



2018 Vintage Report Maximin Grünhaus

The vintage 2018 began with a perfect flowering at Maximin Grünhaus. No frost or hail damage on the whole property.

The ripening period was confronted with the hottest summer in Germany ever recorded. Our Cellarmaster and vineyard manager Stefan Kraml even spoke of nearly mediterranean conditions. This could have caused problems because of dryness and heat in the vineyard but thanks to the location of Maximin Grünhaus we didn't have any of those. Grünhaus is tightly surrounded by Forests (cooler climate) and has a natural good supply of water. Therefore in very hot years the vineyards of Maximin Grünhaus don't suffer from heat and in our case not existing dryness.

The harvest at Maximin Grünhaus began as in 2017 very early – but for completely different reasons. This year the hot summer was responsible for it. On the 19th September we started with Pinot Noir which was in great shape. Loose, small and completely healthy berries let us already dream of the result which will be released in September 2020. The Pinot Noir harvest was two days later followed by the harvest of the first Riesling for our sparkling wine production. This took approximately two days. At the same time the harvest of the Pinot Blanc took place which was finished on the 23th of September.

On the 24th of September we started the main harvest of Riesling. Due to the hot summer a lot of people (vintners, press and critics) worried that acidity levels in our region like in many others could be low and that 2018 could become another 2003. But thanks to our unique location we harvested beautiful and perfectly ripe Riesling grapes with outstanding acidity levels. The whole harvest in our three grand crus was one big party. You couldn't see one not smiling face during this time. The whole team was motivated and ambitious to the maximum. Besides our regular Portfolio we we're able to harvest beautiful grapes for Auslese qualities and thanks to perfect botrytis also for a great range of Beerenauslese and Trockenbeerenauslese. In total the quality of what we harvested couldn't have been better and for the first time in years it was the same with the yield. Thanks to a rich amount of acorns in the forests and a huge crop of fruit we didn't even loose much grapes to the big wildboar population like in the past years. We are happy!