

## mosel

reinhard und beate knebel  
winingen

**overview** | Beate Knebel has kept her late husband's style intact while improving quality even more with the assistance of Gernot Kollmann (ex-winemaker at Van Volxem). They make top-flight wines both in the drier style as well as nobly sweet. They all reflect their place of origin, namely the steep-terraced Terrassenmosel near Koblenz, where the micro-climate often is the hottest in the region.

**vineyard area:** 6.5 hectares  
**annual production:** 50,000 bottles  
**top sites:** *Winninger Uhlen, Röttgen, Brückstück, and Hamm*  
**soil types:** red and blue slate  
**grape varieties:** riesling

**vineyard/cellar practices** | Today, Beate Knebel runs the 6.5-ha (16-acre) domaine with the help of two loyal, long-term employees from Poland and freelance consultant Gernot Kollmann as cellar master. He has a relaxed, hands-off approach by letting the wines make themselves with neither fining agents nor additives such as enzymes.

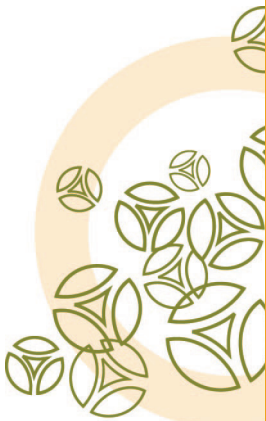
Yields are controlled through green-harvesting in order to make substantial dry or medium-dry wines. When the grapes come to the winery, they fall through a destemmer-crusher for a light crushing. Gernot encourages some pre-fermentation oxidation in order to extract aroma from the grape skins. Then the grapes are gravity-fed into a pneumatic press to receive a gentle pressing. He has gradually put his mark on the wines by doing skin contact, eschewing added yeasts, and allowing slow fermentations on the fine lees in stainless-steel vats.

Although most of the wines are made dry and off-dry, Beate has a knack and an attention to detail for making noble sweet wines, too. Grapes with botrytis cinerea or "noble rot" are carefully hand picked and sorted with the greatest of care.

If one has vertigo, it might be wise to avoid walking up the steep-terraced vineyards that surround the village. The Winninger Uhlen and Röttgen are the two most famous vineyards. The soil at Uhlen consists of a conglomeration of hard sandstone with red and blue slate, and Röttgen offers a more open wine with its soil of well-weathered blue slate. Hamm straddles one end of the Uhlen; whereas, Brückstück has a mixture of blue slate and sandstone, like its neighbor Röttgen. One finds monorails up and down the Mosel, but they are especially prevalent on this area known as the Terrassenmosel. The rail carries workers and supplies up the hill to make the cost of labor affordable and the workload easier.

**wines** |

Riesling Trocken  
 Riesling Trocken von den Terrassen  
 Riesling Spatlese Trocken Winninger Röttgen  
 Riesling Spatlese Trocken Winninger Uhlen



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