

2009 J.L. WOLF RIESLING PECHSTEIN



THE J.L. WOLF ESTATE

Founded in 1756, the J.L. Wolf winery was a very successful wine estate in the 18th century. It entered an even more glamorous period in 1843 when its owner, Johann Ludwig Wolf, finished construction of an Italianate estate house and villa. The exceedingly ornate estate house is now a nationally protected historic site.

In 1996, Ernst Loosen took over the vineyards and winemaking facilities in a quest to make full-bodied, traditionally crafted Pfalz wines to complement his lighter Dr. Loosen wines from the Mosel. In the classic style of the Pfalz, these wines are more full-bodied than Mosel wines, with higher alcohol and rich flavors of ripe fruit and stone.

THE PFALZ REGION

The Pfalz (aka 'Palatinate') lies between the Haardt mountains and the Rhine River in southwest Germany, directly north of France's Alsace region. As in Alsace, the mountains protect the area from cold Atlantic weather, making it one of the warmer and drier areas of Germany.

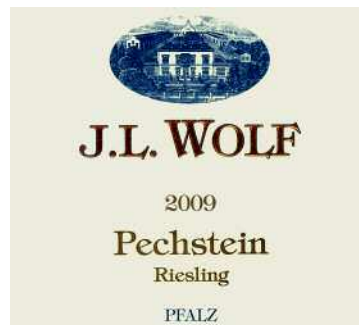
Because of this unusual climate, surprising things, such as almonds, figs and lemons are grown in this region, which is sometimes referred to as "the Tuscany of Germany." Naturally, wine grapes also do quite well here where it is possible to achieve full ripeness in every vintage. The predominant soil type in this area is well-drained, weathered sandstone. It produces wines with a fruit-driven purity and a stony richness.



THE PECHSTEIN VINEYARD

At J.L. Wolf, Ernst Loosen uses a three-tier, Burgundian-style vineyard classification, based on an 1828 Bavarian tax assessment map of the Pfalz. (Please note, however, that this is an unofficial, internal classification that is not recognized by the German wine law.) Pechstein was rated "First Vineyard" (*Erste Lage*) in this classification, and "First-Class" in the *Wine Atlas of Germany* by Hugh Johnson & Stuart Pigott (1995). It is labeled much like a grand cru from Burgundy, with only the vineyard name appearing on the label.

J.L. WOLF RIESLING PECHSTEIN



The grand cru Pechstein vineyard, in the neighboring village of Forst, has the most assertive minerality of all the J.L. Wolf vineyards. The name translates as "black stone" and refers to the abundance of black basalt in the soil, which gives the wines a firm

mineral edge. The 2009 shows this beautifully, with a forward, focused stoniness and a juicy grip. It is ripe and concentrated, with a firm structure, a lovely fruit lift on the mid-palate, and a persistent mineral finish.

ACCOLADES FOR ERNST LOOSEN

- Man of the Year 2005, *Decanter*
- White Wine Maker of the Year 2005, *Wine International*
- World's 50 Most Influential Winemakers, *Wine & Spirits*
- Germany's Winemaker of the Year 2001, *Gault Millau*



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