

Wine Estates in Germany

Dr. Nägler Rüdesheim

Region: RHEINGAU
Vineyards: Rüdesheim (Berg Rottland, Schlossberg, Roseneck; Bishofsberg, Drachenstein)
Varietals: Riesling (90%), Pinot Noir
Owner: Tilbert Nägler
Winemaker: Tilbert Nägler

Remarks: a fine small Riesling producer which owns and cultivates vineyards of reknown.

It is the South-facing slope, rising steeply from the bank of the Rhine up into the Taunus hillside where viticulture is most demanding in the Rheingau. Protected by both the river and the forests at the top of the hillside, the stony quartzite and slate soil is an ideal environment for vines. First plantings can be traced back to 1031 on this hillside, and it is here that Friedrich Nägler began cultivating vines in 1826. The reknowned *Berg* (mountain) in Rüdesheim is split into three single vineyards, Rottland, Schlossberg and Roseneck. The Nägler estate has ownership in all three parts of this outstanding, steep vineyard slope. A total of 21 acres are today cultivated by Tilbert Nägler who inherited the estate from Dr Heinrich Nägler.

Modern technology has found its way into the ancient vaulted cellar, and the hand-crafted Riesling wines are now fermented and matured in stainless steel, combining if necessary with old oak. In relation to the large estates in the Rheingau, this small, family-run estate can focus on producing individual wines with pronounced character, to fully reflect their heritage and terroir. The yields are low on that steep slope, leading to wines with great concentration of flavours, and fine maturing potential.

The emphasis is on the individual wine as in former times, and not the designated predicate level which is printed on the back label, i.e. the label specimen below refers to his dry Spätlese from the Schlossberg site, or the Kabinett from the Bischofsberg. Although many of the wines are fermented dry, or *feinherb* (dry-style) with just a hint of background natural residual sugar to be versatile with fine cuisine, Tilbert Nägler also produces traditional fruity-style wines, as well as selected late-harvest Spätlese and Auslese. Berry-selected Beerenauslese also produced in great vintages, and his first Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese in 2011.

Apart from Riesling, Pinot Noir (Spätburgunder) is cultivated in his Drachenstein (dragonstone) vineyard and produced by traditional mash fermentation, followed by maturing in old oak.

