



REICHSGRAF
VON
KESSELSTATT

Vintage report 2024

Beginning of harvest: 18 September 2024
End of harvest: 17 October 2024
Average yield: 16 hl/ha

2024 will go down in history as a very small but good vintage.

Our 675-year-old wine estate has seen some exceptional years in its time. Keeping a cool head is important in the maelstrom – a philosophy that stood us in good stead in 2024.

Mother Nature wreaked havoc at the beginning of the year. Bud burst came early, but freezing night-time temperatures from 28 to 30 April more or less wiped out our entire crop on the Saar and the Ruwer. Some of our Mosel vineyards also fared badly.

Despite the damage, we continued to work assiduously during the wet and relatively cool summer that followed. Our head viticulturist Maik Thomas and his team subsequently had two plans of attack: managing our unaffected vineyards on the Mittelmosel as normal, but at the same time ensuring that our frost-affected vineyards would still produce good, healthy wood for pruning next spring.

Our vineyards benefited more than ever this year from sustainable practices in the vineyard, which include herbicide-free farming, use of cover crops, and meticulous canopy management. A total of 30 people were eventually able to bring in our fruit from sites primarily on the Mosel.

Divided into two teams, our pickers carried out stringent selection in the vineyard to harvest ripe grapes showing classic acidity and intense aromas – both with and without healthy botrytis, depending on the desired *Prädikat* or the level in the VDP's terroir-based quality pyramid. Our wines from this low-crop vintage will remain at Schloss Marienlay over the coming months, getting the time they need to develop their immense potential.

This is set to be a year of aromatic, vibrant and finely structured Rieslings, with the usual wines available at entry level (VDP.Gutwein) but only limited bottlings at village and single-vineyard level – due to the frost-related shortfall.

As we look forward to their release, we hope you continue to enjoy our other vintages – handcrafted Rieslings with remarkable ageing potential and a true sense of place.

