

# 2009 J.L. WOLF RIESLING WACHENHEIMER BELZ



## THE J.L. WOLF ESTATE

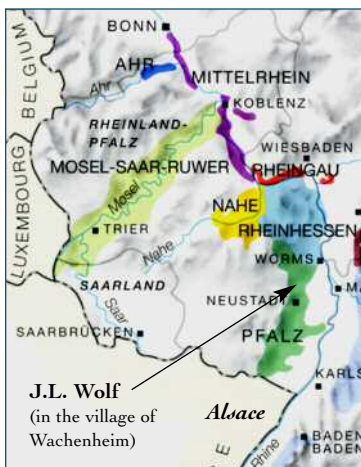
Founded in 1756, the J.L. Wolf winery was a very successful wine estate in the 18th century. It entered an even more glamorous period in 1843 when its owner, Johann Ludwig Wolf, finished construction of an Italianate estate house and villa. The exceedingly ornate estate house is now a nationally protected historic site.

In 1996, Ernst Loosen took over the vineyards and winemaking facilities in a quest to make full-bodied, traditionally crafted Pfalz wines to complement his lighter Dr. Loosen wines from the Mosel. In the classic style of the Pfalz, these wines are more full-bodied than Mosel wines, with higher alcohol and rich flavors of ripe fruit and stone.

## THE PFALZ REGION

The Pfalz (aka 'Palatinate') lies between the Haardt mountains and the Rhine River in southwest Germany, directly north of France's Alsace region. As in Alsace, the mountains protect the area from cold Atlantic weather, making it one of the warmer and drier areas of Germany.

Because of this unusual climate, surprising things, such as almonds, figs and lemons are grown in this region, which is sometimes referred to as "the Tuscany of Germany." Naturally, wine grapes also do quite well here where it is possible to achieve full ripeness in every vintage. The predominant soil type in this area is well-drained, weathered sandstone. It produces wines with a fruit-driven purity and a stony richness.

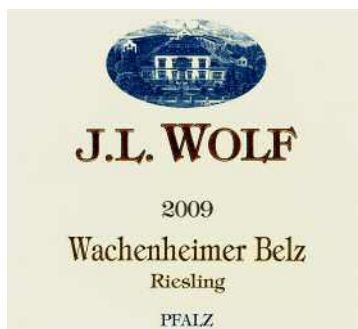


## THE WACHENHEIMER BELZ VINEYARD

At J.L. Wolf, Ernst Loosen uses a three-tier, Burgundian-style vineyard classification, based on an 1828 Bavarian tax assessment map of the Pfalz. (Please note, however, that this is an unofficial, internal classification that is not recognized by the German wine law.) Wachenheimer Belz was rated "Second Vineyard" in this classification.

Similar to Burgundy's "premier cru" designation, Rieslings from this vineyard are labeled with both the village and vineyard name. The unique chalky soil in the Belz vineyard produces distinctive wines with a rounded structure and an engaging grapefruit note in the aroma. A mesmerizing stony perfume emerges from the wine as it matures.

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The wines from Wachenheimer Belz have a Loire-like structure and flinty flavor profile from the unusual chalk soil that is only found in this vineyard, a monopole of J.L. Wolf. The 2009, as usual, has a rounder, fuller profile than the Wachenheimer village

wine. It has excellent concentration and a warm richness on the palate. This will develop nicely for five to seven years. It was harvested at the Spätlese ripeness level, but made in the drier style (compared to the Mosel) that is traditional for this region.

## ACCOLADES FOR ERNST LOOSEN

- 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*



*The unique chalky soil in the Belz vineyard produces distinctive wines that develop a mesmerizing, stony perfume as they mature.*

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