

Freiherr von Gleichenstein 2011 Spätburgunder 'Aus dem Kessel'

WineWise Code	GVG-SPK11
Country	Germany
Region	Baden
Subregion	Kaiserstuhl
Color	Red
Alcohol by Volume	13.5
Acidity	5.7
Residual Sugar	1.4
Closure	Natural Cork
Annual cases produced	15000
Varieties	100% Spätburgunder
Pumpover or Punchdown?	No
Fermentation vessel	Barrel
Aging method	Used Barrique 100%
Aging duration (months)	12
Filtered?	Yes
Fining agents	None
Yeast	Spontaneous
Added Sulfur	Yes
Vineyard Name	Oberrotweiler Eichberg
Soil Type(s)	Loess, Volcanic
Vineyard Aspect	Northeast
Vine age (years)	20
Vine Yields hl/ha	40
Farming practices	Conventional
Grape Picking	Hand-harvested

Notes from the producer:

After selective hand-picking, the grapes are partially destemmed. After approx. 1-week cold maceration, the fermentation is spontaneously carried out with wild yeasts at 28 -30 ° C. After a post-maceration of several weeks, the mash is pressed gently. This Spätburgunder matures for at least 12 months in 3 to 5-year-old oak barrels.



WineWise Notes:

There are plenty of “Spitzenweine”, what you might call “trophy wines”, in Baden, that command relatively high prices (though nothing like burgundy, or even California!). These are eagerly lapped up by the German market and a handful of mostly-European connoisseurs. It is our hope that the California market will before long wake up to these top wines, and we will bring in whatever we are allocated. In the meantime, we offer you this amazing bottle, which hails from a sun-blessed parcel within the Eichberg. Its name means “from the boiler”, an allusion to the warmth of the site, which is perhaps counter-intuitive to the notion that Pinot Noir is at its best in marginal terroirs. But it was impossible to resist the sheer grandeur of this wine, whose lavish aroma and shapely structure are testament to the quality of the 40 year-old vines planted in bare volcanic soil in the vineyard’s steepest section. The minty tone is suggestive of burgundy, the price modest for the quality.

This is a 500 year-old estate with monastic origins currently run by the young and dynamic Johannes von Gleichenstein, who impishly calls his top wine “Baron Philipp”, on the grounds that they are a noble family and Philipp is his son’s name. One suspects that he would welcome a lawsuit from the Rothschilds of Bordeaux, with all its attendant publicity! However, even without that, the wines are deserving of attention, offering fidelity to their soils and very good value. We expect to add whites to the two Pinots Noirs we have initially selected.

