



COUNTRY

Germany

REGION

Rheingau

ESTATE OWNED BY

Stefan & Christian Ress

WINEMAKER

Markus Roll & Stephan Snger

VINEYARDS

50 hectares

YEAR FOUNDED

1870

HOME LINK

<https://en.balthasar-ress.de/home>

PRODUCTION

"Von Unserm" Riesling Trocken
Rheingau VDP: 4,200 cases

Balthasar Ress

The story of Balthasar Ress did not begin in a vineyard but in a guesthouse. In 1870, a young butcher named Balthasar opened a guesthouse in the village of Hattenheim. The passion to give guests a memorable experience and a reason to stay has motivated five generations of the Ress family. The winery came naturally, as it tends to in the Rheingau, where vineyards and winemaking are a way of life. What began as a hospitality business rooted in a single village is now one of the most significant estates in the Rheingau, a certified VDP member with holdings across the region. Since 2019, this family-owned and operated estate has become the largest certified EU organic producer in the Rheingau. Roughly 70% of Balthasar Ress's vineyard holdings are classified at the VDP's two highest tiers (Grosse Lage and Erste Lage), a genuinely exceptional ratio that few estates anywhere in Germany can match.

Representing the fifth generation, Christian took over the estate in 2010. He brought a new level of ambition to the estate's already strong reputation. Under his leadership, the estate began conversion to EU-standard organic viticulture in 2016. This represented a deliberate commitment to the land itself, working with the natural rhythms of each vineyard site. That philosophy carries directly into the cellar, where it finds its voice in cellarmaster Stephan Snger. Snger describes his approach with characteristic restraint: "As little as possible, as much as necessary." The harvest is done largely by hand, with machine harvesting reserved only for plots where a careful pass by hand pickers has already removed anything unworthy of inclusion. The bottlings undergo spontaneous fermentation with native yeasts and extensive lees aging, a practice that builds structure and complexity while naturally protecting the wine from oxidation and reducing the need for sulfur. "Good taste only develops over time," Snger says.

The Rheingau takes its name and character from the point where the Rhine pivots westward, running for roughly 30 kilometers against its usual northward course. The valley opens wide and fills with light from the east and south. The Taunus hills rising to the north of the region act as a windbreak, with the broad river reflecting both heat and light into the south-facing slopes. It is one of the most historically documented wine regions in the world. An 1867 Rheingau wine map (historically titled Weinbau-Karte des nassauischen Rheingaus) is officially recognized as the world's oldest site-based vineyard classification map.

The "Von Unserm" is sourced from their vineyards in this small, iconic wine region. Their EU organic negociant project, Ress, is sourced from the Rheinhessen and the Rheingau. The White and Red Rabbit lines offer high-quality, value-driven Riesling and Pinot Noir. The diverse terroir of the Rheinhessen is defined by the same cool-climate conditions provided by the Rhine River.

"Fein sei der Wein," meaning "Let the wine be fine."

After more than 150 years, the Ress family has yet to find a reason to say it differently.

