

Fine Wines in Germany



Today, we select so called "Kaiserstuhl" Region. The Kaiserstuhl (literally: "Emperor's Chair") is a range of hills in the state of Baden-Württemberg in southwest Germany with a maximum height of 556.6 metres (1,826 ft). It is of volcanic origin and located in the southwest of the state in the counties of Emmendingen and Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald. In terms of natural regions it is considered to be a part of the Upper Rhine Plain.

The name "Kaiserstuhl" is believed to refer to King Otto III. In May 996, Otto III was crowned Emperor in that location, which eventually became the Emperor's Chair – "Kaiserstuhl".

The region's Mediterranean climate, one of the warmest in Germany, and volcanic soil with high content of rare minerals favor wine cultivation, contribute to early stage development of famous wineries. It is only in the past 8 years that renowned cellars marked landscape with eye-catching architecture for producing, selling and offering tasting. Global travelers will remark similarities with South African and Australian Wine Architecture.

Franz Keller (www.franz-keller.de/en/wines) is one of them. Franz Keller (1927 – 2007) probably was Germany's most important early proponent of fully-fermented, dry wines and the use of barriques. He and his successor, the current patron Fritz Keller, put the winery into Germany's top league; the award-winning wines are amongst the Kaiserstuhl's best and enjoy an international standing.



Perfecting the craft of making wines from ripe and healthy grapes is what we always aspire to at Weingut Franz Keller Schwarzen Adler. This goes for the refreshing ‚every day‘ wines as well as for the ‚Sunday‘ wines that mature in small and large oak barrels. The white wines from the Oberbergener Bassgeige vineyards are vinified in stainless steel to preserve their lively, filigree character. The fruit flavours of the Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir) from the Bassgeige vineyards are accentuated by the soft tannins imparted by large old oak barrels. These large barrels also give texture and mouthfeel to the fuller and more concentrated white wines like Chardonnay or the Weißburgunder (Pinot Blanc) from our Pulverbuck vineyard. Wines grown on volcanic soils usually mature in new and used barriques, this helps to underline their opulence and fullness. Barriques also have a role to play when it comes to the elegance that is so typical for the French-inspired wines of Weingut Franz Keller Schwarzer Adler.



The Dr. Heger wine estate (www.heger-weine.de) was established in 1935 by the rural doctor, Dr. Max Heger. The 21 hectares of vineyards are predominantly planted with the Pinots gris, blanc and noir, along with some Riesling and Silvaner, as well as the aromatic varieties Muscat, Scheurebe and Gewürztraminer which all thrive wonderfully here.

What do these wineries have in common? They combine with modern technology, a good portion of enthusiasm and unwavering determination to produce only the very best wines.



After enjoying these fine wines, this beautiful region invites for hiking, discoveries in the nature or some spa at mineral water pools.

Unique for the region is its central location in the heart of the so-called '3-country-corner', which makes visits to cities like Strasbourg (France); Zuerich (Switzerland) and Freiburg (Germany) easy. Having access to French TGV high speed train, you get from Strasbourg to Paris within 2 hours.

Beside Kaisterstuhl, there is the unique location of Chateau Monrepos in Stuttgart area, which is a real oasis and home to its own horse elevation, golf club and stunning classical music nights multiplied with amazing fire works concerts. On the same compound Prince of Wurttemberg has his own active winery (www.weingut-wuerttemberg.de) which is worth to stay for a wine tasting in the old cellars with the Prince's exclusive expertise first hand – if you are lucky he's working there the same day. A celebration of your senses on its finest. Afterwards you can relax on a boat tour in the same parc or have a delicious lunch in the Chateau's restaurant. For the more active ones take your own picnic luncheon along and stay within the vineyards with a perfect view on Stuttgart.

Next friday blog is "Berlin Property - A City on the Rise!"