

## MOSEL

- Region is named for the Mosel River; until 2007 was called “Mosel-Saar-Ruwer” in a nod to the two main tributaries within the region
- Known for steep, slate slopes; the best vineyards grow on the north riverbanks
- Riesling. Riesling! RIESLING!!
- General style is delicate, limpid, pure, high acid, strong mineral
- Prädikat levels based on sugar levels at harvest: Kabinett / Spätlese / Auslese / Beerenauslese / Trockenbeerenauslese / Eiswein

### 1) St. Urbans-Hof Ockfener Bockstein Kabinett '11 – Saar, Germany

- Sub-region named for Saar tributary; at southern end of Mosel region but coolest sub-region due to its higher altitude and being open to cold winds from east
- Saar character is generally more steely, restrained, ultra-fresh
- St. Urbans-Hof dedicated to tradition: Riesling only; slate soils; fruity, transparent style

### 2) Karthäuserhof Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Kabinett '09 – Ruwer, Germany

- Sub-region named for Ruwer tributary, just northeast of Saar; smaller and less curvaceous river with gentler slopes
- Ruwer character is most delicate and subtle
- Weingut Karthäuserhof; town of Eitelsbach; vineyard site “Karthäuserhofberg” (actually five individual vineyards, bought together... then labeled as one by the estate)
- House style is very fresh, vivacious, precise

### 3) Villa Huesgen Riesling Kabinett Feinherb '10 – Middle Mosel, Germany

- Quite literally in the middle of the greater Mosel region; arguably most illustrious area
- Estate based in Traben-Trarbach — historically important trade center due to railroad
- Villa Huesgen is a new label but run by 9<sup>th</sup> generation Adolph Huesgen whose family has been in wine business in Mosel since 1735



**4) J&H Selbach-Oster Piesporter Michelsberg Riesling Spätlese '11 – Middle Mosel, Germany**

- Michelsberg is a grosselage (collection of vineyard sites) within Bernkastel bereich
- Piesporter Michelsberg wines usually from lower, flatter sites
- Selbach-Oster family based in Middle Mosel, super-focused on quality in vineyards; J&H Selbach-Oster is their négociant label focused on regional character at high QPR

**5) J.J. Christoffel Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese '10 – Middle Mosel, Germany**

- Ürziger Würzgarten is north of Piesport and south of Traben-Trarbach
- The “spice garden”: red slate and racy, explosive, spicy wines
- Family has been in area for 400 years; house style is racy, buoyant and expressive

**6) Merkelbach Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese '10 – Middle Mosel, Germany**

- Same vineyard, same vintage as above; different producer and prädiikat
- House is run by brothers Rolf and Alfred Merkelbach; style is pure, transparent, spicy

