

Wine Estates in Germany

Franz Karl Schmitt Nierstein (Rhein)

Region: RHEINHESSEN
Vineyards: Nierstein (Hipping, Oelberg, Pettental, Kranzberg)
Varietals: Riesling
Owner: Franz-Karl Schmitt
Winemaker: Franz-Karl Schmitt

Remarks: outstanding Riesling wines from one of the very few old-established Nierstein estates

The estate was founded by Jost Schmitt in 1549, and has been in family possession since those days. Riesling is cultivated in some of the prime vineyards in Nierstein, including the grand cru Hipping site. The grandfather of the present owner, also named Franz-Karl Schmitt, was renowned for his striving to produce great wines. He was the first to produce Trockenbeerenauslese in Rheinhessen around 1900.

Franz-Karl follows the family tradition, as reflected in the high benchmark quality of his wines, but has now retired. The Riesling vines are grown in red sandstone soil on the steep slopes facing the Rhine. The Kranzberg Kabinett is a full-bodied Riesling with a dry finish, whereas Spätlese and Auslese are rich and highly concentrated in flavour, culminating in outstanding Riesling Beerenauslese and Trockenbeerenauslese, when weather permits.

