



VILLA WOLF

Ernst Loosen

December 2023

The 2023 Harvest at Villa Wolf

“A vintage that, overall, can be considered a success!”



Gathering the harvest at Villa Wolf.

WACHENHEIM/WEINSTRASSE, GERMANY

In 2023, our journey through the seasons began on a positive note, blessed with ample rainfall and the consequential moisture seeping into the soil. Following a notably cool spring, the awakening of buds graced us in the final week of April. However, the period from May to August unfolded a tale of pronounced drought, reminiscent of the conditions witnessed in 2018 and 2020. During these months, certain vineyards faced the potential threat of succumbing to drought stress.

Benefiting from the warmth and aridity, our vineyards experienced an optimal flowering phase, culminating in a prolific fruit set. Fortunately, the specter of late frosts did not cast its shadow upon us.

Toward the end of August, the Pfalz region witnessed a deluge, with rainfall reaching up to 100 liters per square meter (nearly four inches). This precipitation, however, ushered in a challenge in the form of heightened fungal pressure in the vineyards, necessitating an expedited and early harvest.

Grape varieties characterized by compact clusters, such as Pinot Gris or Riesling, bore the brunt of this climatic shift, prompting swift reactions from our team. The harvest, typically spanning about five weeks, was condensed into a succinct two-and-a-half week period. Regrettably, the overall yield for the year suffered a 30% reduction, as a significant portion of grape material had to be meticulously sorted due to rot.

In a silver lining, the grape must exhibited a robust supply of nutrients, facilitating a swift and uninterrupted fermentation process.

The autumn of 2023 will be remembered as a period marked by various challenges but also successful adaptations and hopeful outcomes in the history of winemaking. A vintage that, overall, can be considered a success!

— *Ernst Loosen*

###

For more information, contact:
Kirk Wille, Loosen Bros. USA, Ltd.
kirk.wille@drloosen.com



Harvesting a ripe cluster.