

Wine Estates in Germany



Domdechant Werner Hochheim

Region: RHEINGAU
Vineyards: Hochheim (Domdechaney, Kirchenstück, Hölle)
Varietals: Riesling (98%)
Owner: Dr. Franz Werner Michel and family

Remarks: member of the prestigious VDP group, producing fine & elegant Riesling

Dr. Franz Werner Michel, who retired from his position as director of the Deutsches Weininstitut (Wines of Germany), now directs his passion & devotion solely to the estate, assisted by his wife and their daughter Catharina Mauritz. The word Domdechant refers to the former clerical connection to the Cathedral (Dom) in Mainz after 1803.

The worldwide first documented written mention of the Riesling grape dates from 1435 at a site not far from Hochheim, and the word English word Hock for German wine originated from Hochheim, hence *A good Hock keeps off the doc*. The Riesling wines from the Rheingau region are the foundation of the region's fame. Hochheim's soils and macroclimate offer optimal growing conditions for Riesling. As such, the profile of the Domdechant Werner estate clearly focuses on this varietal, supplemented by a small proportion of Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir) - another grape that is traditional in this region.

The estate cultivates ca. 14 ha (35 acres) of vines, 98% of which are planted with Riesling and 2% Spätburgunder. The vineyards are located on gentle, south-facing slopes, ideally protected by both the Main and Rhine rivers which flow together near Hochheim. The mineral-rich soils are predominantly loamy with gravel, sand and clay, offering excellent water retention. The vines suffer no drought even during hot and dry weather, and ripen well even in lesser vintages.

The estate has holdings in the best single vineyard sites of Hochheim, and all of which have met the classification criteria of the Rheingau region's top quality dry category Erstes Gewächs, or first growth.

Thanks to optimal growing conditions, the Domdechant Werner estate is able to produce top-quality wines of all styles, ranging from dry to lusciously sweet wines. Regardless of style, elegant fruit and mineral tones are the hallmarks of all the wines. The very best dry Riesling wines are designated Erstes Gewächs, while the finest sweet wines bear the traditional Prädikat Auslese. The red Spätburgunder wines are carefully aged in mature oak casks. They are velvety smooth, fruity, and show only a hint of oak.

