



## VINTAGE REPORT 2021

With the 2021 wine year, we have now already harvested the second vintage that was produced during the Corona pandemic. Both the pandemic and the weather conditions challenged us repeatedly in 2021 and demanded a great deal of flexibility and difficult decisions from us. In such a year, working with the vineyard and nature shows us once again how important it is to approach things with calm and confidence

Due to the cold months of April and May the vegetation began relatively late. The following weeks were again warm and brought a lot of rainfall, which helped nature to compensate the delay of the late sprouting. In July, a violent thunderstorm brought us a heavy hailstorm, resulting in a loss of about 40% of the crop. The western side of the Grüneberg was particularly affected. After three very dry summers in 2018, 2019 and 2020, the summer of 2021 was marked by a lot of rain. We particularly remember those fateful days of heavy rain that turned some ditches in the Herrenberg into waterfalls and led to flooding and severe damage in the region of Trier and especially in the Ahr valley.

On September 22 we started with the harvest of the sparkling wines. Four weeks later than last year, the main harvest began on October 14, initially with a selective pre-harvest to thoroughly sort out hail-induced rot. We then extended the harvest to wait for higher must weights in some plots of the Grüneberg. Finally, we were one of the last wineries in the Ruwer Valley to finish a successful 2021 harvest in mid-November.

However, the wine year 2021 did not quite end with our traditional harvest celebration in November. On December 22 it became frosty at the Grüneberg and the temperatures dropped during the night down to  $-8^{\circ}$  Celsius. Perfect conditions, for the ice wine harvest. We are overjoyed that the risk of hoping for ice wine paid off and we were able to harvest almost 250 liters of ice wine in the early morning hours. The perfectly frozen Riesling grapes hung in the "Hirschwiese", a parcel in the Herrenberg, from which our ice wines have been made for decades. For us, a crowning end to the year.

Shaped by the course of vegetation and the late harvest, the 2021 vintage reminds us of the great wines of the late 20th century. This classic vintage produces exceptionally fine and balanced Rieslings, which are supported by a fresh structure and the characteristic Grünhäuser minerality.

Overall, we harvested only a low average yield of 3 barrels per hectare, but we are still satisfied – quality remains our highest goal.