# Duttenhöfer, Dienheim (Rheinhessen)

## Franz-Joseph Duttenhöfer
## The Marienhof, Ladybird Wine Estate
## Organic wines
## Member of the ECOVIN Association


*Region*: RHEINHESSEN
*Vineyards*: Dienheim (Kreuz, Paterhof, Tafelstein)
*Varietals*: Riesling, Weisser Burgunder (pinot blanc)
*Owner*: Franz-Joseph Duttenhöfer
*Winemaker*: Franz-Joseph Duttenhöfer

*Remarks*: wines produced under strict ecological conditions

The awareness for environmental protection and the appreciation of natural assets are becoming increasingly important. Estate owners have realized this fact and wines have become *healthier* over the last years. Modern technology and research allows for less chemical help in the vineyards and cellars, lesser use of sulphur dioxide to stabilize the wines. A small group of passionately devoted growers has gone a bigger step further. They completely avoid the use of chemical pesticides or chemical fertilizers. Their objective is to produce products in natural harmony with the environment. This involves considerably more manual labour for the grower and considerably less yield to restore the natural balance between the soil and the vine. The quality of the wines profits from this natural *concentration*. Strict control is provided by the Bundesverband Ökologischer Weinbau eV (federal association of organic viticulture).

Franz-Joseph Duttenhöfer has been a member of this association since 1986, fully devoted to his *green* philosophy. His wines are all matured in wood, have a smooth and well-balanced structure, with ripe fruit flavours. To retain freshness and avoid corky wines, all wines are bottled with long-cap screw-tops (stelvin since the 2007 vintage), instead of natural cork.

Franz-Joseph Duttenhöfer's label follows his ecological philosophy, avoiding vivid colours or gold imprint. The ladybird on the label (*Marienkäfer* in German; Marienhof being the name of his estate) can only exist in an ecologically healthy environment, and is a useful insect in his vineyards for pest control.