

Wine Estates in Germany

PAUL ANHEUSER Bad Kreuznach (Nahe)

Region: NAHE
Vineyards: Kreuznach (Kahlenberg, Krötenpfuhl, Narrenkappe, Mönchberg, Kauzenberg), Niederhausen (Pfungstweide, Felsen Steyer), Schlossböckelheim (Königsfels)
Varietals: Riesling (70%), Pinot Blanc, Pinot Noir, Scheurebe
Owner: Rudolf & Paul Anheuser
Winemaker: Rudolf & Paul Anheuser
Remarks: traditional Nahe estate, ideal wines with fine cuisine, mineral-driven and characteristic.

The Anheuser's family tree dates back to the year 1627 when an *Anheuser* lived in Kreuznach and was known as an owner of vineyards. At the end of the 19th Century, Rudolf Anheuser extended the vineyards of the estate beyond the boundaries of the town of Bad Kreuznach (Bad being the designation for a spa town, famous for its waters and healthy climate) and was the first grower in the Nahe region to start the cultivation of vineyards planted just with Riesling. Indeed, one of the Anheusers immigrated to the States to start brewing beer in St.Louis, meeting with moderate success... Rudolf's son Paul continued the family wine tradition in Bad Kreuznach, and today Rudolf and Paul are the 14th generation to own and manage the estate. They are ably assisted by their mother, Dorothee. The estate is small enough to be worked and kept under complete control of the family.

The vineyards, spread out along the Nahe valley, offer a wide variety of characteristic wines, reflecting the influence of the different soil structures, such as porphyry or red sandstone, and the varying macroclimates, especially on the upper Nahe with its steep rocky formations and cooler macroclimate. In fact, two of these single sites are solely owned by the Anheusers, namely *Pfungstweide* in Niederhausen and *in den Felsen* (in the rocks!) in Schlossboeckelheim. 80% of the vines are planted on steep or sloping sites which means plenty of manual labour throughout the year, apart from the vintage time itself with hand-picking.

The wines mature in old oak casks in cool underground vaulted cellars. Recent vintages typify the regional charming character of Nahe wines, marked by fine crisp acidity, mineral flavours and plenty of concentration; fuller bodied than Mosel and livelier than Rheinhessen wines. Despite old traditions, new innovative wines have been introduced, with a larger percentage of dry-style wines, such as the dry Blanc de Noir, classified as white wine and produced 100% from Pinot Noir. The Stelvin closure has been introduced for all wines including Auslese since the 2009 vintage.



Paul Anheuser