

PRINZ

2022 – A hot, dry summer, a cool, wet September capped off by a warm, sunny October

These days, we are used to German winters being warmer than usual. Winter 2021/22 also came with fewer frost days and only a little bit of snow. However, we were happy about the sufficient winter precipitation, which has become more important because the early warm days in spring use up water reserves.

If 2021 were not so cool and rainy, we could have put 2022 in the same basket as 2018, 2019 and 2020. The year broke all previous records again, with the sunniest March as well as the warmest October. The months of May until August were significantly too warm, and the sun gave it its all. The precipitation in June did not help much either.

So, it was no surprise that this year we also faced problems with aridity.

The first signs of heat stress showed up early – depending on the kind of soil and the age of vines, it arrived in some places later and some places not as strong. The much anticipated rain just did not arrive. We were still astonished how green and vital the vines looked. On our 2020 newsletter we'd written: „Good humus content of the soils, lively diverse green vineyards with good rainwater absorption, and deep rooted old vines – these are the underpinnings of our biodynamic processes.“ We are happy to say that the same applied to 2022, and confirmed our way of working and thinking.

As if the weather wanted to play hooky with us winemakers, naturally it began to rain when we did not want it any more – at the beginning of the harvest. In September alone we had more than 120 litres of rain – more than in the entire growing period prior.

We started our harvest with Spätburgunder on the second of September. On September 11th, we harvested the first Riesling for our sparkling wine, and the rest of the harvest followed on September 16th. Happily, the temperatures in September were lower than in previous years and mold could not develop much. This also meant that we had to wait until the grapes reached their full ripeness. Only ripe grapes allow elegant fruity wines that are fun to drink – like we like them. Due to the rain, we had to interrupt the harvest again and again, but we could use those days for selective picking of rotten grapes. Thankfully, the first half of October spoiled us and our harvest workers with many warm and sunny days. We were able to harvest ripe and healthy grapes from many of our single vineyard sites during this phase.

The young wines are clear and fruity, the acidity well - incorporated. The low yields of the site wines suggest dense, complex wines with modest alcohol levels that can be laid down.