

## Wine Estates in Germany

### Sonnenberg, Neuenahr

**Region:** AHR  
**Vineyards:** Neuenahr (Sonnenberg, Schieferlay)  
Walporzheim  
**Varietals:** Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir), Riesling, Grauer Burgunder (pinot gris), Weisser Burgunder (pinot blanc)  
**Owner:** the Linden family  
**Winemaker:** Marc Linden  
**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.

The secluded Ahr valley with its special macroclimate, and steep volcanic & slate hillsides, is a traditional red wine area. Pinot Noir is the main varietal, and the estate produces approximately 80% red wines. Only about 5% of their total wine production shows some sweetness, the major focus being on dry wines.

The Sonnenberg estate is situated at the foot of the Sonnenberg (sunny hillside), a South-facing vineyard slope. 15 acres are cultivated in Neuenahr and nearby Walporzheim. Their best site, the Schieferlay (meaning slate), is a steep & terraced South-facing slope.

The estate is owned and managed by the Linden family. The young generation, Marc Linden, is now responsible for production, and the emphasis is on dry Pinot Noir, the Spätburgunder.

Ecological viticulture, low yields, hand-picking of healthy ripe grapes, gentle processing, mash fermentation followed by traditional malolactic fermentation, and no fining agents are essential components which reflect the Sonnenberg philosophy. Despite the high quality, most of the wines are bottled without predicate distinction, and grapes are usually harvested at "Spätlese" ripeness.

