



REICHSGRAF VON KESSELSTATT

Start of the harvest: 01. October 2014
End of the harvest: 21. October 2014
Average yield VDP-Grosse Lage®: 35 hl/ha
Average yield in general: 49 hl/ha

Morscheid, 29th October 2014

Once upon a time the start of a fairy tale vintage 2014

Dear Riesling enthusiasts,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Everyone knows the tale of Cinderella, the young woman who sat at the hearth sorting out the good from the bad lentils that her stepsisters had thrown into the ashes.

In 2014, vintners faced the same task: **sorting out the good from the bad**. Berry and cluster selection was decisive for good quality.
Due to warm, damp weather, vintage 2014 was replete with challenges.

Here, a brief résumé of the growing season.

Winter was warm. Apart from yield reductions due to frost and hail in the Saar Valley in early April, the weather remained very favorable. Temperatures were optimal to foster healthy grapes and early ripening.

Blossoming began on 9 June, i.e., quite early.

Foliage removal immediately thereafter proved to be just the right thing to do this year. Once again, we divided clusters in our Grosse Gewächse parcels to improve grape quality, a measure that is particularly important in these vineyard sites.

Even as late as August, growth and development remained about four weeks ahead of schedule compared with the long-term average.

The grapes were picture perfect by the end of September, and yields were also promising – a welcome relief after short crops in 2013 and 2012.

However, heavy rain in early October suddenly forced us to step up the pace. In order to pick our Riesling grapes precisely at the right moment, we had to ask a great deal of our harvest team. At times, they worked from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.

This year's harvest was marked by a very labor-intensive selection: painstakingly sorting out the good from the bad. The stringent selection led to reduced yields.

Nevertheless, the extra effort more than paid off. We were able to bring in wonderfully fruity Riesling grapes from our Grosse Lagen (very best sites) at the start of the harvest. With the onset of botrytis in the course of the harvest, must weights reached ripeness levels suitable for Spätlese and Auslese wines, sometimes exceeding 100 degrees Oechsle.

Because the quantity of completely healthy, fully ripened grapes needed for Grosse Gewächse (our very best dry wines) was limited this year, supplies of these wines will be equally tight.

In all: despite the media's negative expectations and prognoses about vintage 2014, preliminary tastings show wines that are very ripe and fruity.

Join us in celebrating the new vintage. There's much to look forward to.

With kind regards



Annegret Reh-Gartner
Weingut Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt