

Weingut Zach. Bergweiler-Prüm Erben, Dr. Loosen 2019 WEHLENER SONNENUHR RIESLING AUSLESE



ABOUT THE ESTATE

Weingut Zach. Bergweiler-Prüm Erben is Mosel winemaker Ernst Loosen's exploration of the historical winemaking traditions of his family. This singular project pays tribute to Ernst's maternal great-grandfather, who was a major Mosel wine producer at the turn of the 20th century. Born in 1861, Zacharias Bergweiler built a substantial wine estate in the village of Wehlen and subsequently married into the other highly successful wine family of the village: the Prüm family. The wines are grown and produced according to the extremely patient and low-intervention practices used in the time of Zacharias, when German Rieslings enjoyed their greatest reputation around the world.

WEHLENER SONNENUHR RIESLING AUSLESE

The blue slate soil of Wehlen's "sundial" vineyard produces Rieslings that are uniquely elegant and refined. Auslese means "selected from the harvest," and is made from very ripe clusters that are about 50 percent affected by botrytis. The resulting wine is dense, intensely flavored and rich on the palate, but retains the fine structure that is characteristic of this great site. The grapes were pressed in a restored basket press from 1910, then fermented naturally and matured for 24 months in a traditional 1,000-liter Fuder cask.

THE 2019 VINTAGE

The 2019 Mosel Riesling vintage faced another year of extreme weather, marked especially by a severe August heat wave and prolonged drought conditions. Despite the challenges, Riesling's resilience shone through, producing a lower-yielding but fully ripe crop with vibrant aromatics and pronounced acidity. Scattered rains and cooler September temperatures helped the fruit ripen well, although late-September rains caused botrytis, requiring fast, selective harvesting. In the cellar, the wines show ripe density similar to 2018, but with brighter acidity for better structure. The result is a vintage with exuberant fruit, excellent balance, and strong aging potential.

TECHNICAL INFO

GRAPE VARIETY: 100% Riesling
SOIL TYPE: Blue Devonian slate
AGE OF VINES: 130 years; ungrafted

HARVEST METHOD: Selective hand picking

VINIFICATION: Gentle pressing in a basket press; native yeast fermentation in a traditional Fuder barrel; fermentation stopped by chilling

MATURATION: Matured for 24 months in barrel on the full lees; no bâtonnage; no fining; light filtration before bottling; held four years in bottle before release

ALCOHOL: 9.5%

TOTAL ACIDITY: 9.1 grams/liter

RESIDUAL SWEETNESS: 53.6 grams/liter **TOTAL PRODUCTION:** 1200 bottles