

Vintage Report 2005

And yet another outstanding vintage!

Vine development during the 2005 season was characterised by favourable factors such as high sunshine hours, above-average temperatures, the beneficial dispersal of the season's rainfall and finally what can only be described as "picture-book weather" during autumn and the vintage period.

Just like in 2004, budburst and flowering commenced early (as shown in the table below), however the 2005 conditions made it possible to maintain the developmental lead due to the very favourable weather during June and July. In August, the vegetative growth halted. This effectively meant that the formed metabolites were then stored in the developing berries as opposed to being used for shoot- and leaf growth, thus favourably influencing the ripening of the grapes.

Following a splendid September, we commenced picking at Fritz Haag Estate on 10 October 2005. We were able to maximise the advantages of the favourable autumn season, which were particularly beneficial to the Riesling variety, and carried out several selective picking cycles.

Rarely has a vintage season been favoured by such uninterrupted and continuous sunshine as was experienced in 2005. Our decision to put greatest emphasis on selection and quality during the picking process enabled us to achieve outstandingly ripe wines with a heady and intense bouquet, some with extremely high sugar levels.

The 2005 wines cover the entire spectrum of the flavour experience. Ranging from the lively, elegant and fruit-driven Fritz Haag Riesling to the exclusive *Trockenbeerenauslese*, they all show extremely well. They can be described as compact, rich and well-balanced yet elegant and graceful with very attractive sweetness levels.

Yet again, the steep slopes of the Moselle were able to shine to their best advantage and bestow upon us wines from an outstanding and truly great vintage.

Brauneberg / Moselle, December 2005

Phenological data for the Moselle – Saar – Ruwer Region

	average	2005
Budburst	30 April	25 April
Start of flowering	25 June	16 June
Start of ripening	30 August	10 August
Start of picking	13 October	10 October