

RUDOLF MAY Retzstadt (Franken)

Region: FRANKEN
Vineyards: Retzstadt (Langenberg, Benediktusberg), Thüngersheim (Johannisberg), Stetten (Stein)
Varietals: Silvaner, Pinot Noir (Spätburgunder), Pinot Gris (Grauburgunder)
Owner: the May family
Winemaker: Rudi May
Remarks: member of prestigious VDP association, with focus on dry wines, especially the traditional Silvaner varietal, and bottled in the Bocksbeutel (flagon)

A new and exciting estate, founded in 1999 by Rudolf & Petra May, and now cultivating 13 hectares (33 acres) in and near Retzstadt, situated in a secluded side valley of the Main river, North of Würzburg. The Retz being the small stream that flows from the hillsides along the Eberstal (valley of the wild boar) into the Main river. Modern facilities enable a combination of gentle production, using stainless steel and oak casks.

The terroir is shell-limestone, and typical for the Franken region.

These Franken wines are traditionally dry and bottled in the Bocksbeutel flagons, and sealed nowadays with Stelvin which can be stored standing, also avoiding the problem of the bottles not fitting into racks.

The Silvaner is the signature varietal at the estate, being first introduced in 1659 to the region by the Cistercian monks. The wines are dry, full-bodied, mineral-driven and lower in acidity compared to Riesling, with herbal characteristics, fresh hay, or a touch minty.

Yields are kept very low, and although not certified organic, great care and attention is given to ecological and sustainable cultivation. As a member of the VDP association, Rudi has adapted to the “back to the roots” philosophy, and his wines truly reflect a very high benchmark quality. The wines are all released as dry Qualitätswein, increasing in quality and concentration of flavours, starting with the estate varietal wine without designation, followed up the ladder by the village quality (e.g. Retzstadt Silvaner), then on to the single vineyard higher quality (e.g. Langenberg), or the most expensive Great Growth (Grosses Gewächs).

Apart from Silvaner, Pinot Noir (Spätburgunder) has become an important varietal at the estate, and is given time to mature in new and used barrique casks, being bottled in Burgundy-style bottles.



Rudi May and his wines

