

German White Wines – Steve Zins 11/08/2017

Rev 3.0



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Introduction

- Seems like yesterday I presented German Red wines. As a matter of fact it was 11/12/2014!
- We visit Germany at least once a year. We always try to visit some new regions and vineyards.
- I am always surprised how many good wines are available. Generally they are all reasonably priced.
- I sourced all the wines we will taste from Surdyks in Minneapolis. Great luck for the club, the fall sale was on and all wines were 20% off.

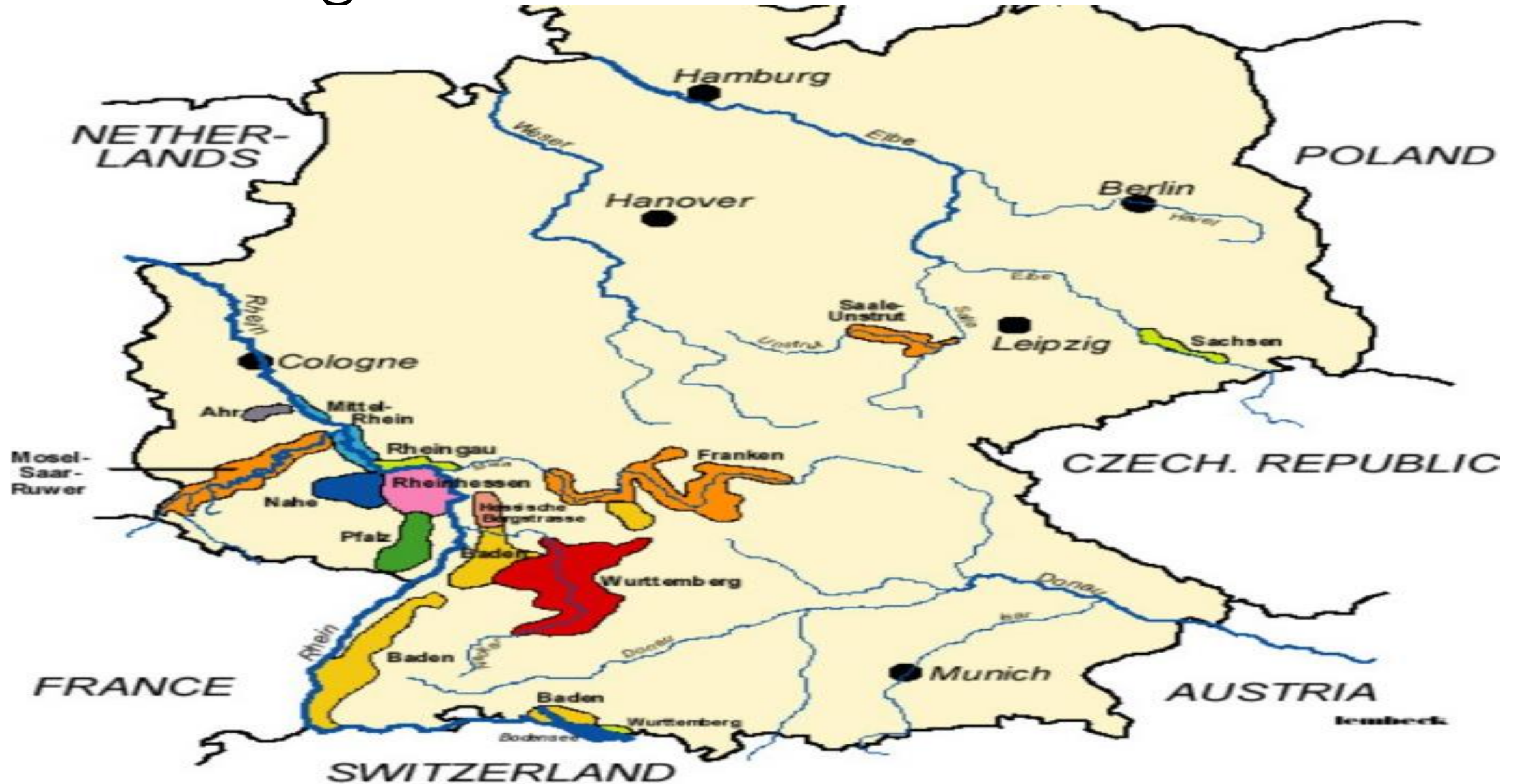
German Wine - fun facts

- 90% of German wines are consumed in Germany.
- Very few wine retailers in America have a good selection of German wines.
- Most of the largest white producers are still too small to export to USA.
- Many cooperatives blend and ship Liebfraumilch , Gewürztraminer , and some Riesling on the low end of the market.
- As vineyard owners die the vineyards are split between siblings. Some vineyards get down to 3 rows. Siblings take turns picking the center row from year to year.
- High quality German Riesling does not come in a **BLUE BOTTLE !**
- I don't recall ever seeing a BLUE BOTTLE while in Germany.

German Geography

- Germany is 138,000 sq mi or 357,000 sq km
- Germany is approximately the size of Montana (146,000 sq mi)
- Germany is divided with respect to wine production into the following:
 - 13 Regions
 - 39 Districts
 - 167 Collective vineyard sites
 - 2668 Individual vineyard sites
- There are 26,000 acres of white and 15,000 acres of red grapes planted

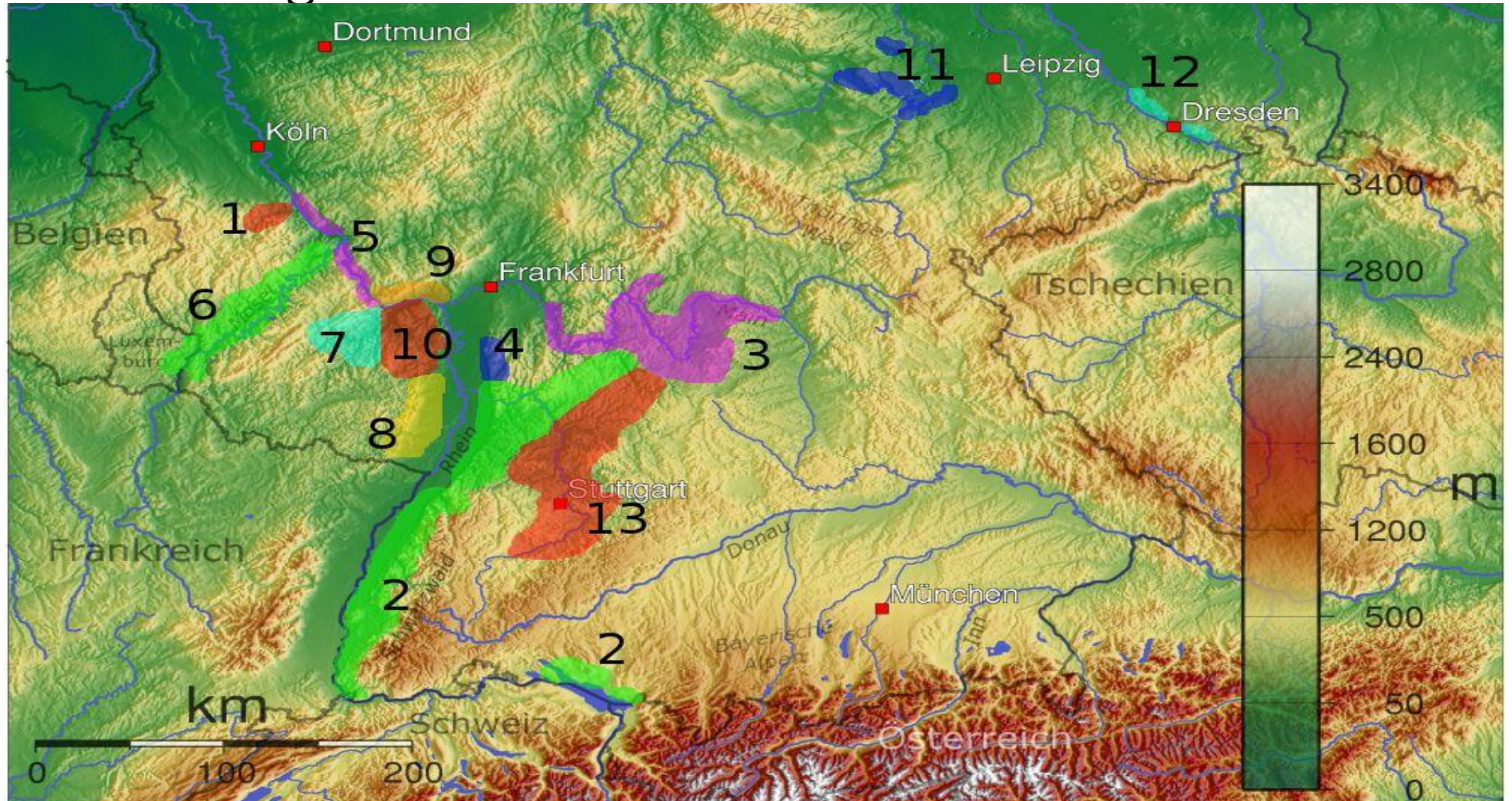
Wine Regions



Wine Regions



Wine Regions a look at elevations



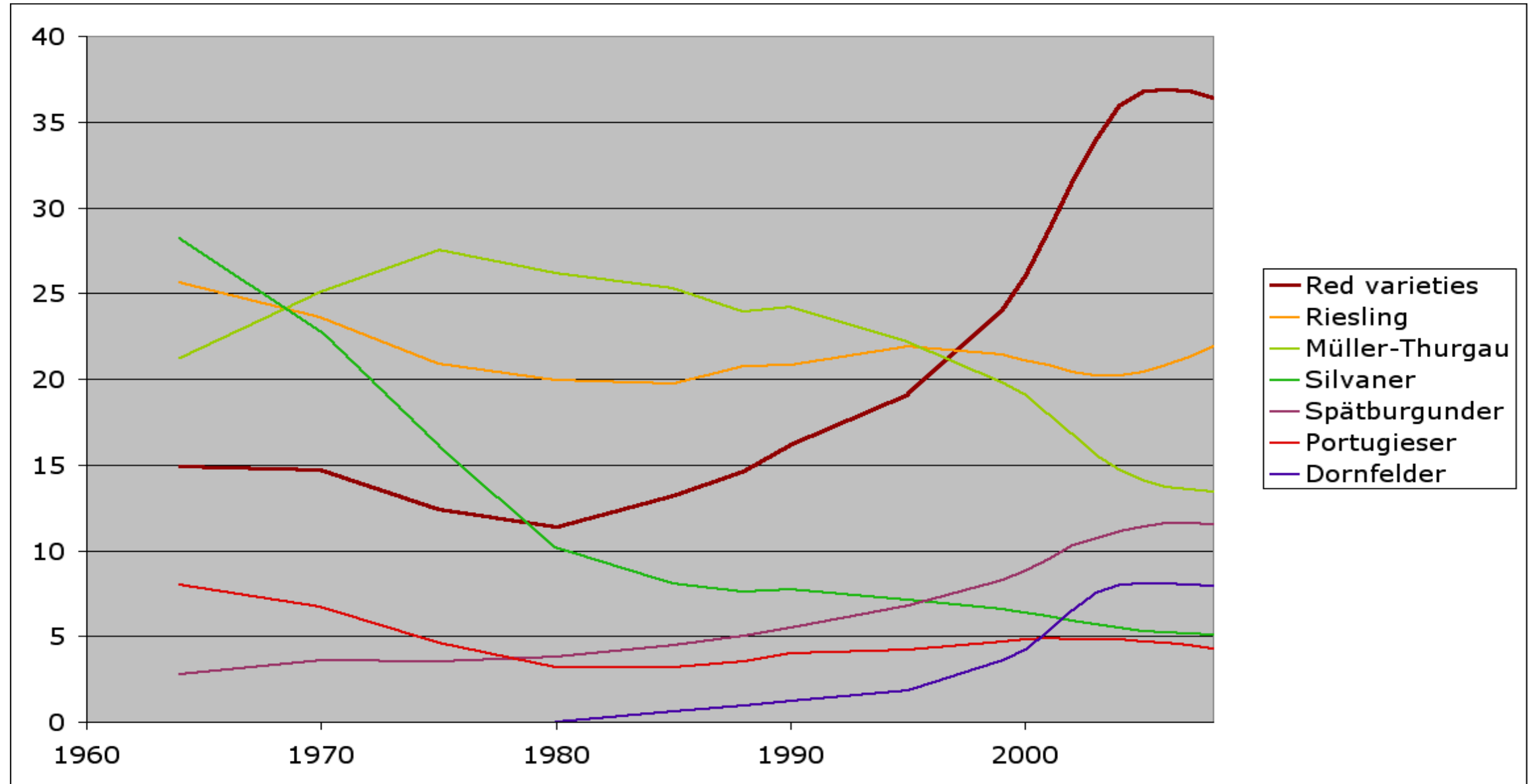
Wine regions by size (2008 data)

Rheinhessen	10	10578	69:31
<i>Pfalz</i>	8	9384	61:39
Baden	2	6362	56:44
<i>Wurttemberg</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>4604</i>	<i>29:71</i>
Mosel	6	3614	91:9
Franconia (Franken)	3	2425	80:20
Nahe	7	1662	75:25
Rheingau	9	1250	85:15
Saale - Unstrut	11	274	74:26
Ahr	1	223	14:86
Saxony	12	185	81:19
Mittelrhein	5	184	85:15
Hessische BergstraBe	4	176	79:21

Wine Production

- Germany produces 1,200,000,000 bottles of wine per year
- 66% of wine is White
- 34% of wine is Red
- Germany is the 10th largest producer of wine in the world
- German law allows 135 types of grapes to be cultivated
- Only 20 types of grapes have a significant market share
- Grapes must be approved before planting in a given region.

Wine Trends (% of grape varieties)



Permitted White Grapes

- [Albalonga](#)
- [Arnsburger](#)
- [Auxerrois blanc](#)
- [Bacchus](#)
- [Blauer Silvaner](#)
- [Bronner](#)
- [Chardonnay](#)
- [Ehrenbreitsteiner](#)
- [Ehrenfelser](#)
- [Elbling](#)
- [Faberrebe](#)
- [Findling](#)
- [Fontanara](#)
- [Freisamer](#)
- [Früher Malingre](#)
- [Gelber Muskateller](#)
- [Gewürztraminer](#)
- [Goldriesling](#)
- [Grauburgunder](#)
- [Gutedel](#)
- [Hibernal](#)
- [Hölder](#)
- [Huxelrebe](#)
- [Irsay Oliver](#)
- [Johanniter](#)
- [Juwel](#)
- [Kanzler](#)
- [Kerner](#)
- [Kernling](#)
- [Mariensteiner](#)
- [Merzling](#)
- [Morio-Muskat](#)
- [Müller-Thurgau](#) (Rivaner)
- [Muskat-Ottonel](#)
- [Nobling](#)
- [Optima](#)
- [Orion](#)
- [Ortega](#)
- [Osteiner](#)
- [Perle](#)
- [Perle von Csaba](#)
- [Phoenix](#)
- [Prinzipal](#)
- [Regner](#)
- [Reichensteiner](#)
- [Rieslaner](#)
- [Riesling](#)
- [Roter Elbling](#)
- [Roter Gutedel](#)
- [Roter Muskateller](#)
- [Sauvignon blanc](#)
- [Scheurebe](#)
- [Schönburger](#)
- [Septimer](#)
- [Siegenerrebe](#)
- [Silcher](#)
- [Silvaner](#)
- [Sirius](#)
- [Staufer](#)
- [Veltliner](#)
- [Weißer Burgunder](#)
- [Würzer](#)

Label Markings on bottles

- **Qualitätswein bestimmter Anbaugebiete (QbA)** wines from a defined appellation with the exception of Liebfraumilch, which can be blended from several regions and still be classified as Qualitätswein.
- **Prädikatswein**, renamed from **Qualitätswein mit Prädikat (QmP)** (superior quality wine) in August 2007
- **Verband Deutscher Prädikatswein (VDP)** the oldest organization of winegrowing estates in the world. Label logo and capsule markings
- There are also several terms to identify the grower and producers of the wine:
 - **Weingut** refers to a wine growing and producing estate.
 - **Weinkellerei** refers to a bottling facility, a bottler or shipper.
 - **Winzergenossenschaft** refers to a winemaking cooperative.
 - **Gutsabfüllung** refers to a grower/producer wine that is estate bottled.
 - **Abfüller** refers to a bottler or shipper.

Wine Classifications 1971 - 2007

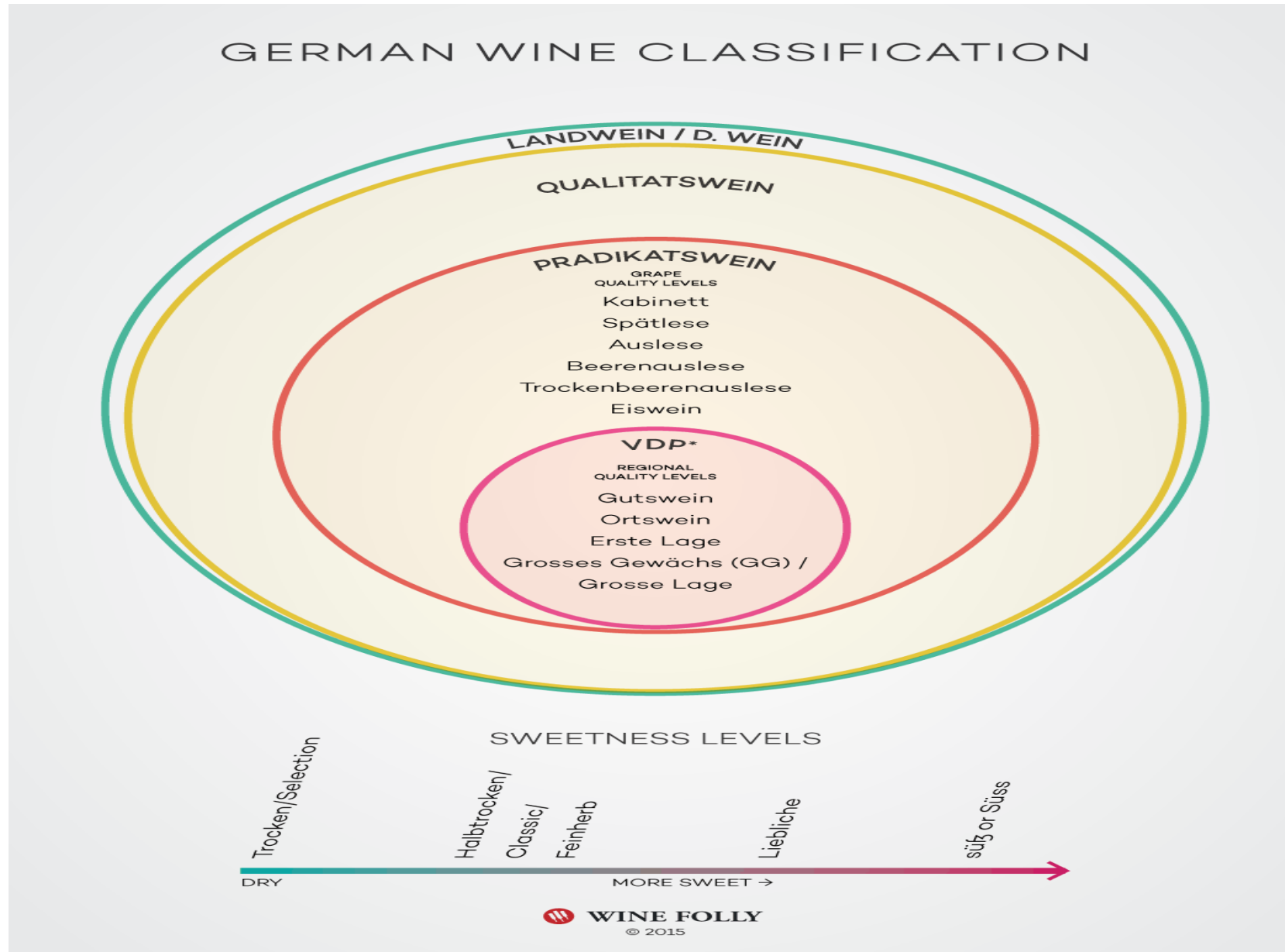
- **Deutscher Tafelwein** (German table wine) is mostly consumed in the country and not exported. Generally used for blended wines that can not be Qualitätswein.
- **Deutscher Landwein** (German country wine) comes from a larger designation and again doesn't play an important role in the export market.
- **Qualitätswein bestimmter Anbaugebiete** (QbA) wines from a defined appellation with the exception of Liebfraumilch, which can be blended from several regions and still be classified as Qualitätswein.
- **Prädikatswein**, recently (August 1, 2007) renamed from **Qualitätswein mit Prädikat** (QmP) wines made from grapes of higher ripeness. As ripeness increases, the fruit characteristics and price increase. Categories within Prädikatswein are Kabinett, Spätlese, Auslese, Beerenauslese, Trockenbeerenauslese and Eiswein. Wines of these categories can not be chaptalized. All these categories within Prädikatswein are solely linked to minimum requirements of potential alcohol. While these may correlate with harvest time, there are no legally defined harvest time restrictions anymore.
 - **Kabinett** wines are made from grapes that have achieved minimum defined potential alcohol levels. Those minimum requirements differ by region and grape varietal. Essentially, Kabinett is the first level of reserve grape selection.
 - **Spätlese** wines ("late harvest") are made from grapes that have achieved minimum defined potential alcohol levels. Those minimum requirements differ by region and grape varietal. Essentially, Spätlese is the second level of reserve grape selection.
 - **Auslese** wines ("select harvest") are made from grapes that have achieved minimum defined potential alcohol levels. Those minimum requirements differ by region and grape varietal. Essentially, Auslese is the third level of reserve grape selection.
 - **Beerenauslese** wines ("berry selection") are made from grapes that have achieved minimum defined potential alcohol levels. The concentration of the grape juice may have been facilitated by a fungus *Botrytis*, which perforates the skin of the grape forcing water to drip out and all remaining elements to concentrate. Due to the high potential alcohol level required for this category of ripeness, these wines are generally made into sweet wines and can make good dessert wines.
 - **Trockenbeerenauslese** wines ("dry berries selection") are made from grapes of an even higher potential alcohol level, generally reachable only with the help of Botrytis. The grapes used for Trockenbeerenauslese have reached an even more raisin-like state than those used for Beerenauslese. Due to the high concentration of sugar in the raisin-like grape, these wines can only be made in a sweet style and make extremely sweet, concentrated and usually quite expensive wines.
 - **Eiswein** (ice wine) wine is made grapes that freeze naturally on the vine and have to reach the same potential alcohol level as Beerenauslese. The grapes are harvested and pressed in the frozen state. The ice stays in the press during pressing and hence a concentrated juice flows off the press leading to higher potential alcohol levels, which in turn generally result in sweet wines due to the high potential alcohol. The taste differs from the other high-level wines since Botrytis infection is usually lower, ideally completely absent.

Wine Classification



All wines from table wine to Auslese
can be dry, medium-dry or sweet.

Wine Classification - Updated



VDP



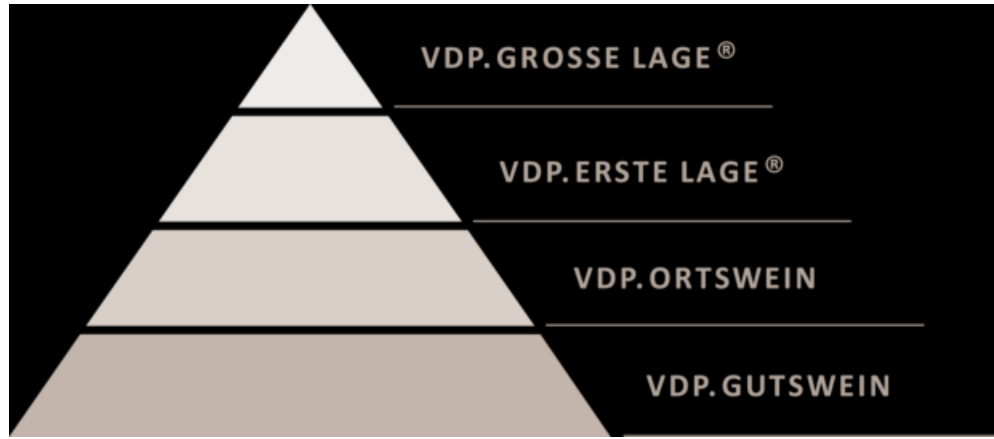
VDP 2012 classifications

- VDP started in 1910
- The basic plan standardizes growing, harvesting, and processing of the finest German wines.
- Some VDP activities include:
 - ✓ Establish a labeling and classification system
 - ✓ Establish quality standards for chaptalization, must weights, and alcohol content.
 - ✓ Define the wines allowed for a given region
 - ✓ Highlight the finest German regions and vineyards.
 - ✓ Set rules required to be able to display the VDP logo.
 - ✓ Promote sales of VDP logo'd wines

VDP classifications continued

- Originally the VDP promoted sustainable agricultural practices and un-chaptalized wines from member producers that were featured at an annual auction. With the passing of the '71 laws its mission expanded and the organization sought to return the Germany's great vineyards to their former prominence as well as the reputation of the country's great dry wines. Over time the organization created its own classification that would seek to accomplish both. In 2002 the VDP published the first version of their classification which was updated in 2006 and again in 2012. As it now stands the classification, called "Grosse Lage" is based on the Burgundian system of Grand Cru and Premier Cru vineyards. The four tiered system is as follows:
 - Grosse Gewächs or Grosse Lage : Grand Cru vineyards
 - Erste Gewächs: Premier Cru vineyards
 - Ortswein: village level wines
 - Gutswein: traditional estate wines

VDP Triangle



VDP.GROSSE LAGE® – The peak of the pyramid

VDP.GROSSE LAGE® designates the very best vineyards of Germany, within which the finest parcels have been narrowly demarcated. With their site-specific characteristics, these wines are particularly expressive and have exceptional aging potential. They are planted with traditional varieties best suited to a particular site, as determined by each region.

VDP.ERSTE LAGE® - First class

VDP.ERSTE LAGE® designates first-class vineyards with distinctive characteristics. They provide optimal growing conditions, as evidenced over a long period of time. They are planted with traditional varieties, as determined by each region.

VDP.ORTSWEIN –Sourced from superior soils

VDP.ORTSWEINE, or village wines, originate from a village's good, traditional vineyards that are planted with grape varieties typical of their region. Yield restrictions are also a criterion for wines of this category.

VDP.GUTSWEIN – Good from the ground up

VDP.GUTSWEINE, or regional wines, originate from an estate's holdings within a region. They are entry-level house wines that meet the general [quality standards](#) prescribed by the VDP and provide a good introduction to the VDP's hierarchy that inherently links wine quality with origin

Wine Tasting

- Tonight we will taste wine from 3 white wine regions.
 - Pfalz
 - Mosel
 - Rheinhessen
- 1st Sekt Weisburgunder Brut Pfalz 2013 \$28
- 2nd Scheurbe Kabinett Mosel 2012 \$18
- 3rd Silvaner Halbtrocken Rheinhessen Qualitätswein 2015 \$14
- 4th Riesling Kabinett Grosse Lage Mosel 2012 \$28
- 5th Riesling Beerenauslese Rheinhessen 2015 \$29 @375ml

Wine 1 SEKT Wiesburgunder Brut Pfalz 2013 \$28



Wine 1 Weisburgunder Sekt 2013

Sekt is the German name for sparkling wine

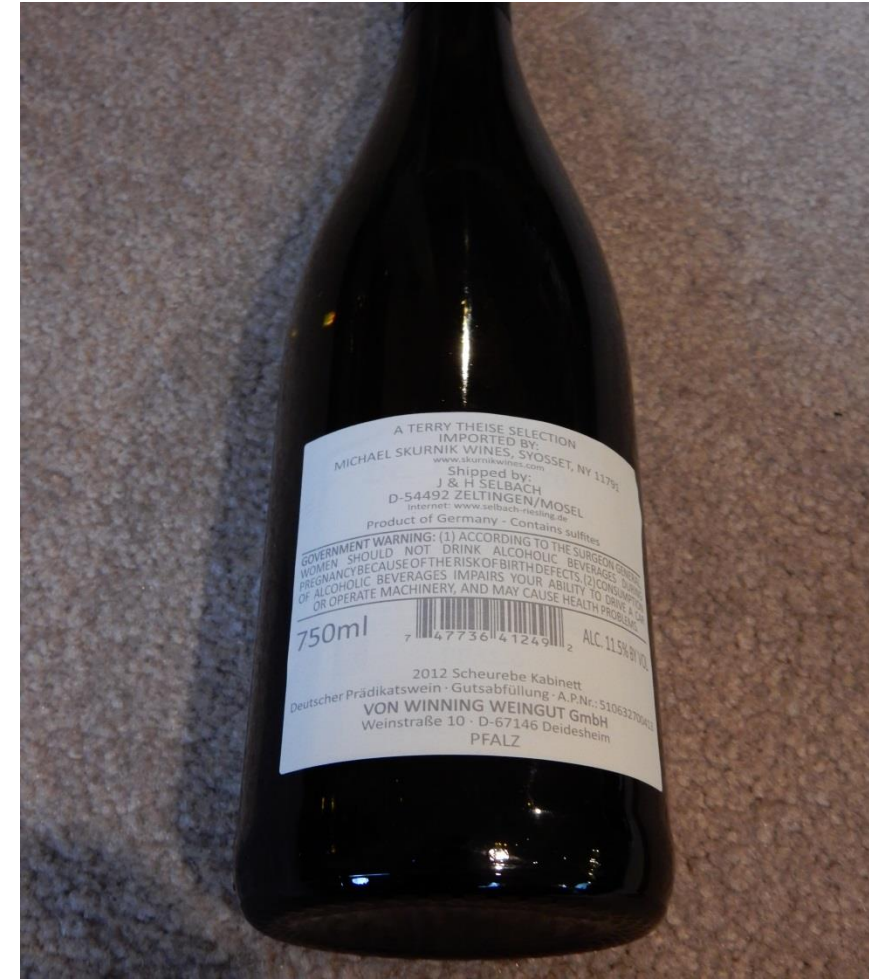
Weisburgunder is commonly called Pinot Blanc

Most Sekt is not exported and is typically consumed in Europe

Our Sekt is made *method traditional* with only German grapes from Bad Durkheim area in the Pfalz.

If you are ever in Baden-Wurttemberg, just outside of Stuttgart be sure to visit the city of Esslingen. There you will find the home of Kessler manufacturer of excellent Sekt. Georg Kessler opened his Sekt House in 1787. Georg had previously worked in France at Veuve Clicquot. He also had association with Dom Perignon.

Wine 2 Scheurebe Kabinett Mosel 2012 \$18



Wine 2 Scheurebe Kabinett Mosel 2012

- Scheurebe also known as Samling 88
- Our wine is from Deidesheim in the Pfalz. Grown, produced, and estate bottled.
- This wine is classified Kabinett and VDP recognized. If you look at the neck ring you will see the VDP logo on a green background.
- This grape has a sketchy history. It was believed to be a cross of Silvaner and Riesling. DNA later proved Silvaner was not the father but Riesling was!
- Dr Georg Scheu was working on a better grape... He was also working with wild grapes and it's believed he crossed the Riesling with a wild grape but mislabeled it. It was later discovered the Riesling was crossed with Bouquet Blanc
- In 1945 the grape was named in Dr. Scheu's honor. The rebe suffix on the end simply means "VINE"
- The grape is very aromatic with hints of black current and grapefruit.

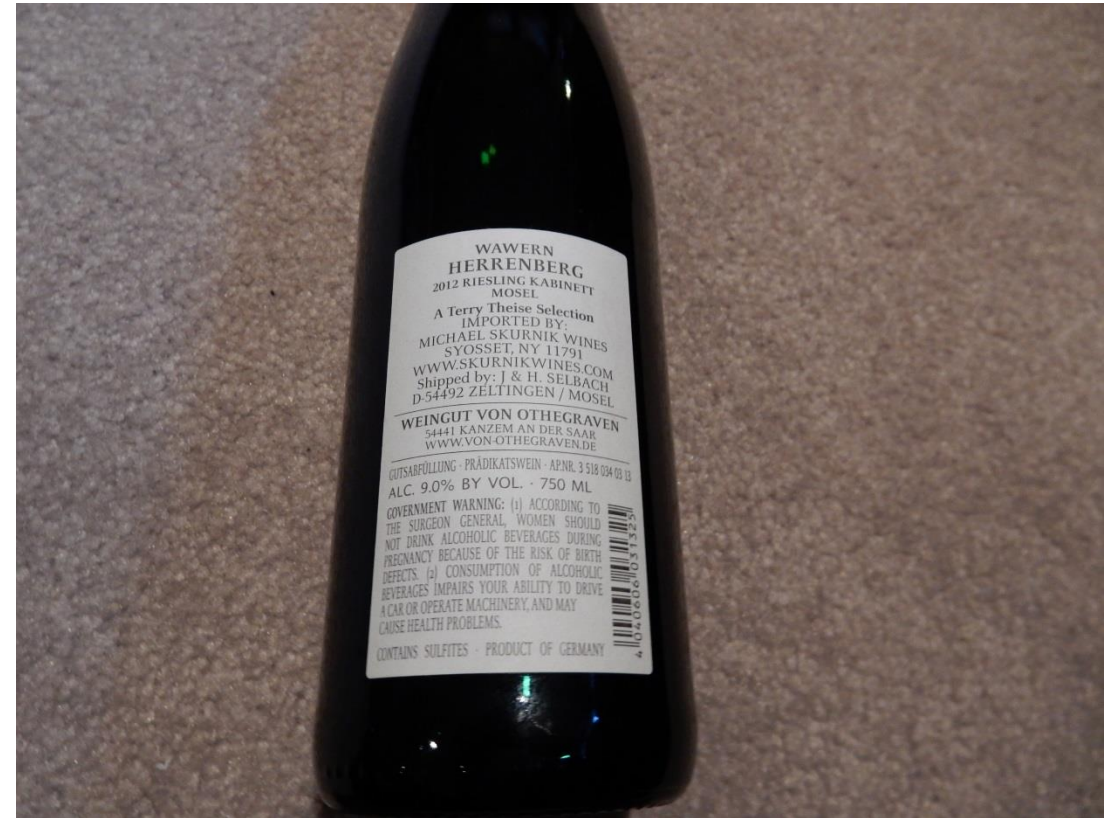
Wine 3 Silvaner Halbtrocken Rheinhessen Qualitätswein 2015 \$14



Wine 3 Silvaner Halbtrocken Rheinhessen Qualitätswein 2015

- Our wine is a 2015 Silvaner Halbtrocken and classified as a Qualitätswein.
- This Silvaner comes from Alzey-Weinheim in Rheinhessen. This wine only states bottled by A. Gysler. This indicates the grapes were gathered and produced locally.
- Sylvaner, or Silvaner, officially named Gruner Silvaner is primarily grown in Alsace and Germany.
- It has to be managed carefully because it is very vigorous. A high acid grape but with a skilled wine maker can make an elegant wine. It is often blended with Riesling or Elbling.

Wine 4 Riesling Kabinett Grosse Lage Mosel 2012 \$28



Wine 4 Riesling Kabinett Grosse Lage Mosel 2012

- Our 2012 Riesling Kabinett is VDP classified “Grosse Lage” from the Mosel. In fact from Kanzem on the Saar river. This wine was estate grown, produced, and bottled there. Herrenberg is the single vineyard name.
- Grosse Lage is the highest VDP classification for the Mosel region. In other regions it maybe be labeled Grosse Gewach. If the wine is a Grosse Gewach it is allowed to use the GG / grape symbol on the bottle. This is the equivalent to the French classification of “GRAND CRU”
- The VDP organization has been working on and continues to update rules. 2012 to present are currently in use.

Wine 5 Riesling Beerenaslese Rheinhessen 2015 \$29



Wine 5 Riesling Beerenauslese Rheinhessen 2015

- Riesling Beerenauslese from Bechtheim in the Rheinhessen. This 2015 sells for \$29 a 375ml bottle. It is estate bottled.
- Beerenauslese by definition hand selected (very ripe) grapes. The grapes most likely would be affected by noble rot also call Botrytis.
- Beerenauslese is very intriguing. People seem to love or hate primarily because of its sweetness.
- When you taste this wine be sure to:
 - ✓ Smell the wine
 - ✓ Sip the wine and swish it in your mouth
 - ✓ Suck air into your mouth and breathe out your nose
 - ✓ Swallow your sip savor and breathe again out your nose.
 - ✓ Most people can't describe how many notes they are tasting.... Many say peach, honey, apricot, spice, apple butter, smoke, and mineral.

Conclusion

I hope you enjoyed the wines tonight.

You should now be able to go into a wine shop and intelligently select a German White with some confidence.

Keep in mind the nicest German whites will be Pradikatswein or have a VDP designation.

Price will also give you a clue of the wine classification.

Zum Wohl!

Zinner

References

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_wine
- Other categories consider VDP, German facts & terms, German wine classifications, German Grapes
- Jancis Robinson book titled “ The Oxford Companion to Wine “ the third addition.
- <http://www.surdyks.com>
- Books and misc. magazines I’ve found.
- www.winefolly.com
- For a beautiful mini tour of German wine country..... Google “Neckar vineyard pictures” or Mosel Valley vineyards