DR. BÜRKLIN-WOLF

PFALZ







In 1597, Bernhard Bürklin, town clerk and mayor of Wachenheim, founded Germany's largest privately owned estate, Bürklin-Wolf. The estate is based in the Mittelhaardt, the quality core of Germany's Pfalz, located an hours drive northeast of Alsace. Aptly, the Pfalz Mittelhardt is the topographical and geological extension of France's Côte d'Or and Alsace. The Mittelhardt's best sites are similarly located within a very narrow, sheltered east-facing strip of land.

This historic estate has a 400 year history and is the largest family owned winery in Germany with 110 hectares. The vineyards are located in Wachenheim, Forst, Deidesheim and Ruppertsberg including the monopol sites "Wachenheimer Rechbächel" and "Gaisböhl" in Ruppertsberg.

Disillusioned with confusing German wine laws that rated all vineyards equal and defined quality by sugar level, Bettina Bürklin-von Guradze made a radical decision in 1994 to focus on terroir-driven, dry, 100% riesling vineyard-designated bottlings. Her model is that of Burgundy, with 4 tiers of quality: basic "estate" wine, named "village" cuvées, premiers crus (which she calls P.C.) and grands crus (G.C.). After historical and geological research, she discovered that her own classification matched the Royal Bavarian Vineyard Classification of 1828.

Bettina made the decision to undertake a total conversion to BIODYNAMIC VITICULTURE, COMPLETED IN 2005, and Burklin-Wolf has thus become the first German member of the prestigious Biodyvin group.

PFALZ is the second largest German wine region by growing area, only topped by Rheinhessen, to its north. From there, the Pfalz stretches to the Alsace and the French border 53 miles to the south. A narrow stretch of land just 9 miles wide, the Pfalz is sheltered by the low-lying Haardt Mountains, which run along the region's western edge, forming a natural barrier against cold winds and rain blowing in from the west. To the east, it is bordered by the lowlands of the Rhine river.

The Pfalz is one of the warmest German growing regions with around 1,800 hours of sunshine per year. Summers are dry, but not too hot, and winters tend to be mild, creating near-Mediterranean microclimates.

The soil ranges from sandstone, limestone, marl, loess-loam and granite to isolated stretches of slate.

Riesling is the most important white grape and in 2008, the Pfalz became the largest Riesling growing area in the world with almost 5,500 hectares planted. The warmer climate in the south and loess-loam soils are conducive to Weißburgunder, Grauburgunder and Spätburgunder. However, the Pfalz is Germany's

largest red wine region. (Dornfelder, Pinot Noir).



