



DR. LOOSEN

DYNAMIC RIESLINGS FROM THE STEEP SLOPES OF THE MOSEL



The Dr. Loosen estate house and vinothek, on the right bank of the Mosel River, just downstream from the historic wine village of Bernkastel.

ROOTS OF THE WINE

The Loosen family has been growing Riesling and producing wine in the Mosel valley for over 200 years. Current owner, Ernst “Erni” Loosen, assumed ownership in 1988, embarking on a quest to greatly improve the quality and international reputation of the estate, the Mosel region, and Riesling in general. Today, Erni is one of the most iconic and influential winemakers in the world.

The full range of Riesling styles is produced, following the traditions of both family lines: dry wines from the paternal Loosen side; Prädikat wines from the maternal branch (the Prüm family).

THE ELEMENTS OF QUALITY AT DR. LOOSEN

Cool regional climate

The Mosel’s climate and steep, south-facing slopes create ideal conditions for Riesling. With optimal exposure to the low-lying, northern sun, full flavor development is assured. The cool climate allows the grapes to ripen slowly, while retaining bright acidity.

Distinctive slate soil

The region’s stony soil and rocky outcroppings reflect sunlight and hold in heat, creating ideal vineyard climates, which ensures excellent ripeness. Thin, rocky topsoil forces the vines to dig deep for water and nutrients, producing vibrant wines that capture the strong mineral character of the soil.

Old, ungrafted vines

In its best sites, Dr. Loosen has vines that are up to 130 years old, on original rootstock (phylloxera doesn’t survive in the Mosel, so ungrafted vines are possible here). Old vines produce wines that are naturally more concentrated and expressive of their terroir.

OVERVIEW OF DR. LOOSEN

YEAR FOUNDED: Early 1800s

OWNER: Ernst Loosen

WINEMAKER: Bernhard Schug

VINEYARD MANAGER: Roland Orthmann

LOCATION: Bernkastel, Middle Mosel, Germany

VINEYARD AREA: 40 hectares (100 acres)

AGE OF VINES: Up to 130 years; 60 years average

SOIL TYPES: Blue slate, red slate, red volcanic sandstone

VITICULTURE: Sustainable

GRAPE VARIETIES: 98% Riesling; 2% Weissburgunder

AVERAGE YIELD: 55 hl/ha (approx. 2.5 tons per acre)

ANNUAL PRODUCTION: 35,000 cases

MEMBER: VDP Mosel

INTERNATIONAL ACCOLADES

TOP 100 WINERY 2020 *Wine & Spirits Magazine*

WORLD’S BEST VINEYARDS 2020

WEIN-LEGENDE 2018 *Feinschmecker*

WINE AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR 2016 *Falstaff*

DECANTER HALL OF FAME 2005

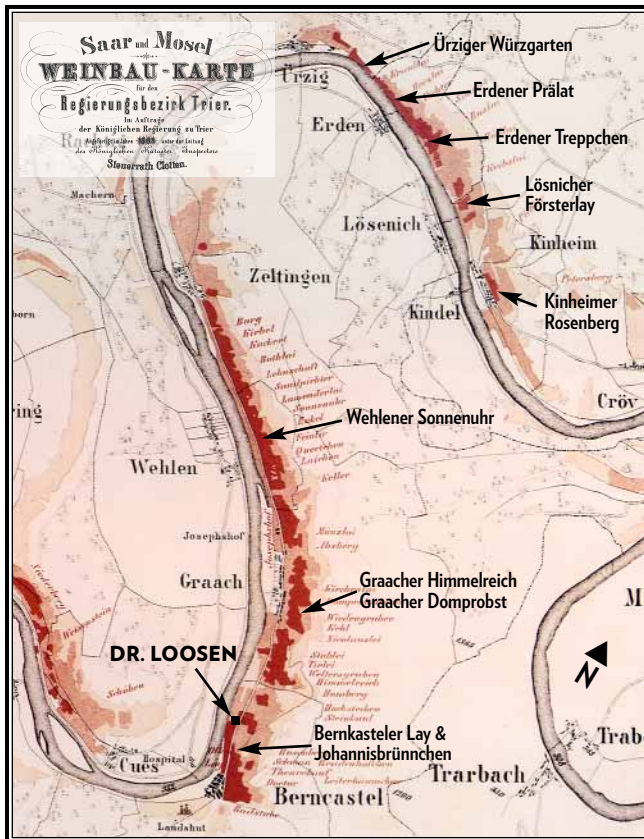
WHITE WINE MAKER OF THE YEAR 2005 *Wine International*

WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR 2001 *Gault Millau*

THE DR. LOOSEN ESTATE – FROM THE GROUND UP

The Dr. Loosen estate is in the village of Bernkastel, in the heart of the Mosel Valley. Ernst Loosen’s vision is to make wines that clearly express the individual character of each of the estate’s Grosse Lage (grand cru) vineyards.

THE MOSEL WINE REGION IN GERMANY



THE SOIL TYPES OF DR. LOOSEN

Blue Slate

This is the most typical type of slate in the Middle Mosel, and is the primary soil in the villages of Bernkastel, Graach and Wehlen. Rich in potassium, it provides vital nutrients to the vines and gives the wines a pronounced mineral edge that enhances the naturally high acidity of Riesling.



Red Slate

Iron-rich red slate is less common in the Middle Mosel, found mostly in the villages of Erden and Ürzig. There is something special about red slate that imparts a dense, muscular minerality to the wines.



Red Volcanic Sandstone

This soft, crumbly, red volcanic sandstone is found only in the original Ürziger Würzgarten vineyard. From this soil, we see wines that have more exotic fruit, a lush texture on the palate and a spicy edge that gives the vineyard (“Spice Garden”) its name.



MOSEL VINEYARD CLASSIFICATION

This detail from the 1868 Prussian vineyard classification map shows the area between the villages of Bernkastel and Kinheim. The finest, most highly valued vineyards are shown in dark red.

All of Dr. Loosen’s 10 major vineyards are designated as Grosse Lage (equivalent to grand cru) on this map. Undertaken for tax assessment purposes, this classification predates the grand cru system in Burgundy. It was reaffirmed by Stuart Pigott and Hugh Johnson in their *Wine Atlas of Germany* (1995).

PLEASE NOTE: The vineyard classification used at Dr. Loosen is based on historical records, but is not yet recognized by German wine law. However, the estate’s 10 classified vineyards are now officially recognized as Grosse Lage (“great sites”) by the VDP, Germany’s top growers association.



CLASSIFIED VINEYARDS AT DR. LOOSEN

All of Dr. Loosen's 10 major vineyards were designated as "Grosse Lage" (equivalent to grand cru) in the 1868 Prussian classification of Mosel vineyards. Only wines from these top-rated sites are bottled with a single-vineyard designation.



BERNKASTELER LAY

(The Slate of Bernkastel)

Bernkasteler Lay (pronounced LIE) is situated between the Dr. Loosen estate house and the village of Bernkastel. The soil is predominantly slate, but is heavier and deeper than in the estate's other vineyards. This site produces richly textured, assertive wines.

BERNKASTELER JOHANNISBRÜNNCHEN

(The Little Spring of St. John)

Just above the Lay vineyard, this site gave the historical name to the Dr. Loosen estate house, Johannishof. A slightly cooler site because of its elevation, the wines have a sprightly elegance.



GRAACHER HIMMELREICH

(The Kingdom of Heaven)

Graach is a small village that lies between two more-famous neighbors: Bernkastel and Wehlen. This vineyard's steep, southwest-facing slopes and deep soils produce wines that combine the elegance of Wehlen with the fore-ful strength of Bernkastel.

GRAACHER DOMPROBST

(Dean of the Cathedral in Graach)

The Domprobst vineyard lies directly behind the village, with the Himmelreich vineyard surrounding it. Considered the finest "center cut" of the steep slope behind the village, Domprobst produces complex, full-throated wines with great depth and ageability.



WEHLENER SONNENUHR

(The Sundial of Wehlen)

This precipitously steep and rocky vineyard (VAY-len-er ZON-en-ooer) produces some of the most elegant and sophisticated white wines in the world. The pure blue slate soil gives the wine a delicate finesse and a feather-light structure that perfectly balances the layers of green apple, white peach and lemon fruit. It's a supremely charming wine that dances gracefully on the palate.



ÜRZIGER WÜRZGARTEN

(The Spice Garden of Ürzig)

Blazing red and insanely steep, the Ürziger Würzgarten (ERTS-ih-ger VERTS-gar-ten) vineyard fills the picturesque amphitheater formed by this dramatic bend in the river. With its unique volcanic sandstone soil, the aptly named "spice garden" vineyard produces wines with exotic, spicy aromas that are bursting with tropical fruit flavors. Some of the estate's oldest vines are found here, up to 130 years old.

LÖSNICHER FÖRSTERLAY

(The Forest Slate of Lösnich)

The Försterlay vineyard is the contiguous, downstream continuation of the long, southwest-facing slope of Erdener Treppchen. The village of Lösnich is not as well known, but the vineyards here are superb, also producing a muscular style of Riesling from red slate soil.



ERDENER TREPPCHEN

(The Little Staircase of Erden)

This vineyard is so steep that, long ago, stone steps were built into the hillside to help workers reach the vines. The iron-infused, red slate soil produces wines that are muscular and complex, with an intense minerality on the finish. Wines from Erdener Treppchen are more like a powerful, hard-body rock climber than the graceful ballet dancer of Wehlener Sonnenuhr.



ERDENER PRÄLAT

(The Bishop of Erden)

The four-acre Erdener Prälät (AIR-din-er PRAY-laht) produces some of the greatest wines in the Mosel valley. It has 100 percent south-facing, red slate soil and an extraordinarily warm microclimate, yielding wines of unequalled power and nobility. The vineyard's exposure, combined with the warming effect of the river and the massive, heat-retaining cliffs that surround it, ensures exceptional ripeness in every vintage.

KINHEIMER ROSENBERG

(The Rosy Hill of Kinheim)

Continuing downstream from Lösnich, the next village is Kinheim. Here, the slope turns a bit more to the south, giving the vines even better exposure to the sun. This is another village that has been forgotten in recent years, but the Rosenberg site has excellent potential.

THE RANGE OF RIESLING STYLES

Riesling is one of the few grape varieties that is capable of producing a complete spectrum of wine styles, from dry to lusciously sweet. The key to this broad range lies in a rigorous selection process during the harvest.

DRY RIESLING – REDISCOVERING A FAMILY TRADITION



Since taking on the estate in 1988, Ernst Loosen has produced one or two dry Rieslings every year. But the majority of the wines were made in the classically fruity style, which was the tradition from his mother's side of the family. Starting with the 2008 vintage, however, Ernst embarked on a quest to revive the dry Riesling style of his paternal great-grandfather, who had produced only dry wines.

In rediscovering his forebear's techniques, Ernst learned that extended maturation is the key producing well-balanced, naturally harmonious dry Rieslings. This approach requires careful vineyard management and patient winemaking. All of the dry wines are fermented with indigenous yeasts in neutral oak casks and kept on the full lees for 12 months or more, with no bâtonnage.

Grosses Gewächs (GG) and Grosses Gewächs Réserve (GGR)

Grosses Gewächs (grow-sess guh-vex) simply means “great growth” in German. It is the term used for a dry wine from a classified Grosse Lage vineyard. These wines are identified by the VDP's “GG” logo on the bottle. GG Réserve is held in barrel a year longer than GG.



RIESLINGS WITH SWEETNESS (PRÄDIKAT WINES)

Kabinett

The lightest and most delicate style of Mosel Riesling, Kabinett is produced from the earliest picking of fruit. This style has bright acidity, with flavors that lean more toward citrus and green fruits.

Spätlese

(Shpayt-lay-zuh; “late picked”) This is a richer, bolder style of Riesling made from healthy grapes harvested a week or more later than Kabinett. The longer hang time brings deeper, more developed white and yellow fruit flavors to the wine.

Auslese

(Ows-lay-zuh; “selected out of the harvest”) A luscious, medium-sweet wine made from clusters of very ripe grapes that have been partially affected by botrytis.

Eiswein

The grapes for Eiswein are picked and pressed while they are still frozen. Only the highly concentrated, sugary part of the juice emerges from the press, resulting in a vibrant, racy dessert wine.

Beerenauslese

(Bear-en ows-lay-zuh; “berry selection”) A rich, dense dessert wine made from fully botrytis-affected grapes that have shriveled about half way to raisins.

Trockenbeerenauslese

(Traw-ken bear-en ows-lay-zuh; “dried berry selection”) This labor-intensive and intensely concentrated wine is made by hand-selecting only individual, fully shriveled, botrytis-affected grapes. The ultra-sweet wine is multi-layered and deeply complex.

QUALITY CATEGORIES

SINGLE-VINEYARD WINES

From each Grosse Lage vineyard site, all of the following wines are possible. What is actually produced in a given vintage depends on the conditions of the growing season.

GROSSES GEWACHS (GG)

Dry GG Rieslings matured in barrel for one year.

GROSSES GEWÄCHS RÉSERVE (GGR)

Dry GG Rieslings matured in barrel for two years.

PRÄDIKAT WINES

All Prädikat levels are possible through a rigorous selection process that separates any botrytis-affected fruit from the clean, unaffected fruit.

VILLAGE WINE

From parcels within a single village, sometimes declassified from a Grosse Lage vineyard.

GRAACHER RIESLING TROCKEN

Dry Riesling from young vines in the Graacher Himmelreich vineyard.

ESTATE WINES

From estate-owned vineyards that are outside of the Grosse Lage sites.

“RED SLATE” RIESLING DRY

This wine is produced with fruit exclusively from estate vineyards with red slate soil in the villages of Ürzig, Erden, Löslich and Kinheim.

“BLUE SLATE” RIESLING KABINETT

A classic Kabinett that showcases the delicate, mineral-inflected taste of blue-slate vineyards in the villages of Bernkastel, Graach and Wehlen.

LOOSEN BROS. WINES

Value-priced, introductory Rieslings produced with fruit from quality-minded growers throughout the Mosel valley.

DR. L RIESLING

This wine embodies the racy and fruity style of classic Mosel Riesling.

DR. L RIESLING DRY

The dry, food-friendly counterpart to the classic Dr. L Riesling.

DR. L RIESLING SPARKLING

An extra-dry Sekt, made using the Charmat method, which produces bright, juicy and very affordable sparkling wines.