## **MSE – Deutsche Weine**







## Some informations on Icewine

2009 may become an excellent vintage for a special noble sweet wine, the Icewine in Germany. This speciality can only be harvested when outside temperatures in the vineyard are below -7°C.

However, not only the temperature matters it is also the period when these low temperatures appear. The later after regular harvest season which ends usually end of October it is getting cold, the more risky it is to harvest finally good quality grapes for Icewine. And, as it happens more and more often in Germany, in some winters there will be never such cold temperatures to harvest any Icewine. In such winters the winery totally loosing the not harvested grapes.

The German wine law allows only natural freezing and no artificial cooling (like in refrigerators) for the Icewine

Therefore Wineries do a lot to protect the grapes, which they leave on the grapevine for Icewine. For instance they put plastic protection over the grapevine to protect the sweet grapes from being eaten by birds. (see picture 1). Also the longer the grapes hang on the grapevine, the more likely it is, that they get rotten by rain and humidity. Climate conditions which are standard in German late autumns.



(picture 1, taken from RNZ Nov 2009)

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In 2009 we have seen ideal conditions for Icewine. A rather early cold weather front arrived middle of December with temperatures down to a minimum of −19℃. Moreover this temperatures lasted for a couple of days giving the wineries enough time to harvest the deep frozen grapes. This lead to highly concentrated must. In the Pfalz and Baden area record must weights of 271°Oechsle were achieved. The German wine law requests for Icewine "only" 110°Oechsle.

The experts are already talking of a historic vintage for Icewine in Germany (see picture 2)



(picture 2, taken from RNZ 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 09)

Written by MSE Deutsche Weine