

THE SOURCE

KATHARINA WECHSLER

RHEINHESSEN



2020 RIESLING, BENN

PRODUCER OVERVIEW

Katharina Wechsler's enviable and organically certified Rheinhessen holdings are in what may be today's most famous dry Riesling area (mostly thanks to local luminaries, Klaus-Peter Keller and Philipp Wittman), with highlights that include a big slab of the grand cru vineyard, Kirchspiel, and perhaps the most coveted of all recognized grand crus, Morstein. Located between these two extraordinary limestone vineyards, the upper section of another important cru, Benn, is also strongly calcareous and planted to Riesling. Many of the lower slopes are a patchwork of different varieties from which she concocts a range of fun yet serious "natural wines," like her savory orange, full-carbonic Pinot Noir, bottle under her "Cloudy by Nature" label. The highlights in her fully organic range are of course the dry Rieslings raised in steel and imbued with ornate lines and a deep terroir drive. Katharina's dry Rieslings challenge the greats of Germany and Austria's very best growers with their vigor, tension, high energy, potent mineral characteristics, and salty, mouth-watering goodness.

VINEYARD DETAILS

Wechsler's Benn Riesling Trocken comes from a section of Benn planted at the top of the vineyard in 1967 on a south exposition at 160-180m on a gentle slope. Benn is their warmest site, and the bedrock and topsoil are limestone and loess.

CELLAR NOTES

4 hours of whole-bunch maceration prior to pressing and a natural fermentation for 10 days in steel at 20°C max. No malolactic. Aged on lees 6 months in steel. First sulfites are normally added to stop. Filtered but not fined.

