



PRESS INFORMATION

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German Pinot Noir fills seven of the top 10 spots at International Pinot Noir tasting

German Pinot Noir came up trumps at a recent International Pinot Noir tasting, with seven of the judges' top 10 wines coming from Germany.

The blind tasting, which was judged by a world-class panel of wine experts including Jancis Robinson MW, Xavier Rousset MS and Peter McCombie MW, was organised by the German Wine Institute and chaired by Tim Atkin MW. The objective of the tasting was to draw attention to the fact that Germany is the third largest producer of Pinot Noir in the world and to highlight the top quality of German Pinot Noir.

The top-placed German wine was the 2008 Winzerhof Thörle Hölle Spätburgunder from the Pfalz, which came in third position behind Oregon's 2009 Anticaterra Pinot Noir and the Californian 2008 Au Bon Climat Isabelle. The other top-placed German wines included the 2009 Rudolf Fürst Centgrafenberg Spätburgunder, 2007 Ziereisen Jaspis Alte Reben Spätburgunder, 2008 Gutzler Westhofener Morstein Spätburgunder, 2008 Ziereisen Schulen Spätburgunder, 2009 Jean Stodden Alte Reben Spätburgunder and 2009 Heitlinger GmbH Königsbecher Spätburgunder.

The event was the brain child of Tim Atkin and Hamish Anderson who visited Germany last year and were so impressed by the quality of the Pinot Noirs they tasted that they challenged the German Wine Institute to hold a comparative tasting, pitting German Pinot Noir against some of the world's most revered Pinot Noir producers from Burgundy, New Zealand and Oregon, among others. They then returned to the Rheingau in September this year for a pre-tasting, tasting over 300 German Pinot Noirs in order to select the top 20. The Pinot Noirs from non-German producers were also selected by Tim Atkin, following a recent visit to the International Pinot Noir Celebration in Oregon.

As Steffen Schindler, marketing director for the German Wine Institute, observed: "The UK is one of our major markets abroad for German wine, so it's great to raise the profile of our Pinot Noirs here. In this tasting, German Pinot Noirs outscored New Zealand, Australia, Burgundy, Oregon, Austria and California combined so we hope this will go some way to demonstrating that German Pinot Noirs really can compete with the best in the world for quality!"

-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITORS

*The judges that took part in the tasting were:

- Tim Atkin MW
- Hamish Anderson
- Jancis Robinson MW
- Xavier Rousset MS
- Christine Parkinson
- Peter McCombie MW
- Anthony Rose
- Gearoid Devaney MS
- Ronan Sayburn
- Stephen Brook
- Matthew Jukes
- Stephan Reinhardt

Stephan Reinhardt is one of the most profiled wine journalists in Germany. He writes for wine publications such as Weinwisser, The World of Fine Wine or Der Feinschmecker, and also for many leading German newspapers such as Süddeutsche Zeitung, Welt am Sonntag and die tageszeitung.

**The final result was as follows:

Wine & vintage	Rank
2009 Anticaterra Pinot Noir	1
2008 Au Bon Climat Isabelle	2
2008 Winzerhof Thörle Hölle Spätburgunder	3
2009 Weingut Rudolf Fürst Centgrafenberg Grosses Gewächs Spätburgunder	4
2007 Weingut Ziereisen Spätburgunder Jaspis Alte Reben	5
2008 Weingut Gutzler Westhofener Morstein Grosses Gewächs Spätburgunder	6
2008 Weingut Ziereisen Schulen Spätburgunder	7
2009 Felton Road Block 5	8
2009 Weingut Jean Stodden Alte Reben Spätburgunder	9
2009 Weingut Heitlinger GmbH Königsbecher Spätburgunder	10
2007 Morey 1er Cru Domaine Dujac	11
2009 Paringa Estate Pinot Noir	12=
2009 Markowitsch Reserve Pinot Noir	12=

The 40 wines that were included in the tasting are as follows:

Round 1 number	Wine & vintage
1	2009 Chacra Treinta y Dos
2	2007 Weingut Ziereisen Spätburgunder
3	2009 Paringa Estate Pinot Noir
4	2008 Eyrie Vineyards Pinot Noir
5	2009 Felton Road Block 5
6	2008 Weingut Stefan Meyer Rosengarten Spätburgunder
7	2008 Seresin Estate Single Vineyard Pinot Noir

8	2009 Weingut Rings Freinsheim Spätburgunder
9	2009 Weingut Meyer-Näkel Dernauer Pfarrwingert Spätburgunder
10	2008 By Farr Tout Pres Geelong Pinot Noir
11	2009 Weingut Jean Stodden Spätburgunder
12	2009 Anticaterra Pinot Noir
13	2009 Weingut Heitlinger GmbH Königsbecher Spätburgunder
14	2008 Weingut H. Schlumberger ALTENBERG "Wingerte" Spätburgunder
15	2009 Hirsch San Andreas Pinot Noir
16	2009 Weingut Bürgerspital Veitshöchheimer Sonnenschein Spätburgunder
17	Vina Leyda Lot 21 Pinot Noir
18	2009 Kaiserstühler Winzerverein Oberrotweil eG Oberrotweiler Spätburgunder
19	2007 Morey 1er Cru Domaine Dujac
20	2009 Weingut Kopp Spätburgunder
21	2009 Weingut Wageck Pfaffmann Cuvée Spätburgunder
22	2008 Weingut Gutzler Westhofener Morstein Spätburgunder
23	2008 Domaine Drouhin Cuvée Laurene
24	2008 Au Bon Climat Isabelle
25	2009 Weingut Jean Stodden Neuenahrer Sonnenberg Spätburgunder
26	2009 Escarpment Te Rehua Pinot Noir
27	2009 Weingut Rudolf Fürst Centgrafenberg Spätburgunder
28	2009 Bouchard Finlayson Tete de Cuvée
29	2009 Weingut Meyer-Näkel Walporzheimer Kräuterberg Spätburgunder
30	2008 Weingut Ziereisen Spätburgunder (Schulen)
31	2009 10 Minutes by Tractor McCutcheon Pinot Noir
32	2008 Weingut Bernhard Huber Hecklinger Schlossberg Spätburgunder
33	2009 Weingut Schumacher Herxheimer Himmelreich Spätburgunder (no show)
34	2008 Gantenbein Pinot Noir
35	2007 Musigny 1er Cru Charmes
36	2008 Winzerhof Thörle Hölle Spätburgunder
37	2008 Saintsbury Brown Ranch
38	2009 Markowitsch Reserve Pinot Noir
39	2008 Weingut Ziereisen Spätburgunder (Jaspis Alte Reben)
40	2007 Domaine Fourrier Gevrey- Chambertin