

# 2010 VILLA WOLF PINOT GRIS



*The winery portion of the Italian style villa at J.L. Wolf.*

## 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.



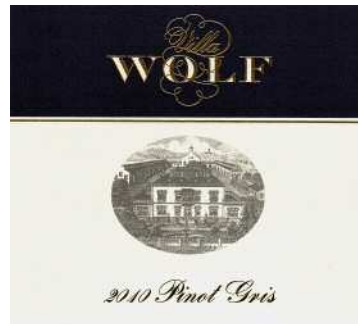
## VILLA WOLF – VARIETAL VALUES

The Villa Wolf label is used for a value-priced line of varietal wines that supplement J.L. Wolf estate-grown fruit with grapes from contracted growers. These are very affordable, classic Pfalz wines from traditional grape varieties.

## PINOT GRIS IN THE PFALZ

Pinot Gris is also known in Germany as *Grauburgunder* or *Ruländer*. It has a very long tradition in the Pfalz region because it was here, in the early 18th century, that the variety was first identified and vinified on its own. This was done by the wine merchant Johann Ruland. His most important customer, the Archbishop of Speyer, really liked the richness of the wine and started referring to it as "Ruländer — that wine from Mr. Ruland." Pinot Gris is also widely grown in the neighboring regions of Alsace (France) and Baden (Germany).

## VILLA WOLF PINOT GRIS



Villa Wolf Pinot Gris is made in a fruity, yet dry style that will appeal to anyone seeking a fresh, unoaked, food-friendly alternative. To ensure quality, only clean, perfectly healthy fruit is accepted — no botrytis is allowed — and production is limited to about 3,000 cases.

Traditionally, a part of each vintage (the exact percentage varies) is vinified in the region's traditional 1,200 liter, neutral oak casks for depth and complexity, and the rest is made in stainless steel tanks to emphasize the vibrant fruit. Malolactic fermentation is avoided to maintain bright acidity. The wine is bottled with the Stelvin screwcap to preserve freshness.

The 2010 Villa Wolf Pinot Gris exhibits bright, fresh, tropical fruit aromas and flavors, with good depth and a medium-full body. This wine is juicy and warm, with good length, a modest grip and a satisfying crackle.

## ACCOLADES FOR ERNST LOOSEN

- Star Winemaker, Europe, 2010, *Wine Behind the label*, 7th ed.
- 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*