

DR. LOOSEN

2009 ERDENER PRÄLAT RIESLING AUSLESE GOLDKAPSEL



The Erdener Prälät vineyard

THE DR. LOOSEN ESTATE

The Dr. Loosen estate has been in the same family for over 200 years. When Ernst Loosen assumed ownership in 1988, he realized that, with ungrafted vines averaging 60 years old in some of Germany's best-rated vineyards, he had the raw materials to create stunningly intense, world-class wines. To achieve that, Ernst dramatically restricts crop size, uses only organic fertilization, insists on very strict fruit selection, and employs gentle cellar practices to allow the wine to develop its full potential with a minimum of handling.

THE MOSEL REGION

The Mosel's steep, south-facing slopes create the perfect climate for Riesling, giving the vines ideal exposure to the sun. Generally cool conditions allow the grapes to ripen slowly while retaining bright acidity. Rocky outcroppings and stony soil reflect sunlight and hold in heat, creating very warm microclimates in the best sites and helping to ensure excellent ripeness. Thin topsoil forces the vines to dig deep for water and nutrients, producing vibrant wines that capture the strong minerality of the soil.

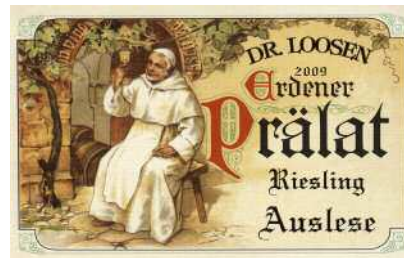
Dr. Loosen's single-vineyard vines average 70 years old, all on original rootstock (phylloxera can't survive in the Mosel, so ungrafted vines are allowed here). Old vines produce naturally lower yields, resulting in higher concentration and richness.



THE ERDENER PRÄLAT VINEYARD

Erdener Prälät (pronounced AIR-din-er PRAY-laht) is considered by many to be the greatest vineyard in the Mosel region. Dr. Loosen owns the biggest piece of this legendary four-acre site, with just over one acre. The site has perfect southern exposure, a 100-percent (45°) slope, very old vines in mineral-rich red slate soil, and an ideal location directly adjacent to the river. All of these advantages, combined with its position below huge, heat-retaining cliffs, explain why Dr. Loosen never harvests anything less than Auslese from this vineyard.

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The gold capsule is reserved for an Auslese of special distinction. For us, that means Erdener Prälät, the tiny slice of perfection that sits at the base of the red slate cliffs between

Erdener Treppchen and Ürziger Würzgarten. Beginning with the 2009 vintage, this will be our only Goldkapsel Auslese, made from clusters that are 50 to 100 percent botrytis affected, but not yet shriveled to Beerenauslese.

Erdener Prälät always produces the most kaleidoscopic wines, pulling together elements of all the other single-vineyard sites into a complex singularity. The 2009 Goldkapsel Auslese has enormous concentration and a captivating, multi-layered fruit aroma. It is rich and viscous on the palate, but with brilliant acidity that gives it a lively, juicy finish.

PRAISE FROM THE PRESS

[92] Wine Advocate

"Mirabelle and herbal distillates along with peat-like and blond tobacco smokiness in the nose...usher in a concentrated yet almost airy delicate palate resembling an orange and vanilla creamsicle drenched in the aforementioned distillates. The pungency of botrytis is evidenced again in a finish of delicate, distinctively delicious persistence. This is understated and lithe...a wine worth following for three decades."

[94] Mosel Fine Wines

"...powerful, deep and intense notes of mango, pineapple, honey and...laurel, this is mightily impressive on the palate with great creamy notes of fruits and minerals wrapped in sappy acidity."