

PRINZ

Vintage 2021

Looking back to the beginning of last year, we remember well wintry and frosty days, when the snow stayed on the ground in the higher elevations of the Rheingau for several weeks. Just as we celebrated the first days of spring in the middle of February, the temperature dropped again, and we had to wait for mild weather until we were well into May.

This cold spell resulted in the vines budding two weeks later than in years past, when we saw very early budding. It was a very short spring, but we winemakers could breathe easier - this was the first sign of a "normal" or a not-very-early harvest. In June, when the summer rushed in, the vines responded vigorously, because of the warm weather and enough rain.

In this case, the moisture might've been good for the thirsty plants, but the chance of a greater incidence of disease - such as peronospora that infect flowers or grapes and make them rot - kept us on our toes. That's why the focus in the vineyards lay in clearing foliage, so that the canopy could stay well-ventilated and dry quickly. Such a summer is for us - especially as organic winemakers - a labor-intensive and challenging time. Sadly, we did not manage to keep peronospora away from all our grapes.



The weather finally stabilized at the end of the summer, especially at the beginning of the ripening period, and we could relax a little. However, the dry and sunny period didn't last long. When the harvest began in October, changeable and cool weather set in, bringing mold to the vineyards. Together with the diseases of the summer, this led to a reduction of 25% of the harvest compared to previous years.

Now for the good news: fortunately, the majority of the vineyards offered us very healthy and aromatic golden-yellow grapes. Looking back, 2021 was not an easy year, but was even more challenging for us as winemakers. Personally, it has shown us that our vineyards have the strength to deal with such years, and having brought our experience and passion to bear, we gave it our very best.

When we taste our wines now, we are satisfied - they are clear, delicate and full of finesse. We are especially excited with the development of the first wines from our new vineyard sites Erbacher Marcobrunn, Hattenheimer Nussbrunnen and Rüdesheimer Berg Schlossberg. For now, we can definitely say that they distinguish themselves from our Hallgarten vineyards with their unique, distinctive characters.