

## **Very, Very Promising - Impressions from Baden, Pfalz and Rheinhessen**

Auszug aus dem Einführungstext:

... "The flies forced us to pick early," says Konrad Salwey, who bottled the best Pinot Noir GGs of the domaine's history. Also Dr. Heger has probably never been better before. And Holger Koch. Do you know Holger Koch? This is a guy you have to know - at least his terrific wines. The 2014 Pinot Noirs are outstanding in their silkiness, freshness and finessed elegance; the 2015 Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc are also impressive in their dry, straight and mineral culinary style."....

### **Stephan Reinhardt über das Weingut Holger Koch**

Holger Koch, once cellar master at Fritz Keller, has run his own small, eight-hectare property in Bickensohl/Kaiserstuhl (Baden) since 1999. His well-structured program (regional, village, single vineyard and reserve wines) is based on Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc; these vines are all grown on the cooler hillsides of the Kaiserstuhl and based on diverse, low-yielding cuttings (for example from Alsace)—not on clones. His vineyard management is virtually organic (he was certified for five years, but decided to minimize the risk by using plant protection products, because otherwise he would have lost more than 50% of the 2016 harvest in July, due to immense rainfalls).

Holger Koch and his wife Gabriele favor a refreshing and finessed, elegant style of Pinot. In fact, the style of their wines is pretty French: pure, precise and elegant, with reduced fruit aromas on nose and palate, but with intensity, persistence and freshness. The wines are bone dry, straight and mineral, well-concentrated and structured—either by a stable acidity or fine tannins. The drinkability of all of their wines is immense. Koch doesn't favor a particularly long lees contact (the white 2015s were bottled in April, so about seven months after the harvest), so the wines are not really full-bodied, round or creamy; instead they are remarkably fresh, precise and focused. Their complexity is revealed on the mid-palate, as well as in the long and persistent finish. The whites are mainly fermented and aged in oak, but rarely in barriques, rather in 600-liter barrels and significantly larger vats. The toasting is light and there is no aromatic influence of the oak in the wines. The white 2015s are first-class gastronomic wines and should be ready to drink between now and two years, though their potential to age is obvious. The Pinot Noirs are among the finest in Baden and in all of Germany. I have rarely tasted such delicate, silk and finessed, filigree-structured Pinot Noirs. This is a top producer for advanced wine lovers who don't look for fruit aromas and charming roundness, but serious, firmly-structured wines that unfold their talents only in the persistent finish.

## Die Pinot Noirs 2014

**2014 Holger Koch Pinot Noir Reserve                      93 Punkte                      57.00**

The 2014 Pinot Noir Reserve—sourced from the Halbuck in Bickensohl, like the three-star Pinot Noir—was bottled at the end of December. Whereas the three-star Pinot is more fruity and delicate, the Reserve is more concentrated and structured. The Reserve has cassis flavors along with white pepper and underwood notes. Round and still a bit bitter on the palate, this is a full-bodied, powerful and firmly - structured wine with some mealy tannins, good grip and power. More Pommard or Gevery in style, than Musigny. This has tension, grip and a masculine character, and needs time in the cellar.

**2014 Holger Koch Pinot Noir Herrenstück                      89 Punkte                      17.50**

The 2014 Pinot Noir Herrenstück combines beautiful red fruit aromas with floral notes with a beautiful purity and freshness. Ripe and round on the palate, with a delicate acidity, this is a juicy and stunningly persistent Pinot with intensity and good tannin structure. Vital and with potential.

**2014 Holger Koch Pinot Noir \*                      91 Punkte                      26.00**

Sourced in the Mistgraben (a lower, warmer site with more vigorous soils), the 2014 Pinot Noir \* has a lovely, clear and refined use of red fruits like raspberries, strawberries and just-ripe blackberries. Silky textured, finesse-full, fresh and intense on the palate, this is a beautiful Pinot with great purity, intensity and grip. Impressive and much finer than it was some months ago, when I tasted it for the first time.

**2014 Holger Koch Pinot Noir \*\*\*                      94 Punkte                      36.50**

Aged in 350-liter barrels for one year and bottled at the end of December 2015, the 2014 Pinot Noir \*\*\* opens with a beautiful Musigny-like bouquet of red berries and cherries, as well as some refreshing lemon and minty flavors; it shows great purity and precision. This has a gorgeous and fascinating nose. Picked on October 1, this is an intense, silky textured and powerful Pinot of great purity and finesse. This wine is so detailed, so firm, concentrated and intense in its long and matured fruit aromas. There is some green asparagus here. It has great transparency, finesse and elegance. Full of vitality and tension. What a great and juicy wine.