inc Hasensprung, Jesuitengarten, SCHLOSS VOLLRADS, Schlossberg. Growers inc PRINZ VON HESSEN, Von Mumm, BALTHASAR RESS, SCHLOSS SCHÖNBORN, etc.

**Winnigen** M-S-R w \*\* Lower MOSEL town near Koblenz: unusually full RIESLING for region. Excellent dry wines. First Class v'yds: Röttgen, Uhlen. Top growers: HEYMANN-LÖWENSTEIN, Knebel, Richard Richter.

**Wintrich** M-M w \*\*→\*\*\* 71 76 83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Neighbour of PIESPORT; similar wines. First Class v'yd: Ohligsberg. Top grower: REINHOLD HAART.

**Winzergenossenschaft (WG)** A wine-growers' co-operative, often making sound and reasonably priced wine. Referred to in this text as "co-op".

**Winzerverein** The same as above.

**Wirsching, Hans** \*\*\* Estate in IPHOFEN and FRANKEN. Wines can be firm, elegant, and dry, but quality is variable. 69 hectares in First Class v'yds: Julius-Echter-Berg, Kalb, etc.

**Wonnegau (Bereich)** District name for S RHEINHESSEN.

**Wolf J L** \*\*\* Formerly run-down estate in WACHENHEIM leased long-term by Ernst Loosen (see LOOSEN) of Bernkastel. From first vintage (1996) strong, dry PFALZ wines with a MOSEL-like finesse. Superb quality since 1998.

**Wolf Metternich** \*\* Noble DURBACH estate: some gd RIESLING.

**Württemberg** Wurt 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Vast southern area, little known for wine outside Germany despite some v.gd RIESLING (esp NECKAR Valley) and frequently unrealized potential to make gd reds: LEMBERGER, SAMTROT, TROLLINGER.

**Würzburg** Frank \*\*→\*\*\* 71 76 81 83 85 86 88 89 90 92 93 94 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Great baroque city on the Main, centre of FRANKEN wine: fine, full-bodied, dry. First Class v'yds: Abtsleite, Innere Leiste, Stein. See MAINDREIECK. Growers: BÜRGERSPITAL, JULIUSPITAL, STAATLICHER HOFKELLER.

**Zell** M-S-R w \*\*→\*\*\* 90 93 94 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Best-known lower MOSEL village, esp for awful GROSSLAGE: Schwarze Katz (Black Cat). RIESLING on steep slate gives aromatic wines. Top grower: Kalfelz.

**Zell (Bereich)** District name for whole lower MOSEL from ZELL to Koblenz.

**Zeltingen** M-M w \*\*\*→\*\*\*\* 75 76 83 85 86 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Top MOSEL village nr WEHLEN. Lively crisp RIESLING. First Class v'yd: SONNENUHR. Top growers: Markus Molitor, PRÜM, SELBACH-OSTER.

**Zilliken, Forstmeister Geltz** \*\*\* Former estate of Prussian royal forester with ten hectares at Saarburg and OCKFEN, SAAR. Racy, minerally RIESLINGS, inc superb AUSLESE, EISWEIN with excellent ageing potential.

**Zwierlein, Freiherr von** \*\* 22-hectare family estate in GEISENHEIM. 100% RIESLING.

## Luxembourg

Luxembourg has 1,329 hectares of vineyards on limestone soils on the Moselle's left bank. High-yielding Elbling and Rivaner (Müller-Thurgau) vines dominate, but there are also significant acreages of Riesling, Gewürztraminer and (usually best) Auxerrois, Pinot Blanc, and Pinot Gris. These give light to medium-bodied (10.5–11.5% alcohol), dry, Alsace-like wines. The highly competent Vins Moselle co-op makes 70% of the total, including quantities of very fair fizz. Domaine et Tradition estates association, founded in 88, promotes quality from noble varieties. The following vintages were all **good**: 89 90 92 95 97 **outstanding** 97; **average** 98; similar but **softer** 99; **poor** 2000; much **better** 2001; while 2002 and 2003 look good for Pinot Noir. Best from: Aly Duhr et Fils, M Bastian, Caves Gales, Bernard Massard (surprisingly good Cuvée de l'Ecusson classic method sparkling), Clos Mon Vieux Moulin, Ch de Schengen, Sonnen-Hoffmann.