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“Duft & Ordnung” – the Alte Wache develops its own classification system for its wines

The “Duft & Ordnung” wine classification system uses coloured dots to give wine lovers a simple system to choose the perfect wines for them from the around 80 different wines from the Baden region stocked at the Alte Wache. The coloured dots are accompanied by short descriptions of the wines’ character as well as fascinating additional information about how the wine is produced, so that customers can find the wines they like quickly and easily.

The wine experts at the Alte Wache believe that, ultimately, personal taste takes precedence over the descriptions of the wines and quality rankings. Naturally, the wine experts are also more than happy to advise customers on their selection of wines, which can be sampled and purchased at the Alte Wache.

For those who don't worry about drinking too much wine

Light & breezy | Light wines | For everyday drinking

These are the super light, honestly produced wines for spontaneous, uncomplicated enjoyment with a huge fun factor. They are aged for a shorter period in a way that accentuates the fruity flavours (without oxygen), have a relatively low alcohol content, and can be enjoyed ice-cold on the terrace in the spring and summer months. They are simply delectable, without any fuss. One bottle is seldom enough. In Baden, they are known as the traditional “Viertelschlotzer”.

For the wine purists

Earthy | Cool | Sophisticated

These wines and grape varieties are perfectly adapted to their respective soil, microclimate and location – in other words, their terroir. They have been tailored to the particular characteristics of their locations, which in turn give them their unique qualities. They underline the fact that wine quality originates in the vineyard. Restrictions on quantity help the wines to achieve their extraordinary character typical of their location. This character includes a cool minerality, a stimulating, elegant acidic profile, and a simultaneously multi-layered, complex and gracefully dry style. South Baden in particular is home to diverse smaller vineyards that are of outstanding quality, and that have a tendency to make the hearts of wine connoisseurs beat that bit faster.

For wine lovers

Kissed by wood | Elegant

After outstanding work on the vineyard, these wines are given their finishing touches in the cellar, where they are matured in different wooden barrels. Depending on the type of barrel, these lend different flavours to the wines and help them to mature. These wines make excellent and enjoyable accompaniments to food. They are often only briefly matured in small barrique barrels or large wooden barrels and are extremely distinctive, with the finest herbal or fruity flavours, charming acidity and, in the case of red wines, a pleasant tannin structure.

For discerning wine drinkers

Matured in wood | Powerful | Complex

High-calibre wines are matured to perfection here in barrique barrels (either 225 litres or 500 litres). The heavy toasting and longer storage periods have a particular influence on the wine and lend it a softer, smoother, creamier feel with fine nuances of liquorice, leather, smoke, cedar and caramel to vanilla notes. The strong, complex Burgundy wines from Baden are ideal for ageing and maturing in oak barrels. These wines can be kept to mature with excellent results, making them extremely exciting for those with the enthusiasm and patience to wait.

For wine collectors

Rarities

This category of wines contains a collection of exceptionally well-aged wines of unmistakable quality. Generations of Baden winegrowers have put their best wines of each vintage into the archive and aged them for decades. The Alte Wache has been on a quest to find these precious treasures. Thanks to their ageing and maturity, they possess a complexity, energy and mellowness. In order to perfectly express their diversity and exclusivity, they deserve to be served on a special occasion or with a special meal. They tell unique stories and stand as valuable one-offs.

For wine connoisseurs

Juicy | Sweet | Fruity

Here you can enjoy wines that have been deliberately left with a juicy sweetness rather than being fully fermented to produce a dry wine. These wines are true flavour acrobats and fascinate with their beguiling aromas and smoothness, owed to the finest ripened grapes. The result is fruity aromas, charm and elegance, and a moderate alcohol content. The Baden region shines here with particularly flavourful grape varieties such as Pinot Gris, Gewürztraminer, Scheurebe and Muscat.

For lovers of luxury wines

Sweet delicacies

These wines traditionally sit at the top of the German pyramid of wines. Baden, the southernmost and warmest of the German wine-growing regions, offers the very best climatic conditions for these qualities. The grapes ripen on sun-drenched vines to the highest levels of sweetness and are labelled Auslese, Beerenauslese, Trockenbeerenauslese and Eiswein – depending on the natural sugar content of the harvested berries. They are your ticket to the very best in wine-drinking pleasure. The lowering water content of the berries as they ripen creates highly complex, concentrated aroma structures and almost endlessly durable wine specialities. These delightfully sweet heavyweight wines are best paired with: cigars, mature cheeses, desserts and hot spicy, flavoursome cuisine.

For wine adventurers

Unique | Artistic | Individual

Wines that deliberately stray from the norm and refuse classification. Winemakers who are breaking new and old ground with a pinch of experimentation and a desire to

create something new. The maestros in the wine cellars create unique wines thanks to their first-rate craftsmanship. These are wines that demand an introduction. Works of art in wine form that unfold a colourful maze of magnificent worlds of pleasure on the palate.

The Alte Wache at a glance

The Alte Wache Freiburg – Haus der badischen Weine GmbH – is supported by 31 shareholders, including 20 winegrowing co-operatives, 11 wineries and the City of Freiburg. The winegrowers are from the Kaiserstuhl, Tuniberg, Markgräflerland, Breisgau and Ortenau winegrowing regions. The Alte Wache offers around 100 wine specialities from the Baden region for sampling and purchasing.

When it was founded by winegrowing co-operatives, wineries and the City of Freiburg back in 1996, the Alte Wache was intended to serve as a shop window for Baden wines. In 1997, following extensive renovations, it opened its doors on Münsterplatz in central Freiburg.

Since then, the Alte Wache has developed into a “gateway to Baden wine”, bringing wine lovers closer to the many different high-quality wines from the Baden region in a simple and unique atmosphere. Freiburg has more vineyards per square metre than any other German city and, as such, is undoubtedly a city of wine.

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