

Region: Mosel

The Mosel is arguably Germany's most prestigious wine growing region. Here the concertinaing river carves through sheer slopes, enabling the ripening of Riesling grapes this far north. The steep gradient improves the sun exposure of the vines. This combined with the benefit of reflection from the river and porous slate soils—aiding drainage and acting as 'night storage heaters' - the Riesling grapes are gently brought to maturity.

**Producer Profile**

Dr. Loosen is one of the most highly esteemed estates in Germany. Owned by the Loosen family for over 200 years, today the estate is run by Ernst Loosen. 80% of their grapes grown are Riesling and many of their vines are 60-70 years old. Their wines are terroir driven and have built their reputation on impeccably crafted wines.

SL46315 Dr Loosen Red Slate Dry Riesling 2015, Mosel 12.5% £10.49

A dry expression of Riesling, it's produced with fruit from estate-owned vineyards in the red slate soils in the villages of Erden and Ürzig. The wine is fermented with native yeasts in 3,000-litre neutral oak casks. This helps soften the acidity and allow a tiny amount of oxygenation, adding texture and greater complexity to the wine. The wine displays an intense minerality with floral, spice and citrus notes; this drier style is ideal with light fish or vegetable dishes. Enjoy now until 2020+.

Enjoy *Free Delivery, when you include the sampler case (or any featured six!) as part of a twelve bottle order.

SL48324	<u>Wines of Germany Sampler Case</u>	*Save £9.82 £67.95
1 x SL48120	Villa Wolf Gewurztraminer 2015	£9.49
1 x SL48101	Villa Wolf Pinot Noir 2014	£9.99
1 x SL46315	Dr Loosen Red Slate Dry Riesling 2015	£10.49
1 x SL48262	Balthasar Ress White Rabbit Riesling 2015	£10.95
1 x SL45172	Hofmann Weißer Burgunder Trocken 'Urmeer' 2014	£13.95
1 x SL45171	Hofmann Riesling Trocken 'vom Roten Stein' 2014	£14.95



Germany is responsible for some of the world's finest wines, and is particularly known for their expressions of Riesling. Sitting at the northern limits of where grapes can fully ripen, the fruit is coaxed and nursed to maturity by unique micro-climates formed by steep slopes and winding rivers. These conditions create inimitable wines which are racy, elegant and quite simply delicious.

German wines however - particularly in the UK - are not as widely appreciated as perhaps they should be. This can largely be put down to, what has proved to be, a disastrous move by the German wine industry in the 1960s and 70s to focus on inexpensive wines. The current generation of German winemakers are determined to restore their reputation for quality wine, and we believe there are many to be found, tried and enjoyed!

We have selected some of our favourite Deutschland delights for your exploration and enjoyment: why not try them all and enjoy a combined saving of *£9.82 with our Six-Bottle Sampler Case. *Claim FREE DELIVERY when you include any six of the featured wines as part of a twelve bottle order. Simply enter the code 'GERMANYFREE' at our online checkout, and click 'check code'.

Region: Rheingau

The Rheingau is a long south-facing hillside leading down to the Rhine, running from Rudesheim to Hochheim. Protected from the cold winds by the forested Taunus Hills and benefiting from the heat-reflecting surface of the Rhine, the region experiences mild winters and warm summers. Plantings are dominated by Riesling, which are notable for their minerality and extra body, relative to most Mosel's.

Producer Profile

Balthasar Ress was founded in 1870 by a hotelier of that name, who wanted to make wine to serve to his guests. Now run by the fourth and fifth generations of the family, Stefan Hess and his son Christian.

SL48262 Balthasar Ress White Rabbit Riesling 2015, Rheingau 9.5% £10.95

The wine was fermented in temperature-controlled stainless steel vats, and bottled early, without oak ageing to preserve freshness. Redolent of grass and herbs with a suggestion of white blossom and tropical fruit notes. Balanced and beautifully refreshing, its touch of sweetness makes it thoroughly enjoyable on its own or with roast pork. Enjoy in its youthful vivacity.

Region: Rheinhessen

The Rheinhessen is one of Germany's largest wine regions and one of the most exciting, as it continues to restore itself to former glories. Driven by a younger generation of ambitious winemakers, they are proving they can compete with the traditionally more 'celebrated' regions. Open to experimenting with various varieties, Muller-Thurgau which was once ubiquitous now only accounts for 16% of plantings, with Riesling increasing in popularity.

Producer Profile

Most of Jürgen Hofmann's sought-after wines are snapped up in Germany, destined for the country's top restaurants. Jürgen Hofmann took over his family winery with his wife (and fellow oenology graduate) Carolin in 2006. They have since gone on to achieve the coveted 3 grape rating from the highly regarded Gault and Millau Wine Guide, who describe Jürgen as 'one of Germany's most versatile winemakers at one of the best wineries in Germany.'

SL45172 Hofmann Weißer Burgunder Trocken 'Urmeer' 2014 12.5% £13.95

"This is a Pinot Blanc with an extra dimension to the norm. The usual aromas of pear and elderflower are present, but the addition of a small percentage of oaked wine in the blend, gives a gunflint complexity and delicate hint of hazelnut. Texturally it is smooth and creamy, without being too opulent, having a poised, citrus finish to make it crisply refreshing. This shows...how very good it can be [Pinot Blanc]." – Alison Flemming MW

SL45171 Hofmann Riesling Trocken 'vom Roten Stein' 2014 13% £14.95

Jürgen Hofmann really shows what he can do with this stunning and highly expressive Riesling. The iron oxide rich soils give an exotic spiciness in the wine suggesting papaya and passion fruit, with a twist of pink grapefruit and a mineral crispness on the finish. It is dry, vibrant and relatively full-bodied for a Riesling, drinking delightfully now but with the potential to develop for a further four to six years." - Alison Flemming MW

Region: Pfalz

The Pfalz in many ways is a cross-border extension of France's Alsace region. This 50 mile stretch of vineyards, like Alsace, benefits from dry summers and mild winters, with long sunny days. The warmer climate is ideal for pinot varieties and today is particularly known for its Pinot Noir. With red plantings accounting for 40% of its vineyards, it is Germany's largest red wine region.

Producer Profile

Founded in 1756 in the Pfalz region of Germany, the J.L. Wolf estate (now called Villa Wolf) was a successful and highly regarded winery for more than two centuries. In the latter years of the 20th century however, the estate languished, lacking a firm hand to guide its wine production. In 1996 the revered Ernst Loosen, of the Dr. Loosen estate (Mosel), took over the vineyards, launching a dramatic turnaround in the estate's quality and reputation.

**SL48101 Villa Wolf Gewurztraminer 2015, Pfalz 11% £9.49**

Harvested at optimal ripeness for a bright, fresh style; no overripe or botrytis affected fruit is allowed. Exhibiting a deliciously juicy texture with notes of spice and fresh roses. Good depth and a medium-full body, it's delicious on its own. Alternatively its aromatic, off-dry style works well with strong cheeses and spicy foods. Enjoy over the next couple of years.

SL48120 Villa Wolf Pinot Noir 2014, Pfalz 12.5% £9.99

The Villa Wolf label provides excellently priced varietal wines made from estate-grown fruit. The Pinot Noir is warm and medium-bodied, with forward, dark cherry fruit, a firm structure and a spicy mid-palate. Six months of barrique aging gives it a smoky depth and a nice backbone of earthy tannins. A great match for lighter game dishes. Enjoy over the next couple of years.