



# DR. LOOSEN

## Classic Rieslings from the slate slopes of the Mosel Valley



The Dr. Loosen estate house is on the Mosel River, just downstream from the village of Bernkastel.



Bernkastel is in the middle Mosel valley, about half way from the French border to the river's confluence with the Rhine, at Koblenz.

### ROOTS OF THE WINE

The Dr. Loosen estate has been in the same family for over 200 years. When Ernst Loosen assumed ownership in 1988, he saw 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 this, Ernst dramatically restricts crop size, uses only organic fertilizers, insists on strict fruit selection, and employs gentle cellar practices that allow the wine to develop its full potential with minimal handling.

### THE ELEMENTS OF QUALITY AT DR. LOOSEN

#### The regional climate

The Mosel's steep, south-facing slopes create the perfect climate for Riesling, giving the vines ideal exposure to the low-lying, northern sun. Generally cool conditions allow the grapes to ripen slowly, while retaining bright acidity.

#### The slate soil

The Mosel's stony soil and rocky outcroppings 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.

#### Old, ungrafted vines

Dr. Loosen owns vines that are well over 120 years old, and all are 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.

### CLASSIFIED QUALITY

All of Dr. Loosen's six major vineyards were designated as "Erste Lage" — equivalent to *grand cru* — in the 1868 Prussian classification of Mosel vineyards. Only wines from these top-rated sites are labeled with a single-vineyard designation. All others are bottled simply as estate wines.

### ACCOLADES FOR ERNST LOOSEN

- Star Winemaker, Europe, 2010, *Wine Behind the Label*, 7th ed.
- European Winery of the Year nominee, 2007 & 2008, *Wine Enthusiast*
- Man of the Year 2005, *Decanter*
- White Wine Maker of the Year 2005, *Wine International*
- World's 50 Most Influential Winemakers, *Wine & Spirits*
- Germany's Winemaker of the Year 2001, *Gault Millau*

### DR. L RIESLING

Dr. Loosen's non-estate wine embodies the elegant and racy style of classic Mosel Riesling. It is refreshing and fruity, with a fine mineral edge that is typical of the region.



Dr. L Riesling is made with fruit that comes exclusively from traditional vineyards with steep slopes and slate soil. By working closely with numerous Mosel valley growers on a long-term basis, brothers Ernst and Thomas Loosen are able to maintain excellent quality in every vintage.

# Classified (“Erste Lage”) vineyards at Dr. Loosen

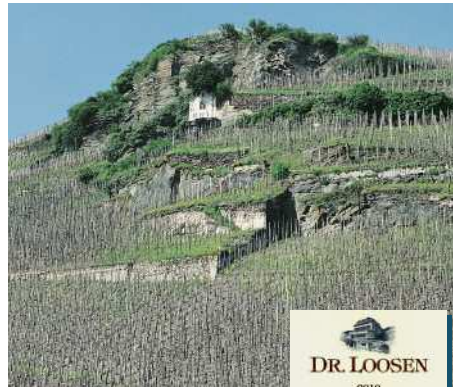
*Each single-vineyard has the potential to produce the full range of wines, from trocken to Trockenbeerenauslese. But the actual wines produced from any particular site in a given year will depend on the conditions of the vintage.*



## BERNKASTELER LAY

*(The Slate of Bernkastel)*

Bernkasteler Lay (pronounced LIE) is situated between the Dr. Loosen estate house and the village of Bernkastel. The slate soil here is heavier and deeper than in the neighboring villages of Wehlen and Graach. This site also has a slightly gentler slope than the estate’s other vineyards. It produces richly textured, assertive wines.



## WEHLENER SONNENUHR

*(The Sundial of Wehlen)*

This precipitously steep and rocky vineyard (VAY-len-er ZON-en-ooer) yields some of the most elegant and sophisticated white wines in the world. The classic blue slate soil gives the wine a delicate, crisp acidity that perfectly balances the pure peach and lemon fruit. It’s a charming wine that dances gracefully on the palate.



## ÜRZIGER WÜRZGARTEN

*(The Spice Garden of Ürzig)*

Blazing red and insanely steep, the Ürziger Würzgarten (ERTS-ih-ger VERTS-garten) vineyard fills the picturesque amphitheater formed by this dramatic bend in the river. It produces wines with exotic, spicy aromas that are bursting with tropical fruit flavors. The estate’s oldest vines are found here.



## GRAACHER HIMMELREICH

*(The Kingdom of Heaven)*

Graach is a small village that lies between two more-famous neighbors: Bernkastel and Wehlen. This vineyard’s steep, south-west-facing slopes and deep soils produce wines that combine the elegance of Wehlen with the rustic strength of Bernkastel. Forceful minerality from abundant blue slate in the soil gives wines from Graach excellent aging potential.

*(Please note: The vineyard classification used at Dr. Loosen is based on historical records, but is an unofficial, internal rating not recognized by German wine law.)*



## ERDENER TREPPCHEN

*(The Little Staircase of Erden)*

This vineyard is so steep that, long ago, stone steps were built into the hillside to help workers reach the vines. The iron-infused, red slate soil produces wines that are muscular and complex, with an intense mineral finish. Wines from Erdener Treppchen are more like a powerful, hard-body rock climber than the graceful ballet dancer of Wehlener Sonnenuhr.



## ERDENER PRÄLAT

*(The Bishop of Erden)*

A small slice of perfection, the four-acre Erdener Prälät (AIR-din-er PRAY-laht) produces some of the greatest wines in the Mosel valley. Its 100 percent south-facing red slate soil and extraordinarily warm microclimate yield wines of unequalled power and nobility. The vineyard’s exposure, combined with the warming effect of the river and the massive, heat-retaining cliffs that surround it, ensures exceptional ripeness in every vintage.