

# German Red Wines – Steve Zins 11/12/2014 Final

Rev 5.0



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# Introduction

- Our first visit to Germany was in 2000 to see our daughter who was attending college in Berlin. We rented a car and made a big loop from Frankfurt -Koblenz / Rhine - Black forest / Castles – Munich – Berlin-Frankfurt.
- After college she took a job with Honeywell, moved to Germany, got married, and eventually had our first grandchild.
- When we visit we always try to visit some new vineyards.
- I was surprised how many good red wines were available. So with the help of friends and family we procured and carried this collection over.

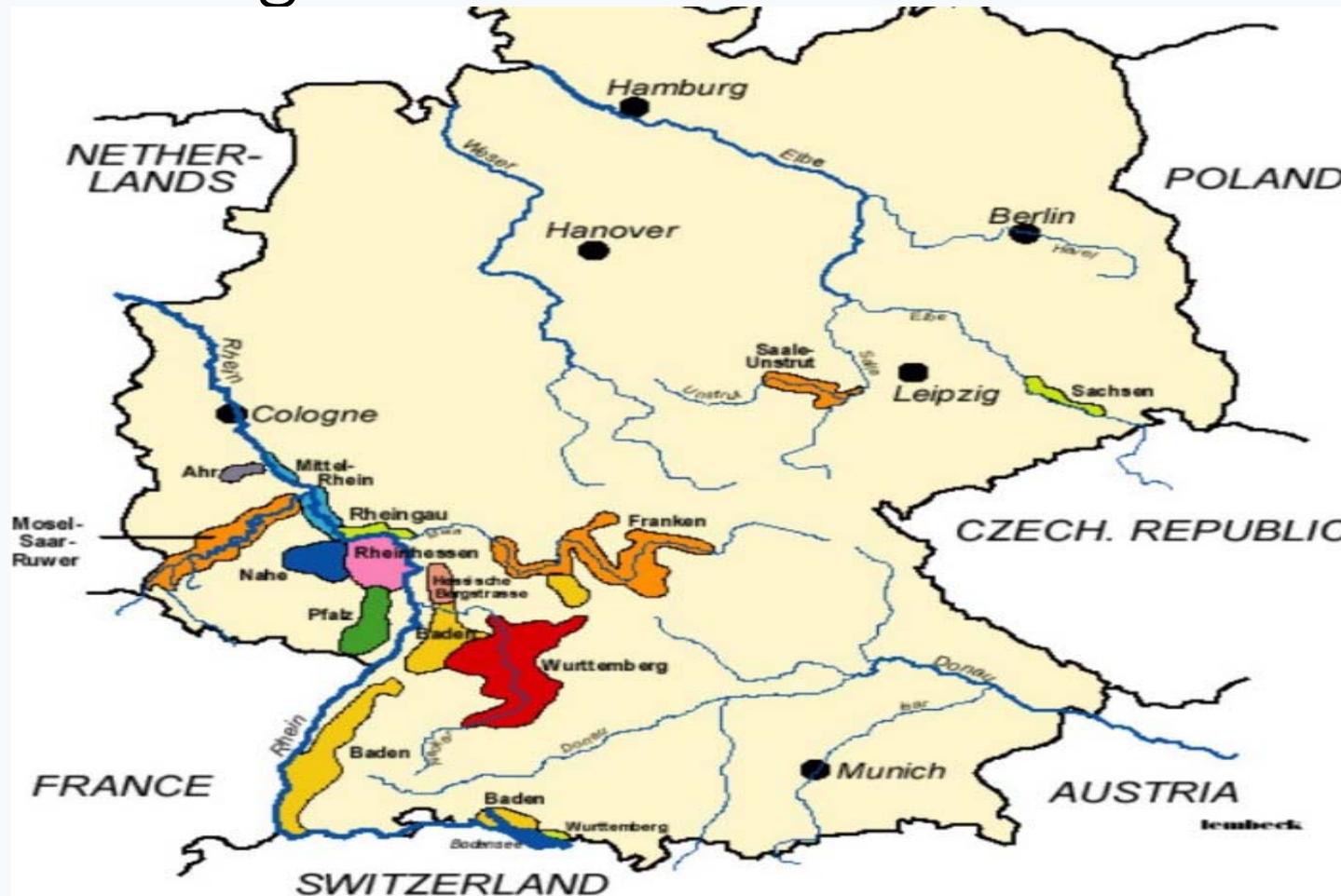
# German Wine - fun facts

- 90% of German reds are consumed in Germany.
- Very few wine retailers in America have any German red wines.
- Most of the largest red producers are still too small to export to USA.
- You can pay \$\$\$ for a fine French red or drink German reds for the entire year.
- As vineyard owners die they split the vineyards between siblings. Some vineyards get down to 3 rows. Siblings take turns picking the center row year to year.
- High quality German Riesling does not come in a blue bottle!

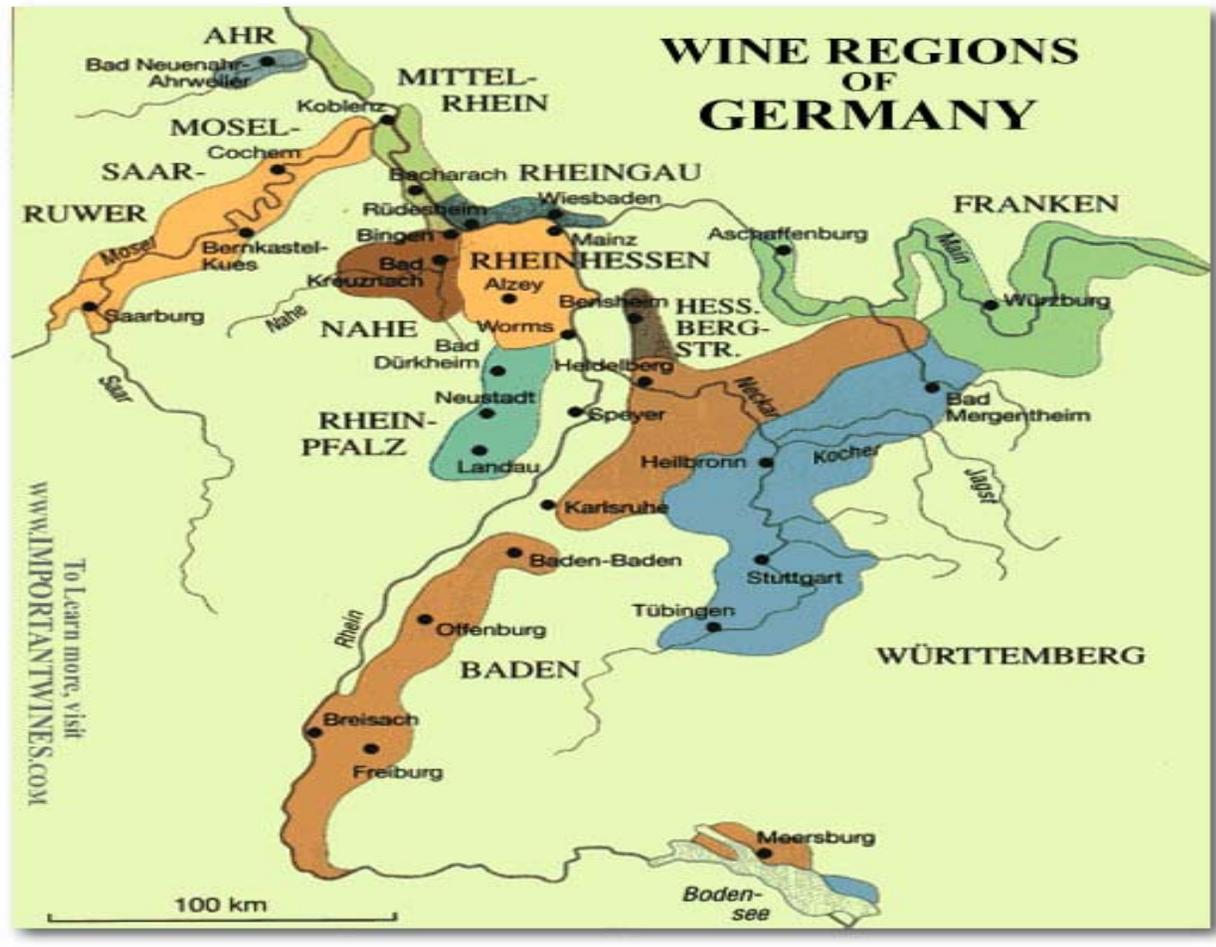
# German Geography

- Germany is 138,000 sq mi or 357,000 sq km
- Germany is approximately the size of Montana ( 146,000 sq mi )
- Germany is divided with respect to wine production into the following:
  - 13 Regions
  - 39 Districts
  - 167 Collective vineyard sites
  - 2668 Individual vineyard sites
- There are 26,000 acres of white and 15,000 acres of red

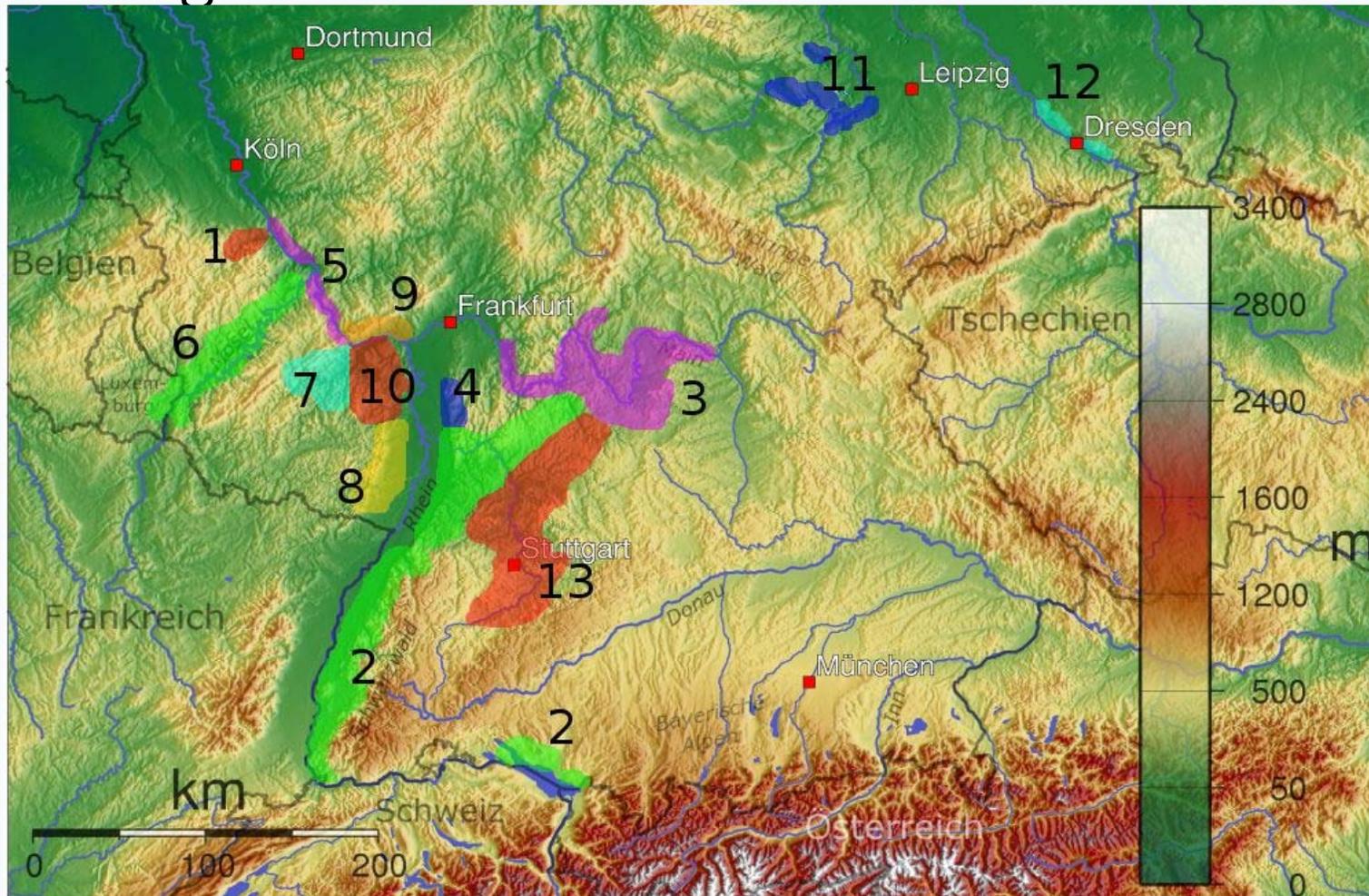
# Wine Regions



# Wine Regions



# Wine Regions



# Wine regions by size (2008 data)

R	Number on map	Vineyard Area (acres)	
Rheinhessen	10	10578	69:31
<b><i>Palatinate (Pfalz)</i></b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9384</b>	<b>61:39</b>
Baden	2	6362	56:44
<b><i>Wurttemberg</i></b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4604</b>	<b>29:71</b>
Mosel	6	3614	91:9
Franconia (Franken)	3	2425	80:20
Nahe	7	1662	75:25
Rheingau	9	1250	85:15
Saale - Unstrut	11	274	74:26
Ahr	1	223	14:86
Saxony	12	185	81:19
Mittelrhein	5	184	85:15
Hessische BergstraBe	4	176	79:21

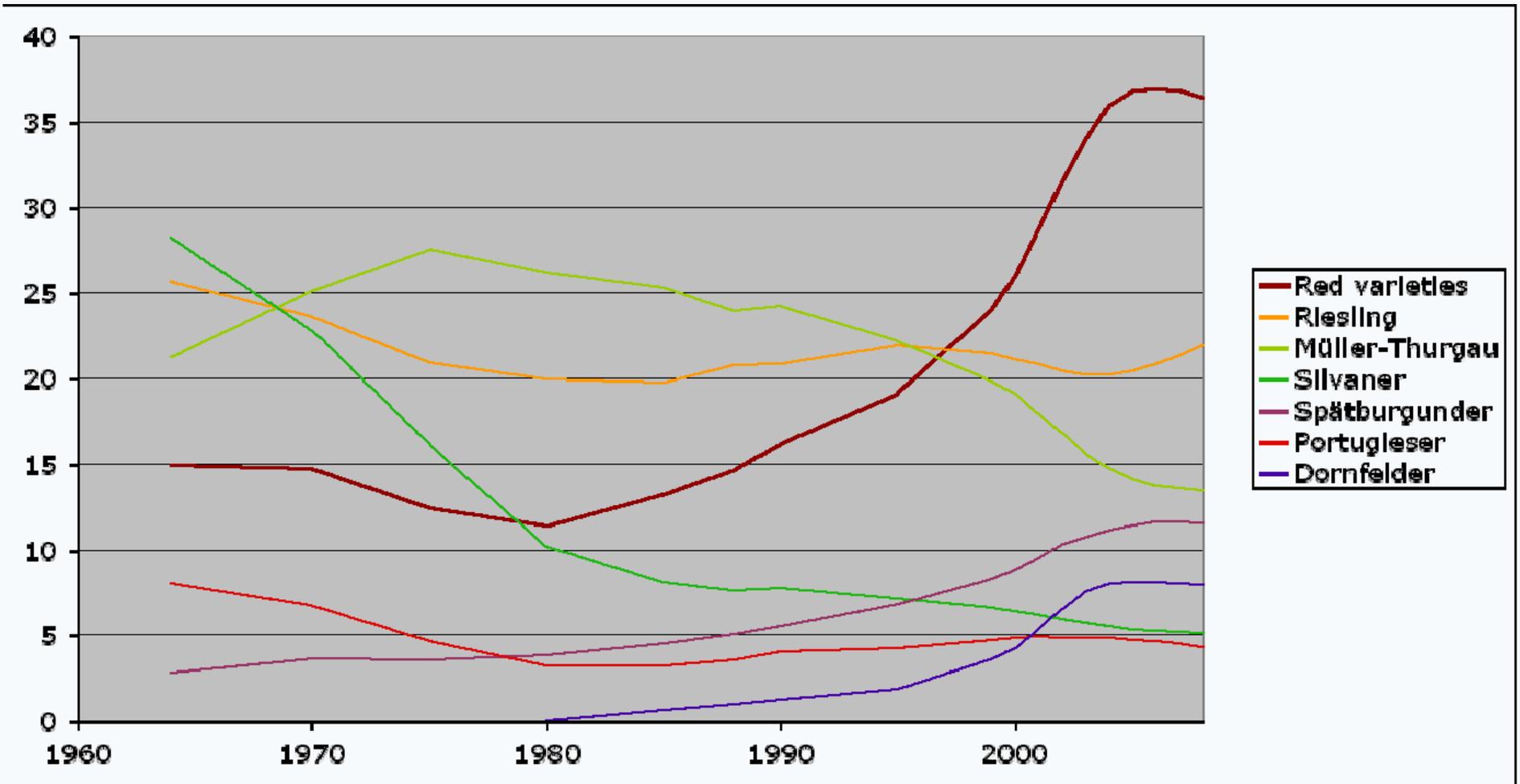
# Wine Production

- Germany produces 1,200,000,000 bottles of wine per year
- 66% of wine is White
- 34% of wine is Red
- Germany is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest producer of wine in the world
- German law allows 135 types of grapes to be cultivated
- Only 20 types of grapes have a significant market share

# Permitted Red Grapes

- Acolon
- André
- Blauburger
- Cabernet Dorsa
- Cabernet Mitoš
- Cabernet Sauvignon
- Dakapo
- Deckrot
- Domina
- Dornfelder
- Dunkelfelder
- Frühburgunder
- Hegel
- Helfensteiner
- Heroldrebe
- Lemberger
- Merlot
- Muskat-Trollinger
- Palas
- Portugieser
- Regent
- Rondo
- Rotberger
- Schwarzriesling
- Spätburgunder
- St. Laurent
- Tauberschwarz
- Trollinger
- Zweigelt

# Wine Trends (% of grape varieties)



# Wine Classifications

- **Deutscher Tafelwein** (German table wine) is mostly consumed in the country and not exported. Generally used for blended wines that can not be Qualitätswein.
- **Deutscher Landwein** (German country wine) comes from a larger designation and again doesn't play an important role in the export market.
- **Qualitätswein bestimmter Anbaugebiete** (QbA) wines from a defined appellation with the exception of Liebfraumilch, which can be blended from several regions and still be classified as Qualitätswein.
- **Prädikatswein**, recently (August 1, 2007) renamed from **Qualitätswein mit Prädikat** (QmP) wines made from grapes of higher ripeness. As ripeness increases, the fruit characteristics and price increase. Categories within Prädikatswein are Kabinett, Spätlese, Auslese, Beerenauslese, Trockenbeerenauslese and Eiswein. Wines of these categories can not be chaptalized. All these categories within Prädikatswein are solely linked to minimum requirements of potential alcohol. While these may correlate with harvest time, there are no legally defined harvest time restrictions anymore.
  - **Kabinett** wines are made from grapes that have achieved minimum defined potential alcohol levels. Those minimum requirements differ by region and grape varietal. Essentially, Kabinett is the first level of reserve grape selection.
  - **Spätlese** wines ("late harvest") are made from grapes that have achieved minimum defined potential alcohol levels. Those minimum requirements differ by region and grape varietal. Essentially, Spätlese is the second level of reserve grape selection.
  - **Auslese** wines ("select harvest") are made from grapes that have achieved minimum defined potential alcohol levels. Those minimum requirements differ by region and grape varietal. Essentially, Auslese is the third level of reserve grape selection.
  - **Beerenauslese** wines ("berry selection") are made from grapes that have achieved minimum defined potential alcohol levels. The concentration of the grape juice may have been facilitated by a fungus *Botrytis*, which perforates the skin of the grape forcing water to drip out and all remaining elements to concentrate. Due to the high potential alcohol level required for this category of ripeness, these wines are generally made into sweet wines and can make good dessert wines.
  - **Trockenbeerenauslese** wines ("dry berries selection") are made from grapes of an even higher potential alcohol level, generally reachable only with the help of *Botrytis*. The grapes used for Trockenbeerenauslese have reached an even more raisin-like state than those used for Beerenauslese. Due to the high concentration of sugar in the raisin-like grape, these wines can only be made in a sweet style and make extremely sweet, concentrated and usually quite expensive wines.
  - **Eiswein** (ice wine) wine is made grapes that freeze naturally on the vine and have to reach the same potential alcohol level as Beerenauslese. The grapes are harvested and pressed in the frozen state. The ice stays in the press during pressing and hence a concentrated juice flows off the press leading to higher potential alcohol levels, which in turn generally result in sweet wines due to the high potential alcohol. The taste differs from the other high-level wines since *Botrytis* infection is usually lower, ideally completely absent.

# Wine Classification



All wines from table wine to Auslese can be dry, medium-dry or sweet.

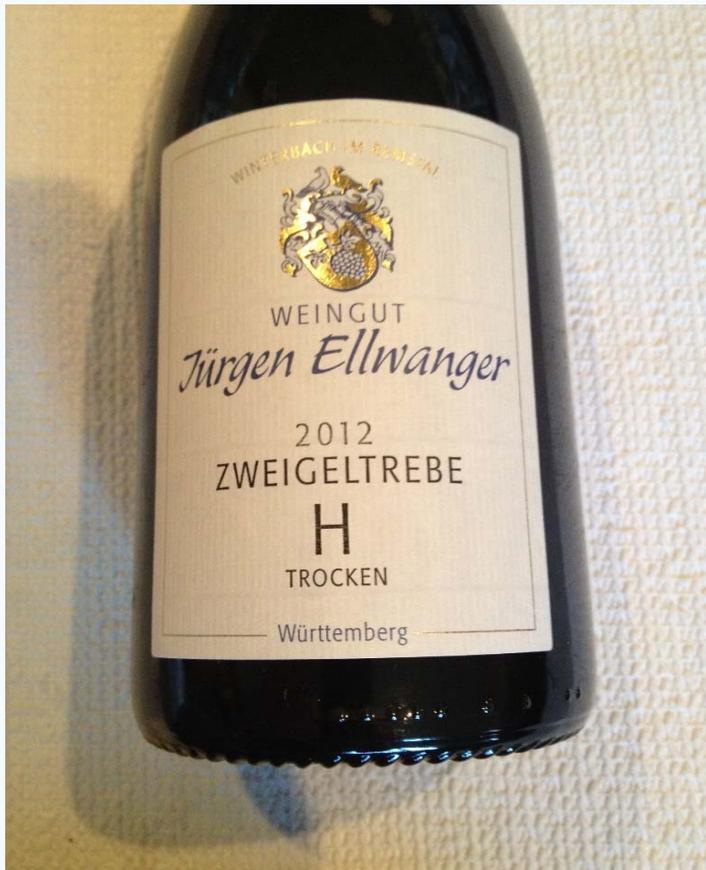
# Label Markings on bottles

- In recent years, the Verband Deutscher Prädikatswein (VDP), which is a private marketing club founded in 1910 (see [www.vdp.de](http://www.vdp.de)), has lobbied for the recognition of a vineyard classification, but their efforts have not yet changed national law.
- There are also several terms to identify the grower and producers of the wine:
  - **Weingut** refers to a wine growing and producing estate.
  - **Weinkellerei** refers to a bottling facility, a bottler or shipper.
  - **Winzergenossenschaft** refers to a winemaking cooperative.
  - **Gutsabfüllung** refers to a grower/producer wine that is estate bottled.
  - **Abfüller** refers to a bottler or shipper.

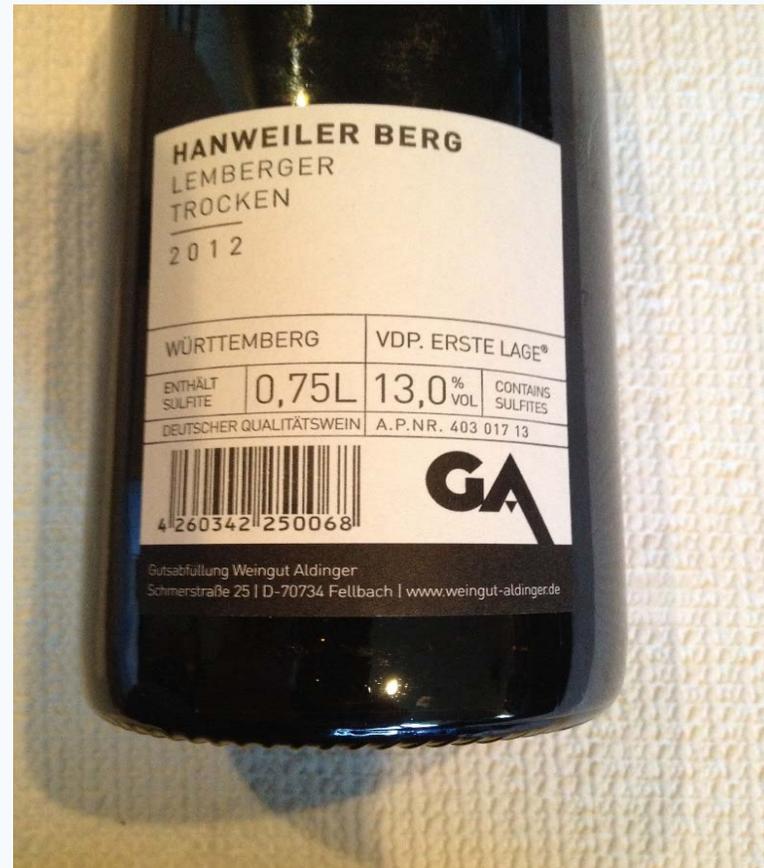
# Wine Tasting – ( come on lets taste )

- Tonight we will taste wine from 2 of the largest red wine regions.
  - Palatinate also called Pfalz the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest growing region
  - Wurttemberg the 4<sup>th</sup> largest growing region
- 1<sup>st</sup> Zweigeltrebe 2012 \$20.80
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lemberger 2012 \$20.80
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dornfelder 2011 \$24.30
- 4<sup>th</sup> Spatburgunder (Pinot Noir ) 2011 \$23.40
- 5<sup>th</sup> Lemberger Likor & Chocolate \$16.76

**Zweigeltrebe** – **Zweigelt** is a red wine grape variety developed in 1922, at the Federal Institute for Viticulture and Pomology at Klosterneuburg, Austria, by Fritz Zweigelt. It was a crossing of St. Laurent and Blaufränkisch. It is now the most widely-grown red grape variety in Austria,



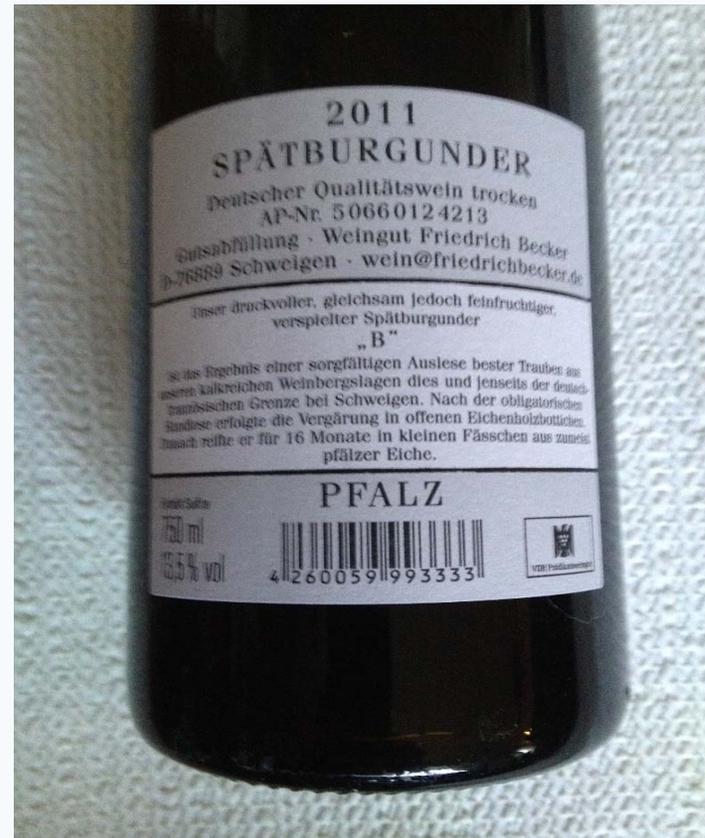
**Lemberger** Blaufränkisch (German for *blue Frankish*) is a dark-skinned variety of grape used for red wine. Blaufränkisch, which is a late-ripening variety, produces red wines which are typically rich in tannin and may exhibit a pronounced spicy character



**Dornfelder** – Dornfelder is a dark-skinned variety of grape of German origin used for red wine. It was created by August Herold (1902–1973) at the grape breeding institute in Weinsberg in the Württemberg region in 1955. Herold crossed the grape varieties Helfensteiner and Heroldrebe, the latter which bears his name, to create Dornfelder



**Spatburgunder** More commonly called Pinot Noir. The name may also refer to wines created predominantly from Pinot Noir grapes. The name is derived from the French words for *pine* and *black*; the *pine* alluding to the grape variety having tightly clustered, pine cone-shaped bunches of fruit



## Lemberger Likör

A fortified dessert likör which goes perfect with a piece of German chocolate.

This likör is produced from the pomace left over from making Lemberger wine. The fermentation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> run batch is stopped at the desired sweetness by the addition of grape brandy.

You will note this Likör was produced by a wine cooperative. If you were listening you should know why !



# References

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German\\_wine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_wine)
- Jancis Robinson book titled “ The Oxford Companion to Wine “ the third addition.
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Search?search=german+red+wines&sourceid=Mozilla-search>
- <http://www.binnys.com/wine/german%20red%20wine#/?page=1>
- Books and misc. magazines I’ve found.
- For a beautiful mini tour..... Google “Neckar vineyard pictures”

Zweigeltrebe - **Zweigelt** is a red wine grape variety developed in 1922, at the Federal Institute for Viticulture and Pomology at Klosterneuburg, Austria, by Fritz Zweigelt. It was a crossing of St. Laurent and Blaufränkisch. It is now the most widely-grown red grape variety in Austria,

- **Wine**

- Long ago an Austrian came to Germany to work in a vineyard. He illegally brought Zweigelt cuttings with him and planted them. Zweigelt was not on the approved list. Later the vineyard had to beg for forgiveness. Eventually Zweigelt was added to the approved list of red grapes.
- Zweigelt is popular because it buds later than St. Laurent but ripens earlier than Blaufränkisch
- Recently German Zweigelt wine took a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in competition.
- Austria was not happy.

- **Winery - Weingut Jürgen Ellwanger VDP**

- The winery was established in 1514.
- This wine is aged in large wooden barrels.

- **Tasting Notes**

- This is a young wine and if laid down would continue to improve
- Light color - Fruity nose
- Medium oak - Light tannin
- Black cherry & Black pepper notes
- This wine has a nice long finish

Lemberger **Blaufränkisch** (German for *blue Frankish*) is a dark-skinned variety of grape used for red wine. Blaufränkisch, which is a late-ripening variety, produces red wines which are typically rich in tannin and may exhibit a pronounced spicy character

- **Wine**
  - Lemberger grape is the 14<sup>th</sup> out of the 32 most popular planted varieties.
  - Lemberger is now gaining popularity in the USA. Most notably the Finger Lakes, New York and Yakima, Washington.
- **Winery - Weingut Gerhard Aldinger VDP**
  - Established in 1492
  - 4<sup>th</sup> best red producer in the Württemberg region and listed in the top 100 estates.
  - Produces only 200,000 bottles of wine per year
- **Tasting Notes**
  - Dark color
  - Nice legs
  - Deep fruity nose
  - Light wood
  - Soft tannins that stay on the tongue
  - Herbal Aroma
  - Black berry and currant notes
  - Light body with a medium finish

Dornfelder - **Dornfelder** is a dark-skinned variety of grape of German origin used for red wine. It was created by August Herold (1902–1973) at the grape breeding institute in Weinberg in the Württemberg region in 1955. Herold crossed the grape varieties Helfensteiner and Heroldrebe, the latter which bears his name, to create Dornfelder

- **Wine**

- Dornfelder popularity is on the rise and represents 8% of all German red grapes planted.
- Similar to a Gamay in taste
- Dornfelder is 2<sup>nd</sup> to Spatburgunder in popularity
- It is grown in Palatinate, Württemberg, Rheinhessen, and Nahe
- Typically Dornfelder is aged in large wooden barrels.

- **Winery - Weingut Karl Haidle VDP**

- Located in the ruins of an old burg purchased by Karl's Grandparents who operated it from 1908 to 1949
- Karl's parents took over the winery in 1949 and Karl took it over 1968
- The winery added a new building in 1993
- Karl Haidle is very well decorated in competition and known in Germany for some of the best red wines.

- **Tasting Notes**

- It's a young wine and would continue to improve with age
- Bright
- Ruby colored with a hot pink rim
- Good nose with intense aroma
- Neutral oak
- Slight wet earth taste with a complex palette
- Black cherry, plum, black currant, raspberry, cranberry, violets, roses, sweet herbs, and hints of sandalwood
- Medium body
- Nicely balanced
- Pleasant medium finish

Spätburgunder More commonly called **Pinot Noir**. The name may also refer to wines created predominantly from Pinot Noir grapes. The name is derived from the French words for *pine* and *black*; the *pine* alluding to the grape variety having tightly clustered, pine cone-shaped bunches of fruit

- **Wine**

- Germany ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> worldwide after France and the USA in area devoted to Spätburgunder. With some 4,700 acres of Spätburgunder vines, an area equal to 11% of the country's vineyard area, the grape has a clear following among wine-growers and consumers alike.

- **Winery - Weingut Friedrich Becker VDP**

- Located in the Palatinate ( Pfalz ) region on the edge of the forest bordering Alsace. Every year special permission is need to pick the grapes because some are actually in France.
- The family got the winery in the middle of the last century.
- 1<sup>st</sup> bottles released in 1973
- Grapes are hand picked and then hand selected
- Fermented in open oak containers
- Barrel aged 16 months in oak barrels from the Pfalz
- Named best German Pinot Noir maker 4 years in a row by a French Wine magazine!

- **Tasting Notes**

- Clean and Bright
- Still young would improve further if laid down
- Very good nose and legs
- Nice oak from the barrel aging
- Ripe strong tannins
- Berry and light spice nose
- Jammy fruit with layers of cherry, cloves, vanilla, pepper, and flowers
- Silky - buttery mouth feel
- Notably mineral ( Alsace influence )
- Wine store guy said it was best described as "Cherries with toasted bread"
- Long clean elegant finish.

# Chocolate Menu

Chocolate Menu		
Name	Description	% - Kakoa
Edel Vollmilch	German Milk Chocolate	35% from Ecuador
Alpenmilch	Swiss Milk Chocolate	30% not declared
Edel Bitter	German Dark Chocolate	73% from Ecuador
Halbbitter	German Dark Half Bitter	50% Papua - New Guinea