

Wine Estates in Germany

G & M Machmer, Bechtheim

Region:	RHEINHESSEN
Vineyards:	Bechtheim (Stein, Rosengarten, Hasensprung)
Varietals:	Gewürztraminer, Riesling, Scheurebe, Huxelrebe, Kerner, Pinot varietals.
Owner:	Georg and Markus Machmer
Winemaker:	Markus Machmer
Remarks:	appealing, fine wines from a young winemaker, organic production

Generations of the Machmer family have been involved in viticulture, but it was not until Georg Machmer that their estate wines were bottled. His son, Markus, now continues the family tradition and is devoted to producing wines of high quality. The small village of Bechtheim is situated near to the Rhine valley in the countryside, not far to the South from Nierstein. However, with little space in the middle of the village, the estate was moved to a modern production facility with estate house on the outskirts of Bechtheim where Markus and his family now live, in midst the vineyards. The vines are cultivated on fertile loamy soils, and spicy Gewürztraminer flourishes well in the warm macroclimate, a luscious, yet delicate late-harvest Spätlese is produced from his Stein and Rosengarten vineyards, and labeled as Bechtheimer. Apart from Spätlese qualities, Markus has been very successful with his Riesling and Gewürztraminer Eiswein, as well as Beerenauslese and Trockenbeerenauslese from new varietals, or even from Riesling. More recently, dry wines form the larger part of the total production. Specially selected, very low yielding vines (thinned to one bunch on each shoot) with healthy ripe fruit are used for their dry G&M Edition series.

Markus Machmer became frustrated with TCA cork problems and was one of the first estates to install machinery to seal with the expensive glass vinolok closure, but has now moved to Stelvin closures for most of his wines since the 2008 vintage.

Over the past years, Markus has moved to organic production, with European certification for the 2012 vintage wines.

