



THE ERDENER TREPPCHEN VINEYARD

(The Little Staircase of Erden)

The Erdener Treppchen (pronounced AIR-din-er TREP-shen) vineyard is so steep that long ago stone steps were built into the hillside to enable workers to reach the vines. The iron-rich, red slate soil produces wines that are muscular and complex, with an intense mineral finish. They are more like a hard-body rock climber than the graceful ballet dancer of blue-slate Wehlener Sonnenuhr vineyard. The wines benefit greatly from a few years in the bottle to develop fully.

ERDENER TREPPCHEN RIESLING AUSLESE

The Erdener Treppchen vineyard can produce the full range of Prädikat wines in almost every vintage. In addition to Kabinett and Spätlese, this site yields a limited amount of Auslese (“selected late harvest”), noted for its aromatic intensity and forceful texture. This is a very special wine that combines extraordinary concentration and length with a bracing minerality.

VINEYARD CLASSIFICATION:

Rated “First Vineyard” (*Erste Lage* in German) in the 1868 Prussian classification of the Mosel, and rated “Great First-Class Vineyard” in the *Wine Atlas of Germany*, by Hugh Johnson & Stuart Pigott (1995).

PRAISE FROM THE PRESS:

“Really juicy, offering apricot, nectarine and lime flavors tinged by mineral, all of it packed into a light-weight frame. This shows great cut and balance, with a lingering after-taste.” 93 — *Wine Spectator*

KEY POINTS:

- Sophisticated, high-end collector’s wine from Germany’s Winemaker of the Year in 2001 (Gault Millau).
- Low alcohol for today’s healthier lifestyle.
- A massive, racy Riesling — gorgeous on its own, and a spectacular partner for elegant, fresh fruit desserts.