

Lothar Ketter, Fio (2010) Spaetburgunder Sekt Rose

WineWise Code	GLK-SSRNV
Country	Germany
Region	Mosel
Subregion	Rheinland-Pfalz
Color	Sparkling
Varieties	100% Spätburgunder
Maceration Notes	Direct Pressing
Fermentation duration	12 months
Aging duration (months)	12 months
Filtered?	No
Malolactic	No
Added Sulfur	Yes

Notes from the producer:

Our winery continues a centuries-long viticultural tradition began by the current winemaker's (Phillip Ketter) father over the last several decades. For more than 200 years Goldtröpfchen has been among the top location for family wineries producing world-famous Riesling.

From youth, Phillip Ketter, the current winemaker, has been fascinated by wine and the steep vineyards of the estate. Phillip took over the winery from his father in 2011.

WineWise Notes:

Philipp took a principled decision to dedicate his estate to Riesling – except for this wine. Like a lot of Riesling- lovers, he also adores Pinot Noir, but does not deceive himself that he can make the equal of burgundy in Piesport. Sparkling wine, however, is another matter, and this entirely original example completely poleaxed us. Its fidelity to Pinot Noir is total – the nose could simply be nothing else. The creaminess of the texture (it was disgorged in December 2017) gives it a champagne-like luxury. But, and most importantly, the piercing clarity of its soil expression is unmissable. There is an almost volcanic quality to the soil flavours. We hope and expect this wine to become a cult favorite. The speed with which the first tranche sold out encourages us to believe that it will!

Moosbrugger of Schloss Gobelsburg said that he knew this “crazy guy in the Mosel” making great wines, our ears pricked up. The connection between them is famed Douro producer Dirk Neepoort, whose son Daniel has been living with the Ketter family in Piesport for the last two vintages. Together they have a project called Fio, making “Natural Wines” that challenge the old order and which we hope to bring in ourselves at some point. For the moment, however, we are sticking to the tried and true classics. The estate was founded in the 1950's by Lothar, but son Philipp has been in charge since 2009. To describe him as iconoclastic is an understatement.

There is a paradox at work in Piesport which is that the easy-to-cultivate but inferior flatland vineyards on one side of the river cost much more than the fabled steep slopes of the Goldtröpfchen bowl on the other. But Philipp is a maniac for quality, so he traded almost all the land bought by his father for more challenging but infinitely more rewarding parcels in the Goldtröpfchen, including some in the great Falkenberg portion and other higher parts whose cooler micro-climates accord better with his aims. He has converted the estate to something approaching organic viticulture, while pushing the envelope with Fio and its no-sulphur wines. He has also converted most of his production to dry and off-dry wines, while maintaining the noble tradition of classically sweet Mosels to the manner born. In short, he offers us something of everything – bone-tingling, electric Mosel classics, modern dry wines and cutting-edge natural wines. Welcome to a new star!

