

Wine Estates in Germany



Bercher, Burkheim

- Region:** BADEN (Kaiserstuhl)
Vineyards: Burkheim (Feuerberg, Schlossgarten), Jechtingen (Eichert)
- Varietals:** Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir), Grauer Burgunder (pinot gris), Weisser Burgunder (pinot blanc)
- Owner:** the Bercher family
Winemaker: Arne Bercher
Remarks: focus on dry pinot varieties, cultivated in the loamy and volcanic soils of the Kaiserstuhl area; a member of the prestigious VDP association.

The Kaiserstuhl, the Emperor's seat, a former volcano in the Rhine valley, covered by deep layers of loamy soil which eroded from the Alps during and after the last ice age, provides ideal conditions for cultivating pinot varieties. The macroclimate is warmer in this part of South Germany, sheltered on both sides by the Black Forest and the Vosges mountain hillsides. The Alsace region is a mere "stone's throw away". Life is not so hectic in this part of Germany, and tourism is important, apart from viticulture and orchards. The area is renowned for its fine cuisine and splendid countryside. The quaint little village of Burkheim nestles into the slopes of the Kaiserstuhl.

Only a few wine estates produce, bottle and market their own wines in Baden. The majority of the vintners are members of local co-operatives, Winzergenossenschaften. The Bercher family has been involved with viticulture since 1457 and is one of the few exceptions, being also a member of the prestigious VDP association. Arne Bercher has set a high benchmark for the quality of his dry pinot varieties, powerful and expressive wines, driven by the terroir of their vineyards. The vineyards are hewn out of the deep loamy slopes on wide terraces.

