



DR. LOOSEN

April 2023

A hot, dry summer leads to the earliest harvest ever at Dr. Loosen

The 2022 vintage was defined by heat in summer and rain during harvest.

BERNKASTEL/MOSEL, GERMANY

The 2022 growing season in the Middle Mosel was characterized by a warm spring, intense summer heat, and a severe drought that persisted from June to September. Relief from the drought finally came, but at exactly the wrong moment. The main harvest was just getting under way when heavy rain presented serious challenges, as we battled picking delays, stalled ripening, and the threat of mildew. In the end, it was a difficult and frustrating year, but our team is accustomed to working with the uncertainties of nature and they harvested a fine crop of beautiful wines.

After a fairly normal bud break, warmer temperatures in May brought on rapid vine development. On the positive side, there were certainly no frost issues in 2022. Quite the contrary, as the warm spring and hot summer continued to push the vines along at a breathtaking pace. The drought caused a lot of stress for our younger vines, which required that we water them by hand, an exceedingly labor-intensive undertaking. However, the older vines (up to 130 years old) in many of our Grosse Lage parcels fared much better because of their deep, well-developed root systems.

Ripening of the fruit accelerated through the summer, leading to the earliest harvest start that we've ever experienced. In late August, we began picking our parcels of Pinot Noir in Ürziger Würzgarten for our Rosé Sekt. It was a frighteningly early harvest, but we must admit that the fruit was perfect and the wine is fantastic! The Riesling harvest came next, just as the rain arrived, which caused frustrating interruptions in our picking schedule. While we waited for dry breaks in the weather, so we could rush out and pick furiously, the rain and cooler temperatures caused ripening to stall.

Overall, average must weights in 2022 were a bit lower than in recent years, leading our Kellermeister, Berni Schug, to declare, "It's a Kabinett year!" Nevertheless, through quick action and über-meticulous harvest selection, we were able to bring in excellent-quality fruit for our dry wines, as well as the lower Prädikats: Kabinett, Spätlese and a small amount of Auslese. This was not a year for BA or TBA. The summer heat also left us with slightly lower acidity levels, but it is an exceptionally well-integrated acid structure that beautifully complements the delicate nature of the vintage.

— Ernst Loosen



Hauling fruit in the extremely steep Erdener Prälät vineyard.

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