



Mosel Fine Wines

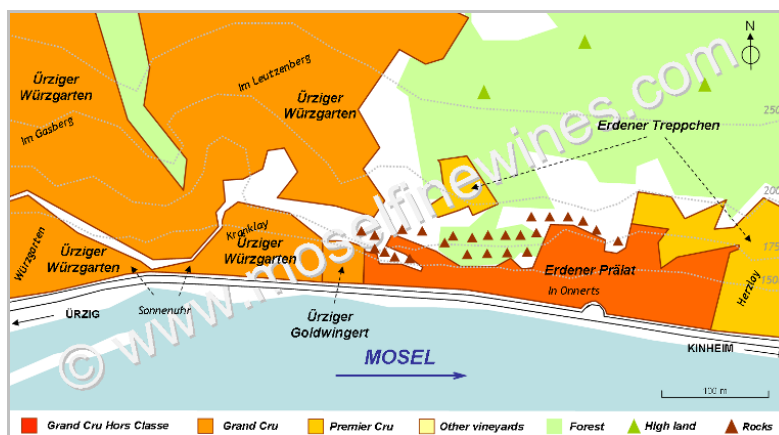
"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Vineyard at a Glance : Erdener Prälät – Tiny Greatness

Situation

1.5 ha (less than 4 acres) situated between the Ürziger Goldwingert and the Erdener Treppchen



History

The current area of the Erdener Prälät belonged to clerical institutions until 1800 and was referred to as "Im Onnerts" (today "In Onnerts"). Its modern history is closely related to a great winemaking dynasty: the Berres family. The name Erdener Prälät only appeared in the late 19th century, as a trademark set up by Peter Jos. Berres. The registered trademark included a distinctive label, still used by some Estates today, which shows a happy prelate with a glass of wine.

The vineyard and trademark then passed on to his seven children, which first maintained the Estate as a whole as Weingut Geschwister Berres. After World War II, the Estate was split up and nearly all of them set up their own "Geschwister Berres- Erben" Estate, with most of them offering Erdener Prälät wines!

While technically a brand, Erdener Prälät wines always came from the same 0.4 ha vineyard situated in the "in Onnerts" sector of Erden. All was well until the wine law reform of 1971, which first questioned the need for an Erdener Prälät vineyard and later its size. It is only in 1981 that the Erdener Prälät was confirmed as an Einzellage (single vineyard) with its size extended to 1.5 ha. As a result of the extension, new makers were entitled to produce wine labeled as Erdener Prälät.

Terroir and signature

The Erdener Prälät is on a steep slope and facing full south with a near perfect exposure to the sun. It presents a unique terroir blending blue Devon slate elements of the Erdener Treppchen with red (iron oxide) elements more typical of Ürzig. The vineyard has not gone through a Flurbereinigung and most of the vineyard is planted with incredibly old (60-100 years old) un-grafted vines.

Erdener Prälät wines are ultimately about aromatic opulence and richness, delivered in a very precise and delicate way. They often require time and patience to show their potential and finesse, in particular when botrytis is at play. The Erdener Prälät fares particularly well in wetter and cooler vintages.

Producers (updated 2020)

There are eleven Estates producing Erdener Prälät wines today (out of holdings in direct ownership or under lease from other makers). Three producers (Dr. Loosen, Mönchhof and Andreas Schmitges) control over two-third of the total area. None of the original Geschwister Berres Estates are still active, and their parcels are worked by three different Estates today: Karl Erbes, Dr. Loosen, and Mönchhof. Besides these, also Dr. Hermann, Markus Molitor, and Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler are high profile makers in this vineyard.

The detailed review of the Erdener Prälät including 60 tasting notes was published in Mosel Fine Wines – Issue No 10 (January 2010)

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