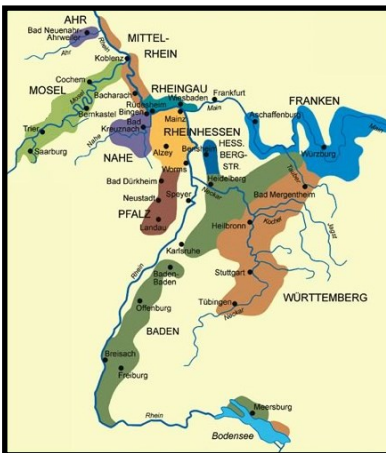


ERNST BRETZ

RHEINHESSEN



The village of Bechtolsheim is situated in the heart of Rheinhessen, at the foot of the Petersberg hill, a landmark offering a superb view across the wine-growing countryside. The Bretz family has been producing wine since 1721, now in its 9th generation. The wine estate itself dates back to the 17th Century when it belonged to the Welchnonnen Convent (nunnery) of Mainz. An old stone relief was found in the courtyard relating to the Convent. The wine-making tradition is today continued by the two sons, Horst & Harald Bretz.

Around 23 hectares of vines are cultivated, with most of the vineyards on the slopes of Petersberg from where one can enjoy magnificent views of the Taunus or Donnersberg. The vines are planted in multiple small plots that create a unique microclimate that make the region suitable for the growth and cultivation of grapes. The soil is clayey and has a lot of minerals. The workers try to protect nature and their land and vines so that the produce is high-quality that helps in making wines with great minerality and structure. The main varieties include Riesling, Spätburgunder, Grauer Burgunder, Weißer Burgunder, Sauvignon blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Chardonnay. The workers manually pick the best grapes and use them to make their famous red, white, rose, sparkling, and dessert wines. Fermentation in steel tanks with ageing in wood barrels gives the wines an intense flavor and taste that is typical of the gifted Rheinhessen terrain.

RHEINHESSEN

Geographical location: The Rhine Valley, bordered by the Nahe River on the west and by the Rhine on the north and east.

Major town(s): Mainz, Worms, Alzey, Bingen

Climate: Mild; the region is surrounded by protective hills and forests; in the west: the forested, hilly countryside known as "Rheinhessen's Switzerland"; in the north: the Taunus Hills; in the east: the Oden Forest.

Soil types: Loess, limestone and loam, often mixed with sand or gravel, are the main soil types. "Rotliegendes" is a red, slaty-sandy clay soil in the steep riverfront vineyards of Nackenheim and Nierstein and near Bingen, there is an outcropping of quartzite-slate.

Vineyard area 2019: 26,860 ha · 3 districts · 24 collective vineyard sites · 400+ individual sites

Grape varieties 2019: Riesling 18%, Müller-Thurgau 15%, Dornfelder 12%, Silvaner 7%, Pinot Gris 7%), Pinot Noir 5%, Pinot Blanc, Portugieser and Kerner



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