



Wine Estates in Germany



NELLES Heimersheim (Ahr)



- Region:** AHR
Vineyards: Heimersheim (Landskrone, Burggarten)
Bad Neuenahr (Sonnenberg, Schieferlay)
Varietals: Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir), Riesling, Grauer Burgunder (pinot gris), Weisser Burgunder (pinot blanc)
Owner: the Nelles family
Winemaker: Philip Nelles
Remarks: A great, traditional red wine producer from the Ahr valley. A small region acclaimed for its fine red wines, despite being even more North than the Mosel.

A taxation document dating 1479 from the Landskrone Castle lists a Peter Nelis as having a lease on the vineyard. The logo 1479^N today remembers that the family has been cultivating vines on and around the Landskrone since that time and today owns 8.5 ha (21 acres), mostly on steep slopes. Thomas Nelles and his son Philip now manage the estate.

The secluded Ahr valley with its special macroclimate, and steep volcanic & slate hillsides, is a traditional red wine area. Heimersheim is near to the spa town of Neuenahr and the Nelles family owns some of the best sites in the lower Ahr valley. Pinot Noir is the main varietal, and the estate produces 80% red.

Ecological viticulture, low yields, gentle processing, mash fermentation followed by traditional malolactic fermentation, and no fining agents are essential components which reflect the Nelles philosophy. Despite the high quality, the wines are all bottled without predicate distinction and the dry Pinot Noir cuvée is labeled without vineyard name. The standard wines are being sealed with Stelvin closure since the 2009 vintage. The name Ruber for their dry red Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir) translates from the latin for ruby-red.

