

Wine Estates in Germany

FRIEDEN-BERG Nittel (Mosel)

Region: Mosel
Vineyards: Nittel (Rochusfels, Leiterchen)
Varietals: Elbling, Auxerrois, Pinot Noir, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris
Owner: Horst & Max Frieden
Winemaker: Max Frieden

Remarks: the different Mosel dry wines, from the upper Mosel, with limestone terroir instead of slate, combining that minerality with the lighter Mosel characteristics.

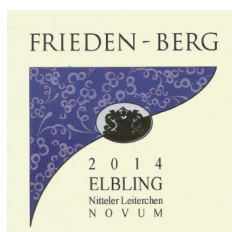
For generations the Frieden and Berg families have been cultivating their vineyards in Nittel, situated in the upper Mosel valley, bordering to Luxembourg on the other side of the river. A special terroir, a special cool macroclimate, unusual grape varietals: instead of the typical slate found along the Mosel and its tributaries, chalky limestone forms the terroir in Nittel. It is here that the old varietals Elbling and Auxerrois can be found, as also Pinot Noir. Horst Frieden and his son Max manage the estate today, cultivating 11 hectares (28 acres) in Nittel, with focus on producing only dry wines. Dry wines being typical for this sub-region, as also across the river in Luxembourg. Their wines show purity and lively elegance, with fine crisp acidity, lighter in structure than those from the Rhine valley. The cool climate allows cool harvesting, and production is gentle with controlled fermentation in stainless steel.

The village of Nittel has only been part of Germany since 1946, before that belonging to both France and Luxembourg, but viticulture has always been of importance.

Elbling is an old indigenous varietal that can only be found in the upper Mosel area, a varietal that tends to produce high yields and high acidity, ideal for sparkling wines, but with careful pruning, low yields and the improved macroclimate, the Friedens are able to produce very expressive dry white Elbling wines.

Auxerrois belongs to the Pinot family, originating from the Burgundy region, producing powerful dry whites with similarities to both Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris. The cultivation is also restricted mainly to the upper Mosel, although also planted in Baden.

Apart from producing Blanc de Noir from their Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir), the Friedens also produce a powerful dry red as cuvee of Spätburgunder and Dornfelder, released as **Pax Montis**, with low tannins and no barrique contact. Pax translating to peace, *Frieden* in German, *Montis* to mountain, *Berg* in German.



Nittel with its limestone rocks



Nittel, left bank of the Mosel