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Ahr

Red Wine Hiking Trail

One of the smallest but finest winegrowing regions in Germany is the Ahr. Wine has been grown in the Ahr valley since Roman times. Today, red wine varieties in particular, such as Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir) and Frühburgunder thrive on the steep, often terraced and perfectly exposed sites, and produce high-quality wines. The 35-kilometre-long Red Wine Hiking Trail, one of the best-known wine hiking trails in Germany, winds through the middle of the vineyards. The views along the serpentine route between Altenahr and Bad Bodendorf are often spectacular. There are rugged slate cliffs, steep wine terraces with dry stone walls, homely wine taverns and much more. Ten years ago, the "Altenahrer Eck" was even named the most beautiful "Vineyard View" in the Ahr region. But there are many other places that also make fans of wine and dramatic landscapes go repeatedly into raptures whatever the season. In spring, the fresh green of the budding vines and the first warm rays of sunshine awaken the spirits. In summer, you can watch the winegrowers hard at work in the vineyard. The clusters of grapes, still green, are already visible. In autumn, the colourful foliage of the vines is a delight, while the ripe grapes are harvested in the terraces with the promise of a good vintage. The atmosphere during the harvest is exhilarating also for hikers. In winter, with frost or snow, the vines stand bare and gnarled in rows. The hoarfrost glistens in the sun. This is also a beautiful wine experience. The Red Wine Trail can be easily explored in individual stages of varying difficulty, each a few kilometres long. Detours are also worthwhile, such as to the Are castle ruins near Altenahr, from where you have a spectacular view of the rocky landscape of the middle Ahr valley. Between Mayschoß and Rech, the landscape is truly wild and romantic. Occasionally, there are steep ascents with stairs which have to be mastered. The section between Rech and Dernau is easier, leading through shady mixed forest and past a spring. Benches along the way invite you to rest and relax. On the section between Dernau and Ahrweiler, the trail passes the oldest monastery in the Ahr valley and a bunker complex that once served as a "government bunker". A contemporary museum provides more information for those interested. Numerous good restaurants, wine taverns, vinotheks and wineries are within easy reach or even directly on the Red Wine Trail. A stop for refreshments is highly recommended, and not just for weary hikers. After all, the Ahr valley is also an enticing culinary landscape.

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Baden

Kaiserstuhl Loess Hollow Trails

In the Kaiserstuhl region, one may initially assume it's volcanic rock. But since the Ice Age, there have also been layers of loess, up to 30 metres thick, deposited. Loess of this thickness is found almost exclusively here in this area. Loess is an aeolian sediment that was brought here by the wind. Storms swept over the land after the Ice Age and carried the dust with them. The fine-grained, very fertile soil has produced spectacular hollow passages as a result of centuries of erosion and man treading his way through them. The loess subsoil was ground into a dusty powder by draught animals and wagon wheels. When it rained, the loess was washed down to the valley, so that the paths dug deeper and deeper into the subsoil. The resulting sunken paths, up to 10, sometimes even 20 metres deep, have existed since a thousand years ago and are among the most distinctive cultural landmarks of the wine and recreational landscape in Kaiserstuhl today. They also provide a diverse habitat for animals and plants and thus serve to protect species. The colourful bee-eater, for example, is a rare bird that has formed the largest breeding population north of the Alps in the Kaiserstuhl. Sun-loving emerald lizards are often found in the Kaiserstuhl, and wild bees dig their burrows in the fine loess. Many wild plants also thrive here. Over time, such trails become overgrown, but for the biologist, the bare or only sparsely overgrown hollow passage walls are much more of a paradise for rare species. It is also important that loess hollow trails should not be paved over. A certain amount of maintenance however is necessary for their continued existence. Hollow passages can still be found near Bickensohl, Ihringen, near Achkarren, Bötzingen and Endingen. In summer, hikers appreciate the cool shade that the high walls, like a deep gorge, offer.

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[Discover the Kaiserstuhl - Excursion tips](#)

Baden



Professor Blankenhorn Wine Trail of the Freiburg State Winery

Time and again, German viticulture has produced influential personalities who have played a defining role in its development. Many names are only familiar to a few today, while their innovations or discoveries are often taken for granted and not given much thought. For example, everyone knows what an oenologist is: a wine scientist. But who actually invented wine science? If you are looking for the answer, you might want to drive to Ihringen in the Kaiserstuhl and climb the Blankenhornsberg. The Blankenhornsberg offers a magnificent view of the Vosges and the Black Forest and commemorates Adolph Blankenhorn (1843-1906), the founder of German viticultural research. The renowned oenologist was the first president of the Baden and German Winegrowers' Association (1874), founded Germany's first oenological institute in Karlsruhe in 1875, published a scientific journal ("Annals of Oenology") and became a professor through research into viticulture on his own vineyard on the Blankenhornsberg, which had been acquired by his father and two brothers in 1842. Blankenhorn played a significant role in researching the current grafting practice to combat phylloxera. We owe a great deal of our present wine enjoyment to him! The Blankenhornsberg is therefore a thoroughly studied, almost oenological mountain, which is also a vineyard! The associated site is consequently called 'Doktorgarten'. The Professor Blankenhorn Wine Trail leads through the Doktorgarten for about 2 km (a shortcut is possible) and gives you an insight into the history of Professor Blankenhorn and the vineyard. At twelve selected stations, you can learn interesting facts about the beginnings of the family winery, the viticultural institute and viticulture in the Kaiserstuhl region, as well as about the grape varieties grown and fungus-resistant grape varieties in particular. If you are interested, you can also use the QR code to access more detailed texts and pictures. You are warmly invited to embark on an excursion through the past, present and future of viticulture in a unique panoramic location.

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Franken

terroir f Rödelsee: in the name of Silvaner

Terroir f designates a total of 21 vantage points and landmarks in Franconian vineyards, which are also informative. Motto: You know what you're looking at. Each of the 'terroir f' sites has a very different design. Rödelsee, a village with barely 1800 inhabitants at the foot of the Schwanberg, is known to wine lovers for its memorable "Küchenmeister" site. The highlight is 'terroir f', a huge walk-in cylinder high above the vineyards that looks like a telescope on stilts. From afar, you could almost think a futuristic spaceship from distant worlds had landed there. The view is drawn to the vineyards. Inside, information boards tell you everything about the Silvaner grape variety, which was first cultivated in Germany more than 350 years ago in Castell, and of course also characterises the wines of Rödelsee. Silvaner is the Franconian wine par excellence; it masters appealingly fresh everyday wines as well as powerful "Große Gewächse" (Grand Cru) with complexity, i.e. the full range of qualities. It owes its special and typical Franconian character to the Franconian terroir with its Keuper terrain. These soil formations, which were created around 180 million years ago, can also be found in the two premium neighbouring vineyards of Rödelsee: Küchenmeister and Schwanleite. The Schwanberg and the Schwanleite vineyard probably owe their name to the Celtic goddess Svana, whose shrine was located on the mountain. Others think the name comes from a Franconian knight named Swanilo. Either way, the "Rödelseer Tube" (as some enthusiasts disparagingly call it) is a good place to take a rest and, ideally, open a cool bottle of Rödelseer Silvaner that you have brought with you. Cheers, Svana! Meanwhile, the view sweeps over the sea of Franconian vines with the Schwanleite and Küchenmeister vineyards over to Kitzingen on the Main River. Not far away, incidentally, is the equally famous prestigious vineyard Julius-Echter-Berg, which belongs to the neighbouring municipality of Iphofen.

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Mittelrhein

Mittelrhein Riesling Charter

In the Mittelrhein region, Riesling is one of the highlights of its wine culture. It thrives on vertiginous steep slopes that demand everything from the winegrowers who have now joined forces to form the Mittelrhein Riesling Charta (MRC) – a commitment to mutually-agreed quality guidelines. Three profile wines have been defined: Handstreich (coup de main), Felsenspiel (rock art) and Meisterstück (masterpiece), which demonstrate the high quality of the Mittelrhein Rieslings in all their nuances in varying gradations. The trio is somewhat reminiscent of the well-known profile wines of the Wachau in Austria (Steinfeder, Federspiel, Smaragd). Handstreich stands for the light, fruity type of Riesling for everyday moments. It wins hearts "with the stroke of a hand" from the very first sip! The Felsenspiel is characterised by the steep slope. Balanced, down-to-earth and full of character, it shows itself on the palate. In the Meisterstück, the full breadth of the terroir is revealed; the designation stands for an intense, complex Riesling, that deserves undivided attention in order to experience all the nuances. The Meisterstück Rieslings have the greatest potential. The seven quality criteria that the Charter winegrowers have set for themselves go beyond the usual obligations that quality associations impose on themselves. Hand-picking and harvesting only healthy, fully ripe grapes, careful grape selection and gentle vinification are a given, as is the fact that the wines must be bottled by the producer. The interplay of the elements fire (in the form of the sun's warmth), earth (the mineral slate), air (the mild, balanced Mittelrhein climate), water (the Rhine) and the winemaker (their dedication and work in the vineyard and cellar) should be tangible in the taste. The Riesling should be presented unadulterated, a pure Rhine wine, i.e. no other varieties are added and certain technical processes such as must concentration are not used. At the same time, the preservation of the world heritage region is also one of these criteria. This means, for example, the protection of biodiversity and the artfully built dry stone walls in the terraces. Each Charter winegrower contributes to a fund from which the cultural landscape is preserved. Currently, 18 winegrowers are members of the Charter. May they succeed in leading the Mittelrhein Riesling to its true splendour and prominence.

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Mosel

Cusanusstift (St. Nikolaus Hospital)

How old is the oldest old people's home in Germany? More than 500 years; it stands in Bernkastel-Kues and was originally only for men. The founder, Nikolaus von Kues, was a man of the church who could think pragmatically. The hospital, built between 1451 and 1458, was intended to house 33 men from all classes, namely six each of nobles and clergy, as well as 21 "commoners". To finance his hospital for the poor, the cardinal and prince-bishop used an endowment from his parents' inheritance as well as nine hectares of vineyards from the best Riesling sites of the Middle Mosel. The late Gothic ambience has been preserved to this day, and the monastery was never destroyed. The Mosel's wine culture is very present here. And of course, the Cusanusstift, where women can now also reside, also functions as a winery. Since the Cusanusstift is still a retirement home, only parts of it can be visited such as the medieval cloister, the Gothic chapel and the library with its more than 300 invaluable manuscripts from the 9th-15th centuries. Nikolaus von Kues, known as Cusanus, was a very educated man, a universal scholar. The winery Stiftung St. Nikolaus-Hospital has been run by the DRK-Sozialwerk since 1990 by people with and without disabilities and belongs to various well known winegrowers' associations. The vineyards are spread over renowned steep slopes such as Bernkasteler Badstube, Wehlener Sonnenuhr, Graacher Domprobst or Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr; only Riesling is grown there. Wine is no longer produced in the Cusanusstift itself, but there is a vinothek in a vaulted cellar of a former farm building, where over 150 wines from the Mosel winegrowing region can be tasted. Wine culture can be truly enjoyed and experienced here amidst centuries-old tradition.

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Mosel

Winninger Vineyard Terraces

The terraced steep slopes of the Mosel characterise the cultivated landscape in the Terrassenmosel area named after them. The most extensive terraces are found near Winningen, not far from Koblenz. No fewer than 29 terraces are superimposed on each other in the Koberner and Winninger Uhlen, and around 17.4 kilometres of dry stone walls have been built to support them. With a size of about 19 ha and a vineyard area of 14.6 ha, the Uhlen is Germany's largest contiguous terraced site. Other well-known sites in Winningen are Hamm, Brückstück and Röttgen. They all have exceptional cultural and historical significance. The dry stone walls were built as early as the Middle Ages, and parts of the walls most probably date back to the 13th to 15th centuries. There is even an eight-metre-high section of wall in Winningen. 130 span arches and 600 sheer stairways structure the wall landscape. The construction of a dry stone wall without mortar and concrete, is an art that is mastered by very few craftsmen today. Nevertheless, the people of Winningen know how to take good care of their dry stone walls. The walls provide a habitat for numerous animals. Apollo butterflies, eagle owls and other animal species have found shelter and a home in the dry stone walls. Of course, the steep slopes also stand for outstanding wines. The wines of almost 20 wineries can be tasted in the local wine shop, which is located in the former Winningen hospital.

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Mosel

Roman Wine Ship of Neumagen

Winegrowing in Germany dates back to the Romans, who began cultivating vines on the Mosel. The village of Neumagen-Dhron can look back on 2,000 years of winegrowing tradition and is considered the oldest wine village in Germany, because the Romans were also active in trade there in addition to their winegrowing activities. In 1878, a large sculpture depicting a ship loaded with wine barrels was found in a prominent tomb of a Roman wine merchant from around 220 AD. The tomb was part of the foundation of the defensive wall of the late antique Roman fortress Noviomagus Treverorum. The original can be admired today in the Rhineland Regional Museum in Trier, but copies exist in Neumagen-Dhron. Only four such burial monuments have been found. They prove how old the winegrowing and wine-trading tradition is, at least in this region. Rowing ships were used to transport wine barrels as far as Gaul and other parts of Germania. In 2007, trainees from the Trier Chamber of Crafts built an exact replica of the ship. The "Stella Noviomagi" is almost 18 metres long, 4.20 metres wide and is propelled by 22 oars. This makes it the largest floating replica of a Roman ship in Germany. Groups can charter the boat, a unique experience that also has sporting benefits. The ship is anchored in the harbour of Neumagen-Dhron.

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Pfalz

St. Martin and Wingertsberg

All vineyards are alike, right? Of course, this does not apply to the grape varieties or the soil, but from the outside, vineyards look quite similar to each other. Vines stand next to vines, rows to rows. But in times of climate change, isn't it advisable to consider what a vineyard of the future might look like? One possible answer is the Wingertsberg near St. Martin, or actually the Kirchberg site. You can recognise it from far away. The "Wingertsberg" lies below the Breitenberg in the Haardtrand-Wingertsberg nature reserve. It is a prime example of modern viticulture that also takes care of the landscape and nature. The terraced site, established in 2017 on an area formerly overgrown with bushes and shrubs, combines viticulture and nature conservation and is managed by eight winegrowers. All grapes on this steep slope are harvested by hand to produce high-quality wines. But the Wingertsberg is more than just rows of vines. Sand, rough grassland and sparse forest areas as well as orchards provide a varied and species-rich landscape. This is very favourable for biodiversity because many animals and plants find shelter and a habitat in these vineyards. Of course, the view over the Weinstrasse (wine route) and the Rhine plain is phenomenal. In the other direction looking up, the terraced vineyard undoubtedly enriches the townscape of St. Martin and attracts tourists and many other visitors. At the very top there is a hotel and a pergola, which provides a picturesque backdrop for the highest wine festival in the Palatinate: the "Wine Festival in the Pergola", organised by the St. Martin Winegrowers' Association. In fact, St. Martin is already a tourist magnet, as the charming historic centre has been a heritage-listed site since 1981. In other words, the citizens of St. Martin are very familiar with historical traditions. The Wingertsberg is the result of a land consolidation measure that was necessary to stop scrub encroachment and fallow land. As steep slopes are labour-intensive, many winegrowers prefer to grow their grapes on the flat plain. As a result, no one grew grapes on the Wingertsberg anymore until the land consolidation created the conditions for redesigning the steep slope. This is not only important in terms of biodiversity and appearance. In the case of the Wingertsberg, there is also the unique terroir, namely the red sandstone. This formation is only found on about 30 hectares in the Pfalz, less than one would think. And visitors are rewarded with a unique panoramic view over the Rhine plain.

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Rheingau

Queen Victoria Monument

The English were and are great wine lovers. Wine from Hochheim am Main, called "hock", was one of Queen Victoria's favourite wines. As for its health-promoting effects, they used to say: "Good hock keeps off the doc! Incidentally, the word was and still is generally used for German white or Rhine wines, however very few Englishmen or Americans are likely to associate "hock" with the town of Hochheim. In 1845, the Queen visited Hochheim with her husband Prince Albert and were treated to a wine tasting. This was offered to the royal couple in the "most beautiful and best vineyard in the district", today's "Königin-Victoriaberg". An enterprising winegrower who owned the vineyard at the time, a certain Georg Michael Papstmann, obtained the graciously granted royal permission to name his vineyard "Königin-Victoriaberg", monument included. This was unveiled with full pomp and ceremony on the occasion of the Queen's 35th birthday on 24 May 1854. The inscription reads: "Her Majesty Victoria Queen of Great Britain and Ireland had the grace to bestow her high name on this vineyard. In honour of the exalted monarch and as a grateful remembrance of such a gracious distinction, this memorial stone was erected by G.M. Pabstmann, Hochheim, 24 May 1854" The five-hectare vineyard even has a spring that gushes from a lion's mouth directly below the monument. The monument, still about seven metres high, proudly looks out over the vines into the plain. With its Gothic turrets and ornamentation, the monument looks as if it has sprung from a medieval English castle. The coat of arms of the Queen of England is clearly visible. Even today, Hochheim Riesling is still drunk by the English royal family. Hochheim, more than any other place, has made German wine known in England in particular, and won it many friends. Wine played a major role in Hochheim's history early on, and a vineyard hoe, a so-called karst, stands for viticulture in the town's coat of arms. Wine was most likely already grown in Hochheim in Roman times. There is evidence of local viticulture since 1329, and Hochheim has also made a name for itself among connoisseurs as the source of fine sparkling wines. Around 220 hectares of vineyards are located in Hochheim, including the Königin-Victoriaberg. It is located directly on the Main River below the town and is now cultivated by a renowned winegrower from Wicker. Incidentally, Thomas Jefferson, the President of America, was another "celebrity" to visit the town of wine and sekt. Back in 1788, Jefferson made a side trip from Paris. He tasted an old Hochheim wine (vintage 1726), which he apparently liked, inspiring him to buy 100 vines for his garden on the spot. However, there is no monument to him, nor is there a specially named vineyard. However, there is a memorial plaque in the vineyards along the Herrnbach path.

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Rheinhessen

Trullo, Trulli

Rheinhessen is the land of the trulli. Sounds like the title of a children's book, but it is a wine-cultural phenomenon that exists with a particular variety and frequency here in Germany's largest wine-growing region. A trullo (plural: trulli) is a unique vineyard hut that looks like a cross between a cone and an igloo. The name, by the way, comes from Puglia in Italy, where similar round houses can be found. They were probably built by Lombard stonemasons who worked in the Flonheim quarries. In Rheinhessen, such a small hut is called a "Wingertshaisje". Many of these whitewashed huts with the characteristic stone "Zippus" as a crowning feature on the roof can be found in the vineyards of Rheinhessen, where they were built in the 18th and 19th centuries; a very fine example, probably the oldest in Rheinhessen, can be found near Flonheim in Rheinhessen hill country, namely on the Adelberg, above the Rabenkanzel in the Aulheimer Tälchen. The hiking trail that leads there is called "Hiwweltour Aulheimer Tal": - named after the gentle hills of Rheinhessen, which are called "Hiwwel" in local dialect.

Another trullo, the Laukhard Trullo, stands near Wendelsheim. It is a respectable five metres high. In the lintel, the year of construction is given as 1763. Friedrich Christian Laukhard, born in Wendelsheim in 1757, was a chronicler and author of the late Enlightenment. It is quite possible that he witnessed the construction work on the "Laukhard Trullo" as a child! In the southern Rheinhessen region, the Wonnegau, one can find many trulli in the vineyards. Sadly, they began to fall into disrepair as they were often no longer being used. However, in 1984, the Wine Brotherhood of Rheinhessen recognised the significance for wine culture of both these unusual structures as well as other vineyard huts in the region, so contacted the state's heritage authorities. Since 1987, the most beautiful trulli and other characteristic vineyard huts, have been awarded prizes and given a plaque. Meanwhile, they have almost become a symbol of Rhine-Hessian wines and a "trulli hike" is a most enjoyable diversion. These little huts were also intended as a resting place and the vineyard workers used to eat their snacks or shelter there in bad weather. Tools were probably also stored in the trulli. So, as you can see: Wine culture is more than grapes and terroir. In Germany's largest wine-growing region, it is also a matter of architecture.

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Saale-Unstrut

Landesweingut Kloster Pforta

The fact that viticulture in the Saale-Unstrut region is mentioned in documents as early as 998 indicates that a great tradition of wine culture was established here long ago. This is represented by Kloster Pforta, a monastery founded in 1138 by the Cistercians as the 'Monastery of Saint Mary at the Gate'. It is located between Naumburg and Bad Kösen and is the origin of today's State Winery. The monks worked the land and turned the landscape into vineyards. After the Reformation - the monks left the monastery permanently in 1540 - the vineyards were owned by the Saxon ruling house and passed to Prussia after the Congress of Vienna. In 1543, the Saxon Duke Moritz had turned the monastery into a school for nobility. The boarding school, today's State School of Pforta, whose notable alumni include Friedrich Nietzsche and Johann Gottlieb Fichte, still exists today. It was the Prussians who in 1899 established their state viticulture department in the former monastery and with their research institute played a major role in the fight against phylloxera. After the Second World War, Kloster Pforta became a nationally owned Naumburg winery. Today, 50 hectares of vineyards are cultivated. The monastery's first vineyard, which was mentioned in a document as early as 1147, is the Köppelberg. Interesting autochthonous grape varieties such as Weißer Heunisch and white Elbling thrive there on 7.5 hectares. The vineyards of the Saalhäuser, directly on the Saale and already documented in the 14th century, were partly turned into model vineyards after 1830. Today, the shell limestone soil of this site produces some of the best wines in the Kloster Pforta portfolio. The terraced Gosecker Dechantenberg, situated northeast of Naumburg between Eulau and Goseck, has borne vines since 1080 and was initially also cultivated by the monks. Here, red sandstone is the foundation on which the Riesling and Weißburgunder (Pinot Blanc) vines take root.

In both the Schulpforte vinothek and in the atmospheric winery restaurant, the Saalhäuser Weinstuben, visitors have many opportunities to taste and enjoy the excellent wines of the Landesweingut Kloster Pforta. The many hundreds of years of tradition can be clearly felt in this beautiful peaceful place. The Gothic church of the monastery and the Romanesque cloister can also be visited.

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Sachsen

Weingut Drei Herren: Art in the Vineyard

Wineries always reflect the spirit of the owner. This is clearly visible at the Drei Herren winery in Radebeul. The old winery, one of the oldest in Freistaat, belongs to a renowned art historian who bought it in 2002 and turned it into an art and wine estate. His conviction: Wine consumption and art appreciation have similar characteristics! Ideally, there is a long, inspiring after-effect, which in the case of wine could be called the "resonant aftertaste" and when viewing art could be called a "stimulating animation of the recipient into open spaces of perception and thought". The real age of the winery cannot be clearly determined. Files from 1705 mention the property, then in 1735, an owner is mentioned, a Dresden councillor. Structural measures are documented for 1773 when a square and a wing were built. From 1857, the property belonged to the Rau family, who made further structural changes. However, the phylloxera disaster brought viticulture to a standstill; vines were not planted again until 1937. After 1945, the Rau family fled to West Germany; the property was partly used as a dwelling, but also fell into disrepair. After another change of ownership in 1993, the estate, which had been restored in the meantime, came into the possession of the art historian Rainer Beck in 2002, who founded the Drei Herren wine estate in 2004. It was opened in 2005. Since then, dry stone walls have been rebuilt in the Hermannsberg. Vines have been newly planted that thrive in traditional steep slopes. Contemporary works of art are exhibited on the upper floor of the winery. Since 2020, a wine and art trail has led through the steep slopes of the Hermannsberg, which is unique for its kind. It features over a dozen large sculptures by various artists. Of course, the wines are also true works of art! A wine restaurant with a beautiful terrace was opened in 2014; the vinothek is recommended for wine tastings. Both places are, naturally, an absolute feast for the eyes with their antique, but also artistic and charming furnishings.

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Württemberg

Geigersberg: Historical Cultural Wine Landscape

Climate change means that many things have to be reconsidered in agriculture and viticulture. For example, does it make sense to have large monocultures that are susceptible to pests and diseases and offer no space for native flora and fauna? In Württemberg, a vineyard has been reconceived: situated in the Kirbachtal valley to the west of Heilbronn, a special parcel within the large Stromberg vineyard area. The Geigersberg above the Sachsenberg district of Ochsenbach was abandoned until the nineties as many areas lay fallow. However, since 1996, it has been given a new lease of life through a land consolidation process. What sounds bureaucratic is far more interesting in practice: natural dry stone walls like in the old days were skilfully rebuilt and nature conservation was taken into account. For the central question is: How can ecology and economic efficiency be optimally combined? To answer that, since 2000, there have been 30 information boards erected along a two-kilometre-long circular path that meanders between meadow orchards, wetlands, wine terraces and woods. Here, visitors can inform themselves about the issues and why this vineyard is so different from most others, all without pointing fingers, but rather inspiring enthusiasm with the many examples of successful nature and species conservation. The positive response to the guided tours and wine tastings offered is always overwhelming. One aspect that is highlighted is the transition to other grape varieties, which can be seen in the varietal garden. Where Lemberger used to grow, the Mediterranean variety Grenache is now cultivated. This is perhaps also thanks to Sachsenheim's French partner community, Valréas in the Rhône Valley. The Geigersberg is climatically well protected which is favourable for the vines. An Ochsenbach producer cultivates the vines in the Geigersberg very close to nature and uses traditional methods for vinification, including the use of spontaneous fermentation by natural yeasts which come from the vineyard. The wines are given plenty of time to mature, so there is no need for fining processes. In this way, terroir can be experienced. The fact that the resulting wines are often award winners speaks for this approach. Basically, the Geigersberg, as forward-looking as it is, is a return to a landscape management that already existed in the past. It was more small-scale then and allowed for more diversity. At the end of the circular walk, the top of the Geigerberg offers a magnificent view from the "Wengertschützenhäusle" over the Neckar region. One can reflect on the fact that even small steps are important on the way out of climate change. You just have to take them.

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