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, Spätlesse, Auslese, Eiswein, Beerenauslese, Trockenbeerenauslese.

QbA (Qualitätswein bestimmter Anbaugebiete), 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 Officially it is the lowest grade, but impatience with the outdated law can make it the logical resort for innovative producers who set their own high standards.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 finesses, 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.


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 Rieslings 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 Spätlesens 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.


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

Ahr M-S-R (Saar) w ★★★★★ 76 83 85 88 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’yds: Kupp.

GROWERS INC: BISCHOFLICHE WEINGÜTER, LAUER, DR. WAGNER.

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 (Kurpfalz) w ★★★★★ 76 83 85 88 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’yds: Kupp.

GROWERS INC: BISCHOFLICHE WEINGÜTER, LAUER, DR. WAGNER.

Bacharach ★★★★★ 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Main wine town of MITTELHEIM. Raw, austere RIESLINGs, some very fine. First Class v’yds: Hahn, Posten, Wolfsöhle. GROWERS INC: BASTIAN, JOST, RANDOLPH KAUSER, 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).


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 Kronenpfuhl. Growers inc Anheuser, Anton Finkenauner, Carl Finkenauner, VON PLETTENBERG.

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, SPATBURGUNDER, RIESLING, GEWURZTRAMINER. Best areas: KAISERSTUHL, ORTENAU.

Badische Bergstrasse/Kráichgau (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, SPATBURGUNDER, 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.

Beereauslese, 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 SPATBURGUNDER.

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’yds: Doctor, 3.2 hectares; First Class v’yds: Graben, Lay.

Top growers INC: KERVEN, LOOSEN, MARKUS MOLLOR, 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 RhW w ★★★★★ 76 83 85 88 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.

Bodensee (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 MITTELHEIM 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 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 Top M-S-R village near BERNKASTEL (304 hectares), unbroken tradition for excellent full-flavoured RIESLING – grand cru if anything on the Mosel is.

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.

Deinhard, Reichsrat von

Buhl, Reichsrat von

Crusius

Now grown throughout Germany; with over 725 hectares. A few

Deidesheim

Deutsches Weinsiegel

Dornfelder

##¡###

Bürgerspital zum Heiligen Geist

Deutscher Tafelwein

Bürklin-Wolf, Dr

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Historic pfalz estate, returning to historic form as of

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 SILVANER, RIESLING;
can be v.gd.

Bürklin-Wolf, Dr ★★★★★

Famous pfalz family estate. 95 hectares in FORST,
DEIDESHEIM, RUPPERTSBERG, and WACHENHEIM, inc many First Class sites. The full-
bodyd dry wines from these is often spectacular.

Castell'sches Fürstlich Domänenamt ★★★★

Historic 58-hectare princely
estate in STEIGERWALD. SILVANER, 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, REHOLZ, 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 Kleven)

Synonym in WURTTEMBERG 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 SCHLOSSBÖCKELHEIM. Top wines age very
well. Also gd sekt and fresh fruity SPATBURGUNDER dry rosé.

Deidesheim Pfz w (f) ★★★★★

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: Gräfenhübel,
Hohenmorgen, Kalkofen, Kieselberg, Langenmorgen, Leinhöhle. Top
growers: BASSEMANN-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 Henkell-Söhnlein. But the
estate in WILTINGER Braune Kupp.

Durbach Baden w (f) ★★★★★

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, WOlf Metternich. Choose their
KLINGELBERGER (RIESLING) and CLEVERNS (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 WILTINGEN 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 BEERENAUSLESE 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 TIER, inc superb great
First Class KARLSHAUSEN RIESLING v'yd site. GROSSELAG: 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 Rh 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 92 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 Immmich-Batterieberg.

Erbach Rh 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:
Hohenaun, MARCOBRUNN, Siegelsberg, Steinnemore, 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.

Erdenberg M-M w ★★★★★

71 75 83 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 99 00 01 02 03 04
Village between Urzig and Kröv: noble, full-flavoured, vigorous wine (more
herbal and mineral than the wines of nearby BERNKASTEL and WIELEN but
equally long-living). Great First Class v'yds: Prätal, Treppchen. Growers inc
BISCHÖFLICHE WEINGÜTER, CHRISTOFFEL, LOOSEN, 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. GROSSELAG: 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.
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 Spätlese are trocken or dry completely.
6. Auslese: sweeter, sometimes stronger than Spätlese, often with honey-like flavours, intense and long. Occasionally dry and weighty.
8. Eiswein: (Beeren- or Trockenbeerenauslese) concentrated, sharpish, and very sweet. Can be very fine or too extreme, unharmonious.

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, WOLFF.

Franken Frank Franconia region of distinctive dry wines, esp SILVANER, always bottled in rounded-bellied flasks (bocksbeutel). The centre is WURBURG. Bereich names: MAINDREIECK, STEIGERWALD. Top producers: BURCKLINSCHLOSS, CASTELL, FÜRST, JULIUSPHALT, LÖWENSTEIN, RUCK, HORST SAUER, STAATLICHER HOFKELLER, WIRSCHING, etc.

Friedrich-Wilhelm Gymnasium ★★ Important charitable estate based in EISER, 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 SPATBURGUNDER and oak-aged WEISSBURGUNDER.

Gallais Le See Egon MÜLLER ZU SCHARZHOF.

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 vgd aromatic wines. First Class v’yds: Kläuserweg, Rothenberg. Top growers: JOHANNISHOF, SCHLOSS SCHÖNBORN, WEILER, VON ZWIERLEIN.

Gemeinde A commune or parish.

Gewürztraminer (or Traminer) Highly aromatic grape, speciality of Alsace, also impressive in Germany, esp in PFALZ, BADEN, SAXEN, and WÜRTTEMBERG.

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. GROSSELAG:

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 WEIHELN. First Class v’yds: Domprobst, Himmelreich, Josephshof. Many top growers: VON KESSELSTATT, LOOSEN, PRUM, SCHAEFER, SELBACH-OSTER, WEINS-PRUM.

Grans-Fassian ★★★★ Fine MOSEL estate at LEIENW. v’yds there and in TRITTENHEIM. EISENWEIN 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 BEERENAUSLESEN and TROCKENBEERENAUSLESEN. Also owns well-known Balbach estate in NIERSTEIN.

Gutermann, 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 AUSSLESE. Improving quality since 1995.

Haart, Reinhold ★★★★ The best estate in PIEPSORT, 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 SPATBURGUNDER 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.

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. Pleasent RIESLING from STATE DOMAIN v'yds 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 Red. The name on the label is Forschungsanstalt.
Hefz zur Herrnsheim *** 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 TROCKENBEERENAUSLESE. Spectacular wines in 01. A rapidly rising star.
Hochgewächs Supposedly superior level of QBA RIESLING, esp in MOSEL-SAAR-RUWER. Traditional English term for Rhine wine, derived from HOCHHEIM.
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 v’yds: Domdechaney, Hölle, Kirchenstück, König Viktoria Berg (12-acre monopoly of Hupfeld of OESTRICH). GROSSLAGE: Daubhaus. Growers inc Hupfeld, FRANZ KUNSTLER, WJ H-Methods.
Hohenlohe-Oehringen, Weingut Fürst zu *** Noble 19-hectare estate in Oehringen, WURTTEMBERG. Earthy, bone-dry RIESLING and powerful reds from SPATBURGUNDER and LEMBERGER grapes.
Hövel, Weingut von *** Very fine SAAR estate at OBERMOSEL (Hütte is 4.8-hectare monopoly) and in SCHWARZHEIM. Superb wines since 1993.
Huber, Bernhard *** Rising star of Breisgau area of BADEN with powerful oak-aged SPATBURGUNDER reds and Burgundian-style WEISSBURGUNDER, CHARDONNAY.
Ihringen 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 SPATBURGUNDER red, WEISSHERBST, and GRABURGUNDER. 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 SPATBURGUNDER. Few wines today live up to reputation. Top v’yds 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 v’yds: Julius-Echter-Berg, Kalb. GROSSLAGE: Burgweg. Growers: JULIUSSTIFT, Ruck, WIRSCHING.
Jahrhundert 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 suble RIESLING. First Class v’yds: Hölle, Klaus, SCLOSS JOHANNISBERG. GROSSLAGE: Emtebringer. Top growers: JOHANNISHOFF, SCLOSS JOHANNISBERG, HESSEN.
Johannisberg (Bereich) District name for the entire RHEINGAU. AVOID.
Johannisfähr *** JOHANNISBERG family estate, aka HH Eser. RIESLINGs that justify the great Johannisberg name. Since 1996 also fine RÜDESHEIM wines.
John, Karl-Heinz *** Small BADEN estate at Bischoffingen, in the front line for New World-style SPATBURGUNDER and oak-aged WEISSBURGUNDER.
Josephshof First Class v’yd at GRAACH, the sole property of VON KESSELSTATT.
Jost, Toni *** Perhaps the top estate of the MITTELRUH. Ten hectares, mainly RIESLING, in BACHARACH, and also in the RHEINGAU.
Jurisspitte *** Ancient WÜRZBURG religious charity with 140 hectares of top FRANKEN v’yds and many superb wines. Look for its dry SILVANERS and RIESLING.
Kabinett See “Germany’s quality levels” box on p.144.
Kaisersstuhl (Bereich) Outstanding BADEN district, with notably warm climate and volcanic soil. Villages inc ACKARREN, BURKHEIM, HIRKEN. GROSSLAGE: Vulkanfelsen.
Kallstadt Pfz w (r) ***-**** 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Village of N MITTELAHRD. Often underrated fine, rich, dry RIESLING and Pinot N. First Class v’yd: Saumagen. GROSSLAGE: Feuerberg, Kobnert. Growers inc Henninger, KOEHLER-RUPRECHT.
Kanzem M-S-R (Saar) w ***-**** 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Small neighbour of WILTINGEN. First Class v’yd: Altenberg. GROSSLAGE: SCHARZBERG. Growers inc Othegraven, J P Reinert, Reverchon.
Karmusöhle *** Small estate with two Lorenzhöfer monopoly sites making classic RÜDERSHEIM RIESLING, also wines from First Class KESSELSTATT v’yds sold under Patheiger label. Consistently excellent quality since 1994.
Karthauserhofberg ***** Top RÜDESHEIM estate of 19 hectares at Eitelsbachtal. 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 (Ruíber) w ***-**** 71 83 85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 Stunning flowery RIESLING. First Class v’yds: Kehmagen, 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.
Kesseler, Weingut August Rhg *** 14-hectare estate making the best SPATBURGUNDER reds in ASSMANNHAUSEN. Also v.gd classic-style RIESLING.
Kesselskatt, von *** The largest private MOSEL estate, 650 yrs old. Now belongs to Reh family. Some 60 hectares in GRAACH, KESSEL, PIESSPORT, WILTINGEN, etc, producing aromatic, generously fruity MOSELS. Consistently high quality, often magnificent, wines from JOSEPHSHOF monopoly v’yd and SCHARZHOFBERG.
Kesten M-M w ***-**** 83 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Neighbour of RAUNE. Best wines from (Paulinshofberg v’yd) similar. Top growers: Bastgen, Kees-Kieren, PAULSHOF.
Kiedrich Rhg w ***-**** 83 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Neighbour of RAHM. Equally splendid and high-flavoured. First Class v’yds: Graefenberg, Wassers. Growers inc: KNYPHAUSEN, Speicher-Schuth, R. WEIL now top estate.
Klingelberger ortenauf (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 v’yds in ASSMANNHAUSEN, RÜDESHEIM, RAUNTHAL, etc. The new director has the right ideas.
Klössnerath M-M w *** 89 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, BRiderschaft. Growers: Bernhard Kirsten, FRIEDRICH-WILHELM-GYMNASIUM, Regney.
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.
### 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.

### Köhler-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 Philippini style.

### Kraichgau

Small Baden region S of Heidelberg. Top grower: Hoenibsbroech.

### Kriechbaum

Weingut Dr

A 10.5-hectare vineyard in the city of Worms; origin of Liebfraumilch.

### 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.

### Liefunder

A 10.5-hectare vineyard in city of Worms; origin of Liebfraumilch.

### Lieser

M-M w

90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03

Popular tourist resort famous for its Grosslage 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.

### Kuhlmann-Ruprecht

M-M w

148 149

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### 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 Moselner 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 Pünderich 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.

### Laible, Weingut Andreas

4-hectare Durbach estate. Fine sweet and dry Riesling, Scheurebe, Gewürztraminer (First Class Plauelrain vineyard). 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 vineyard in city of Worms; origin of Liebfraumilch.

### Lieser

M-M w

88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03


### 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


### Lorch

Rhg w

85 88 89 90 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03


### Löwenstein, Fürst

Top Frankenberg estate. Excellent 01. Intense savoury Silvaner from Homberger Kallmuth, very dramatic slope. Also Hallgarten estate long rented by Schloss Vollrads, independent since 1997.

### Mainreieck (Bereich)

District name for central Franken, inc Würzburg.

### Marcobrunn

Historic Rheingau vidd; 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 sect.

### Maximin Grüner Haus

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 firm elegance and great subtlety to mature 20 yrs+.

### Meyer-Näkel, Weingut

ABR estate; six hectares. Fine Spätburgunders in Demoule and Bad Neuenahr exemplify modern oak-aged German reds.

### Mittelhaardt

The N central and best part of the Pfalz, inc Deidesheim, Forst, Ruppertsberg, Wachenheim, largely planted with Riesling.

### Mittelhaardt-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.

### Morris-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 Forsch. Best wines are dry Grossgewachs.

### 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 Qualitätswine region between Trier and Koblenz; inc Mittelmosel, Ruwer, and Saar. See box below.

### Mosella, 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
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'üds by law.

Münster  Nearest town to the city of Münster. The town is known for its historical center and cultural events.

Nierstein Winzergenossenschaft  The leading Nierstein co-op, with the leading Nahe winery and the largest wine cooperative in the region.

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

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German regions to watch out for in 2006

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

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

Saaale-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 Saaale-Unstrut.

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

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

Schwarzer Adler, Weingut *** Franz Keller and son Fritz make top BADERN dry GRAU-, WEISS-, and SPATBURGUNDER 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 SPATBURGUNDER, Bernhart.

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

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 RHEINHESSEN and KAISERSTUHL too.

Simms, Langwerth von *** Famous ELTLIVE family estate. Top v’yds: Baiken, Mannberg, MARCOBRUNN. After disappointing quality during the 1990s back on form with 01.

Sonnenhuhr 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 WURTTEMBERG and increasingly PFALZ – generally improving quality, but most still underflavoured or over-oaked.

Spätlesen 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 DOMAN. 150 hectares of the finest FRANKEN v’yds with spectacular cellars under the great baroque Residenz at WÜRZBURG.

Staatsweingut (or Staatliche Weinbautodämene) 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 wallted 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.

Südliche Weinstrasse (Bereich) District name for S PFALZ. Quality has improved tremendously in last 25 yrs. See ILBESHEIM, REBHOLZ, 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.

Thanisch, 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: Unsgberg, 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 Alttärchen, Apotheke, but now inc second-rate flat land; First Class v’yds are Felsenkopf, Leiterchen. GROSSLAGE: Michelsberg (avoid). Growers inc: E CLÜSERRATH, CLÜSERRATH-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 Edelbeerenauslese would be a less confusing name.

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

Ungstein Pfz w ***-**** 85 88 89 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-RISSER, PFEFFINGEN, Pflüger, Karl Schäfer.

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: Ohlberg. Top grower: REINHOLD HAART.

Winzerboden (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 IPHOHEN 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.


Wolff Metternich  ** Noble DURBACH estate: some gd RIESLING.

Würtemberg 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: EEMBERGER, SAMTROT, TROLLINGER.

Würzburg Frank  *** 71 75 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, JULIUSSPITAL, STAATLICHER HOFKELLER.

Zell M-S-R w  *** 90 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 Best-known lower MOSEL village, esp for aweful GROSSLESE: Schwarze Katz (Black Cat). RIESLING on steep slate gives aromatic wines. Top grower: Kallfelz.

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

Zeltingen M-M w  **** 75 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: SUNNENHUR. 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.