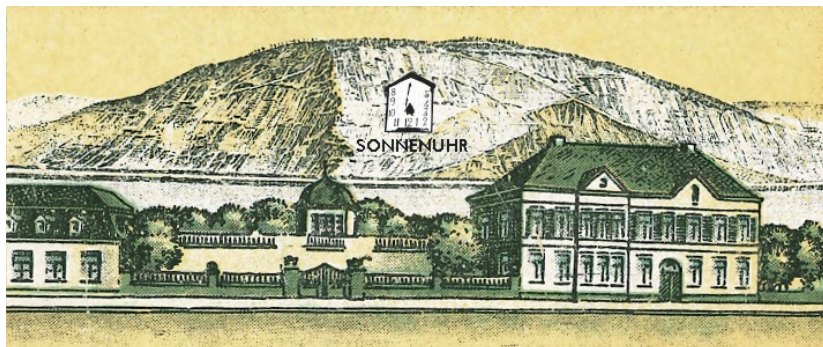


Dr. Loosen

Zach. Bergweiler-Prüm Erben, Wehlen a. d. Mosel



ERNST LOOSEN'S PERSONAL EXPLORATION OF HISTORICAL WINEMAKING IN THE MOSEL VALLEY

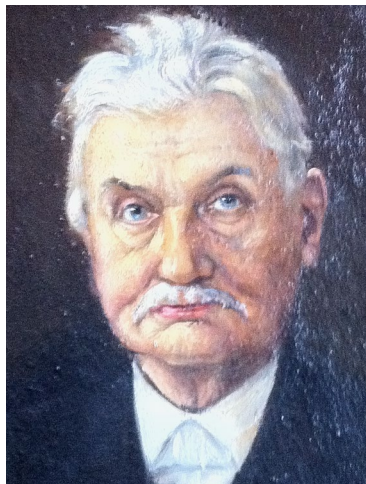
“These wines are a journey into the past, when German Rieslings had been the most highly prized wines in the world. They are precious to me and I want to share them with serious wine collectors around the globe. So it makes me quite happy that we can offer them through the extensive network of La Place de Bordeaux.”

—Ernst Loosen

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Zacharias Bergweiler-Prüm, the great-grandfather of Ernst Loosen.

WEINGUT ZACH. BERGWEILER-PRÜM ERBEN, DR. LOOSEN is renowned Mosel winemaker Ernst Loosen's latest exploration of the historical winemaking traditions of the region. The initial release of its limited-production wines will be offered exclusively through La Place de Bordeaux, using the services of the following leading negociants: Barrière Frères, Compagnie Médocienne des Grands Crus, Crus et Domaines de France, CVBG, Ulysse Cazabonne and Twins represented by Le Bureau des Grands Vins.

This singular winemaking project pays tribute to Zacharias Bergweiler-Prüm, Ernst's maternal great-grandfather, who was a major Mosel wine producer at the turn of the 20th century.

Born in 1861, Zach. Bergweiler built a substantial wine estate in the village of Wehlen, which became even more important after he married into the other highly successful wine family of the village: the Prüm family.

An ardent student of history, Ernst Loosen has long been fascinated by the winemaking traditions of previous generations, especially from the days of his great-grandfather when German wines were among the most highly regarded and expensive wines in the world. Since the 1990s, Ernst has experimented with wines made according to the traditional winemaking practices of the region, before the major changes brought about by the 1971 German wine law. And since 2012, he has produced a range of "Tradition" Prädikat wines, following those historical standards.

With the Zach. Bergweiler-Prüm Erben project, Ernst is taking the historical approach to its extreme, starting in the vineyard itself and bringing the same respect for tradition into the cellar. "I wanted to gain experience with very low-intervention viticulture and winemaking, in the way my great-grandfather did it," says Ernst. "He lived when German Rieslings enjoyed their greatest reputation around the world, so it makes sense to me that we should try again to produce wines the way they were done back then."





Ernst Loosen samples a cask of Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling in the Zach. Bergweiler-Prüm cellar.

THERE ARE THREE WINES IN THE COLLECTION, all grown in a separate parcel of 130-year-old vines, on original rootstock, in Wehlener Sonnenuhr, one of the most iconic Grosse Lage (grand cru) vineyards of the Mosel region. The vines are trained and maintained as they would have been 130 years ago, with hand cultivation and the use of only organic soil nutrients and with natural materials used for such things as the tying of the shoots and the transportation of materials to and from the vineyard. The grapes are intentionally grown and selectively hand-harvested to produce the three wines: a dry Riesling Grosses Gewächs (GG); an off-dry Riesling Kabinett; and a partially botrytis-affected Auslese.

The wines are vinified in the original winery of Zach. Bergweiler-Prüm, in Wehlen. In the cellar, the grapes for each wine are gently pressed in a traditional basket press, from 1910, which Ernst restored to working order. Spontaneous fermentation follows in neutral, 1000-liter, German oak Fuder casks. Only one Fuder of each wine is made, yielding approximately 1,200 bottles per wine.

The wines are not racked, and no bâtonnage is done while they mature on the full lees for 24 months. The extended barrel maturation, which was the normal practice in Zach. Bergweiler's era, gives the wines time to clarify and stabilize naturally, so there is no need for fining. Once bottled, the wines are held at the estate for a further four years before they are released.

This vintage is only the second release of these wines, which will be offered as a set of three in a special wooden case.

THE WINES



2019 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Dry (GG)

Grosses Gewächs (GG) is a full-bodied style of dry Riesling, produced with a selection of grapes that have achieved full ripeness, but without any botrytis. The GG designation indicates that the wine is dry (trocken) and comes solely from a vineyard site that has been classified as Grosse Lage. Extreme patience is required to produce a wine in this style. An unhurried fermentation and extended maturation, in barrel and in bottle, are critical to allow the wine time to develop a harmonious balance.

2019 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett

Kabinett is a light and delicate style of off-dry Riesling, made from grapes picked early in the harvest. Before the 1971 wine law, Mosel wines in this style were simply called Naturwein (“natural wine”), indicating that they were made without chaptalization. This wine is made according to those earlier standards, when there was also an upper limit to the residual sweetness allowed in the wine. Ernst feels that this historical approach returns a much better balance and drinkability to the Kabinett style.

2019 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese

The term Auslese means “selected from the harvest” and indicates a selection of very ripe clusters that have been partially affected by botrytis. This selection produces an intensely concentrated, lusciously fruity wine that has sweetness, but is not a dessert wine. Here again, to achieve a finer, more evocative balance, Ernst has returned to the tradition of wines in the Auslese style that are much less sweet than their contemporary counterparts.

ABOUT DR. LOOSEN

The Loosen family has been growing and producing wine in the Mosel valley for over 220 years. Current owner, 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. Today, Erni is one of the most iconic and influential winemakers in the world, with holdings in 11 of the finest Grosse Lage vineyards in the Mosel valley and numerous international winemaking projects. The full range of Riesling styles is produced at Dr. Loosen, following the traditions of both family lines: dry wines from the paternal Loosen side; Prädikat wines from the maternal branch (the Zach. Bergweiler-Prüm family). Dr. Loosen wines are available in over 80 countries.