



## FREIHERR VON GLEICHENSTEIN Baden, Germany



YEAR FOUNDED: 1634

OWNER: Johannes Freiherr von Gleichenstein

WINEMAKER: Johannes Freiherr von Gleichenstein

ANNUAL PRODUCTION: 350,000 bottles

WINERY LOCATION: Oberrotweil, Kaiserstuhl VINEYARD

LOCATIONS: Baden - Kaiserstuhl, Germany

This is a 500 year-old estate with monastic origins currently run by the young and dynamic Johannes von Gleichenstein, who impishly calls his top wine “Baron Philipp”, on the grounds that they are a noble family and Philipp is his son’s name. One suspects that he would welcome a lawsuit from the Rothschilds of Bordeaux, with all its attendant publicity! However, even without that, the wines are deserving of attention, offering fidelity to their soils and very good value.



Johannes developed a connection with the world of wine from his early years. Growing up in the Kaiserstuhl winery, he and his siblings were obliged to contribute to the family business. During this time,

Johannes discovered his passion for working in nature and developed a deep appreciation for the intricate process of winemaking, which demands care, attention, patience, and nurturing.

By the age of sixteen, he had decided that he wanted to pursue a career centered around wine. Following his high school graduation, Johannes completed an apprenticeship as a winegrower and then pursued studies in oenology at Geisenheim. His journey continued with a wine cellar internship and training as a state-certified technician for viticulture and cellaring. In 2002, after apprenticeships and Oenology school, Johannes and his wife Christina took over the winery from his father, Hans-Joachim, marking the eleventh generation of their family in the winemaking tradition.



Baden is so scattered a wine region, stretching as it does from the Black Forest almost to Stuttgart, and from Lake Constance to the borders of Heidelberg, that it is misleading to generalise about its wines. Suffice it to say that it is Germany’s third biggest producing region and specialises in dry, full-bodied wines that are eagerly consumed by the domestic market.

Traditionally dominated by some excellent co-ops, in recent decades there has been an explosion of top-quality estates. We have identified and sourced a group of the very best, each of which is representative of its particular sub-region and their particular micro-climates and topographies. Broadly stated, Baden is a sort of promised land for Pinots – not just Noir, but Gris (Grauer Burgunder) and Blanc (Weisser Burgunder) as well. They all thrive here and show off beautifully the symbiosis of variety and soil-type.

### Quick Facts:

- 50 HA Vineyards
- 11 Generations of Winemakers
- Baden is perhaps the world’s last consistent redoubt of top-class, “cool” climate Pinots.