

Burg Ravensburg 2017 Pinot Noir Loechle Grosses Gewaechs

WineWise Code	GBR-PNL17
Country	Germany
Region	Baden - Kraichgau
Color/Style	Red
Destemming	Whole Cluster
Fermentation Vessel	Oak
Additional Fermentation Notes	3 weeks
Aging Vessel	New Barrique 100%
Aging Duration (months)	18
Filtered?	No
Fining Agents	None
Yeast Protocol	Spontaneous
Malolactic Conversion	Yes
Additional Maturation Details:	18 months
Added Sulfur	Yes
Varieties	100% Pinot Noir
Residual Sugar	0.5
ABV	13.39
Acidity	6.8
Closure	Natural Cork
Annual Production	5700 bottles
Primary Vineyard Name	Löchle
Soil Types	Gypsum, Keuper
Elevation (meters)	190-250
Vine Age	25
Yields (hl/ha)	35
Farming Practices	Bio-dynamic
Harvest Method	Hand-harvested
Additional Harvest Notes	Single Guyot
Other Vineyard Details	South

WineWise Notes:

In the frost-stricken vintage of 2016 the recompense was a wine of sheer class, focused and confident. Now almost gone, its successor vintage has proved to be a stealthy distance-runner, that demonstrates the class of this great, partly terraced vineyard at the bottom of the Burgberg. Fermented with most stems, it is the kind of tensile Pinot that substantiates Baden's elevated quality claims.

WineWise Notes on Producer:

Our pair have very different histories. Burg Ravensburg, in the village of Sulzfeld, north-west of Stuttgart and not far from the fabled university town of Heidelberg, in the extreme north of Baden, has a documented history going back to 1251, making it one of Germany's oldest estates. Heitlinger, by contrast, is a modern estate a few kilometers north in the village of Tiefenbach that was rescued from bankruptcy a few years ago by Heinz Heiler, a great wine-enthusiast and owner of a beautiful golf-course across the way. Today, it also boasts a hotel, one of the top restaurants of the region and a first-class facility where the wines of both estates are made and aged. Herr Heiler had the great wisdom to hire as his General Manager a man called Claus Burmeister, who actually grew up on the Burg Ravensburg estate and is utterly steeped in the region. Soft-spoken but intense, Claus has lifted his two estates to the absolute summit of Baden wines, enjoying a degree of success in the press and at wine competitions without compare. They own 80% of the vineyards entitled to Grosses Gewächs status in the Kraichgau and Claus displays a mastery of different idioms that is quite remarkable.

This estate can also claim to be the largest in Germany that is certified organic. They have also adopted a number of bio-dynamic practices. Their ability to offer a comprehensive range of wines on a large scale and at an elevated quality level is reminiscent of Austrian estates like Bründlmayer and Schloss Gobelsburg. The reasonableness of the prices is striking.

