

# DR. LOOSEN

## 2009 ÜRZIGER WÜRZGARTEN RIESLING TROCKEN GG



*The Ürziger Würzgarten 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 ÜRZIGER WÜRZGARTEN VINEYARD

*(The Spice Garden of Ürzig)*

The weathered red volcanic and slate soils of the Ürziger Würzgarten (pronounced ERTS-iger VERTS-garten) vineyard make it unique on the Mosel. It is an insanely steep site that yields wines with an exotic, spicy aroma and a mesmerizing earthiness. There is no other vineyard in the Mosel valley that produces wines so bursting with tropical fruit flavors. The Dr. Loosen estate's oldest vines (up to 120 years old) are found here.

### 2009 DR. LOOSEN RIESLING TROCKEN ÜRZIGER WÜRZGARTEN 1. LAGE GG (GROSSES GEWÄCHS)



"Erste Lage" is the term for "classified vineyard" that has been adopted by the VDP, Germany's association of top winegrowers. The Erste Lage logo — the numeral 1 with grape cluster — can be used on any wine from a classified site.

"Grosses Gewächs" means "great growth," and is a term being used to designate the best dry wine from a classified vineyard. It is not yet part of German wine law, however, which is why you won't see the words on the label — only the initials "GG."

This Riesling is a limited-production "great growth" from an old-vine parcel in the heart of the original Ürziger Würzgarten vineyard, called Urglück. It is fermented in the traditional 1,000-liter wooden casks, called Fuder in the Mosel, and kept on the lees until September, when it can be officially released. Only 300 cases were produced.

### 2009 tasting notes

This wine is richer, denser and a bit softer than the Dr. Loosen "Red Slate" dry Riesling, with similarly warm fruit and a juicy mid-palate.

### ACCOLADES FOR ERNST LOOSEN

- Star Winemaker, Europe, 2010, *Wine Behind the label*, 7th ed.
- 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*