



WEINGUT  
BURG RAVENSBURG

*est. 1251*

## COUNTRY

Germany

## REGION

Baden

## ESTATE OWNED BY

Heiler-Jacklin Family

## WINEMAKERS

Claus Burmeister &  
Daniel Rupp

## VINEYARDS

38 hectares. Certified Organic  
& Biodynamic (Demeter)

## YEAR FOUNDED

1251

## HOME LINK

<https://weingut-burg-ravensburg.de/en>

## PRODUCTION

Riesling Trocken Baden VDP:

1,100 cases

Pinot Noir Baden VDP:

2,500 cases

Blafränkisch Baden VDP:

700 cases

Blafränkisch Lerchenberg 1G

VDP: 200 cases

# Weingut Burg Ravensburg

Few wineries anywhere can claim a story as long as Weingut Burg Ravensburg. Vines have grown on the hillsides around the Ravensburg castle in Sulzfeld, in Baden's Kraichgau region, since 1251, making it one of the oldest documented wine estates on Earth. Cistercian monks from Maulbronn Monastery first farmed the land in the 13th century, having come north from Burgundy in search of better land. What they found was gypsum keuper, a geological composition laid down more than 220 million years ago.

The castle was the ancestral seat of the Barons Göler von Ravensburg, and the family is credited with two firsts: among the earliest plantings of Blafränkisch in Germany in the 1600s, and among the first plantings of Riesling in Baden. The Riesling arrived in 1782, when Freiherr Göler von Ravensburg is said to have carried cuttings home from the Markgraf von Baden tucked in his hussar's cap, the source of the name for the estate's vineyard, Husarenkappe.

Heinz Heiler took ownership of the estate in 2009, operating it alongside its sister property, Weingut Heitlinger in nearby Tiefenbach. Heiler also named Claus Burmeister winemaker and general manager of both properties. Burmeister was raised in the Kraichgau, the son of the winemaker at Burg Ravensburg, and took over that estate from his father in 1995. By then he already knew the region's colored marls and south-facing limestone slopes the way you only can from having grown up walking them. In the years since, he has built Heitlinger and Burg Ravensburg into top estates in Baden, earning VDP membership in 2012 and growing them into the largest Demeter certified-organic and biodynamic estate in Germany. He now co-manages both properties alongside Patrick Jacklin, grandson of Heinz Heiler, with the two overseeing Heitlinger and Burg Ravensburg together.

Today the estate farms 38 hectares, anchored by three VDP. Grosse Lagen, Germany's equivalent of Grand Cru, all monopoles belonging solely to Burg Ravensburg. Husarenkappe is primarily planted to Riesling. Löchle takes the shape of a natural amphitheater, its bowl-like terrain giving it a warm, sheltered microclimate suited to Pinot varieties. Dicker Franz is planted to Blafränkisch and named, bluntly, for the gluttonous habits of a former lord of the castle. The estate uses the term Blafränkisch rather than the regional name Lemberger, a deliberate choice to appeal to wine drinkers outside Germany.

Farming rests on the belief that the real work happens in the vineyard: harvest is by hand, yields are kept low, and the estate is now fully certified biodynamic under Demeter, following the lunar calendar, composting on-site, and planting cover crops for biodiversity. In the cellar, all wines ferment spontaneously, gravity replaces pumps wherever the cellar allows, and the reds from Grosse Lage vineyards age in a mix of barriques and large Stockinger casks of oak from the Kraichgau forest. The estate's goal is elegant simplicity, dry wines only, each one an expression of region, variety, vintage, and site.

