



REICHSGRAF VON KESSELSTATT

VINTAGE REPORT 2015

Start of the harvest:	28 September 2015
End of the harvest:	21 October 2015
VDP.Grosse Lage®	19 hl/ha
Average yield:	40 hl/ha overall

"When there's little, there's even less."

Once again, this old vintners' saying aptly describes the size of this year's crop. Overall, our harvest was very good – although yields varied considerably from vineyard to vineyard. Our preliminary estimates were seldom so off course.

The growing season began with little moisture in the soil, followed by a dry spring and a hot, dry summer. It wasn't until August and September that there were any significant quantities of rainfall. Yet by then, growth was basically completed. The result: small, golden-yellow berries with extremely little juice.

Based on the experience of recent years, we began picking earlier than usual this year, too. We started on 28 September 2015. Our experienced harvest team – primarily from Romania – was able to select grapes of varying degrees of ripeness throughout the entire autumn. We picked the grapes from our top sites using three separate buckets, whereby the shriveled berries were sorted again at the vat. These efforts enabled us to achieve top levels of ripeness of up to 181 degrees Oechsle.

Thanks to very cool and primarily dry weather, we were able to harvest at a relaxed pace. For the most part, musts ranged between 85 and 95° Oe, with 9 to 10 g/l of acidity. Healthy, ripe, fruity aromas and fine, yeasty notes of spontaneous fermentation are already perceptible in our cellar.

The harvest of the grapes destined for our Grosse Gewächse was really rewarding. In the GG sites, we began reducing individual shoots very early and continued before and during blossoming. After flowering, the remaining clusters were divided and in August, foliage was removed from the vines. The result: healthy, golden-yellow berries with Oechsle readings between 92 and 100° and sensational fruit aromas. The fermenting musts are already showing enormous concentration and a wealth of fruit.

In short: you can already look forward to an outstanding vintage! The only disappointment is the small size of the harvest – yet, this contributed to the high quality of the crop.

Morscheid, 23 October 2015