

A photograph of a wine bottle being poured into three glasses. The wine is a light, pale yellow color. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a vineyard or garden. The lighting is bright and natural, highlighting the clarity of the wine and the texture of the glass.

WINE OF GERMANY

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Prepared with Gratitude to Wines of Germany

Learning Objectives



Discuss wine making methods using wine industry terminology.

Explain the factors that affect the taste of German wine:

- `` Identify the grape varieties of Germany
- `` Differentiate between the various styles of German wine
- `` Review the unique characteristics of Germany's climate
- `` Review the wine laws of Germany

Identify geographical regions where German wines are produced:

- `` Examine German Wine Growing Regions

Terms To Know

- Eiswein
- Kabinett
- Spatlese
- Auslese
- Beerenauslese
- Trockenbeerenauslese
- Qualitwein
- Pratiskatwein
- Halbtrocken
- Trocken
- *Anbaugebiete*
- *Bereich*
- *Grosslage*
- *Einzellage*
- *Oechsle*
- *Sussreserve*
- Chaptalization
- *Botrytis cinerea*

How does the climate affect the way
grapes are grown in Germany?
How does this affect the taste of the wine?



Photo of Mosel

Selective Vineyard Sites Near Rivers and Steep Banks



Württemberg Anbaugebiet (wine region)

White Grape Varieties



Riesling

Of all the grapes of Germany, the most noble is the Riesling — a variety that can do well even in stony soil and can subsist on a minimum of moisture. [read more](#)



Müller-Thurgau (Rivaner)

The Müller-Thurgau, also commonly known as Rivaner, is the second most planted grape in Germany and accounts for 12% of the total vineyard area. [read more](#)



Silvaner

Silvaner is an old variety that once was the most important grape in Germany. [read more](#)



Kerner

Bred in 1969 in Württemberg and named after a local poet, Justinus Kerner, it is a crossing of Trollinger and Riesling. [read](#)



Weißburgunder

This ancient variety, which is known as Pinot Blanc in France, grows in fertile or chalky soil and ripens quite late. [read more](#)



Grauburgunder

Although the skin of the Grauburgunder grape is coloured reddish-grey, it is classified as a white wine variety. It is also com-

Weißer Riesling

Origin unexplained, possibly Weißer Heunisch x *Vitis sylvestris*

Vineyard areas (statistics 31.07.2016):

total	23.700 ha	100,0 %
Pfalz	5.850 ha	24,7 %
Mosel	5.395 ha	22,8 %
Rheinhessen	4.536 ha	19,1 %

Wine type

greenish to yellow up to light golden yellow
discreet aroma of fresh apples, peach or apricot
pronounced acidity, light to medium-bodied



Grüner Silvaner

Origin probably Traminer x Österreichisch Weiß

Vineyard areas (statistics 31.07.2016)

total	4.926 ha	100,0 %
Rheinhessen	2.283 ha	46,3 %
Franken	1.469 ha	29,8 %
Pfalz	646 ha	13,1 %

Wine type

very light to intense yellow

discreet vegetable to earthy bouquet (depending on soil)

mild to fine acidity, quite neutral flavour

light to medium-bodied



Sauvignon Blanc

Origin Traminer x Chenin Blanc

Vineyard areas (statistics 31.07.2016)

total	956 ha	100,0 %
Pfalz	400 ha	41,8 %
Rheinhessen	260 ha	27,2 %
Baden	123 ha	12,9 %

Wine type

very light to light yellow

citrus, herbs

gooseberries, fine acidity, medium bodied



Red Grape Varieties



Spätburgunder

Spätburgunder

In Germany, the Spätburgunder is to red wine what the Riesling is to white wine: the cream of the crop. [read more](#)



Dornfelder

Dornfelder

Among new varieties, the Dornfelder shows great promise. [read more](#)



Portugieser

Portugieser

Portugieser is a very old variety that probably originates in the Danube Valley (not in Portugal). [read more](#)

Blauer Spätburgunder/Pinot Noir

Origin Nil Valley, since 4th century known in Burgundy
Traminer x Schwarzriesling

Vineyard area (statistics 31.07.2016)

total	11.787 ha	100,0 %
Baden	5.461 ha	46,3 %
Pfalz	1.679 ha	14,2 %
Rheinhessen	1.470 ha	12,5 %

Wine type

colourful, medium to dark ruby or garnet red
bouquet of blackberry, strawberry, raspberry, cherry,
fresh dark fig, elderberry or pepper, mild acidity,
moderate tannin, medium- to full-bodied



Germany is Riesling Country

Of all White Grapes

Riesling (22%)

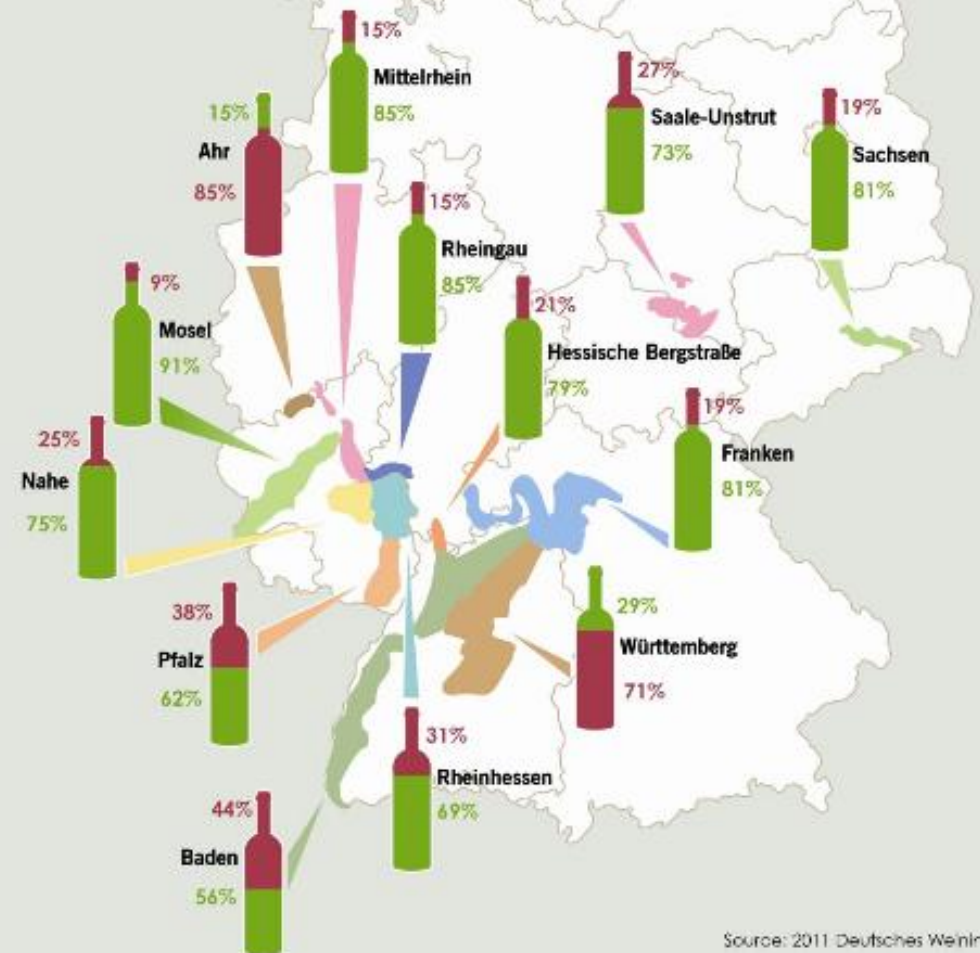
Müller-Thurgau (13.3%)

Of all Red Grapes

Spätburgunder (11%)

2010 VINEYARD SURFACE IN GERMANY BY REGION

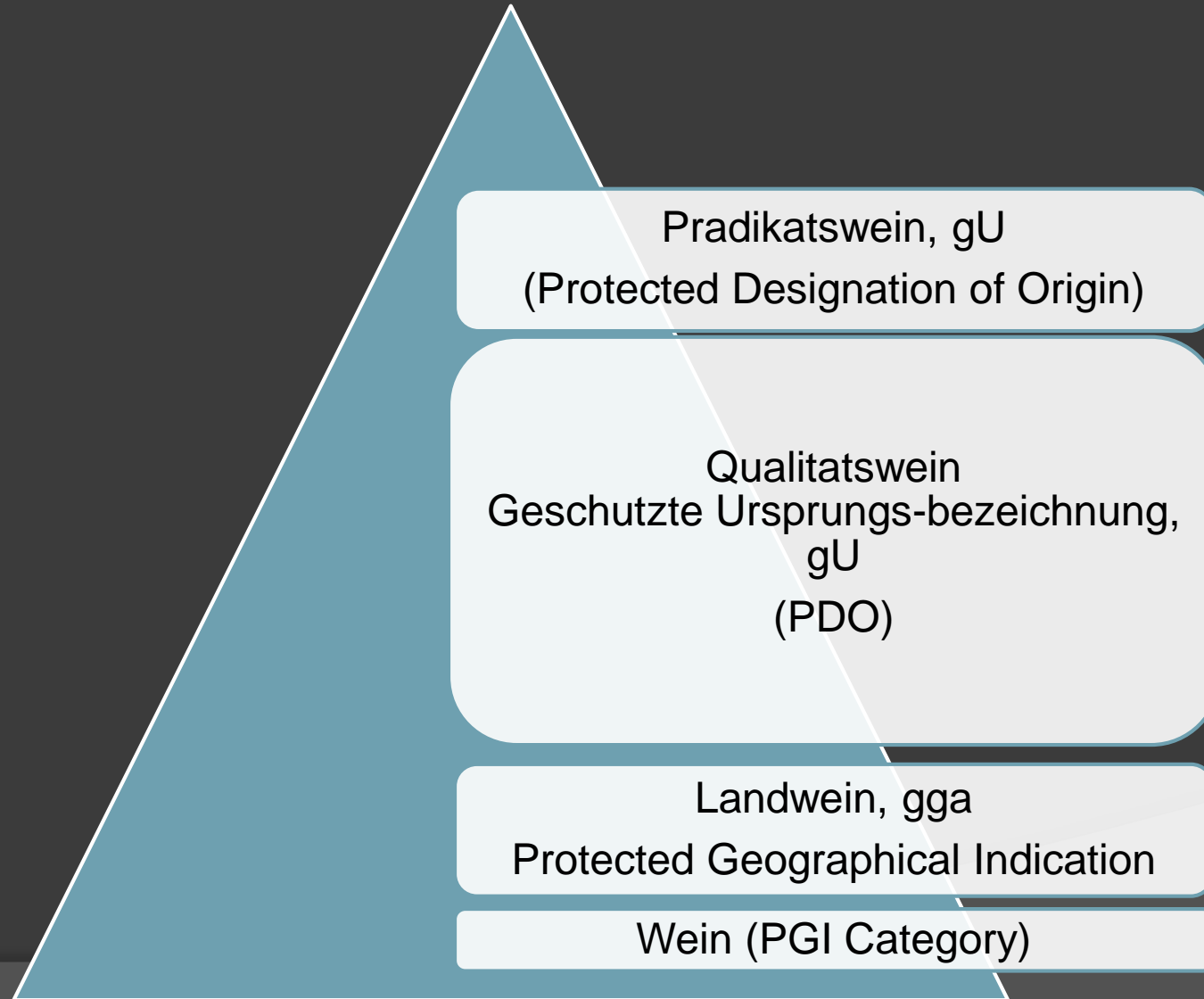
White Wine vs. Red Wine



Wine Laws

- ⦿ Laws are governed solely by sugar (oechsle) content at harvest
 - NOT vineyard site
 - NOT historical preferences
 - NOT classifications
 - NOT sugar levels after fermentation
- ⦿ Labels identify origin, style and taste characteristics

EU Wine Laws: Categories

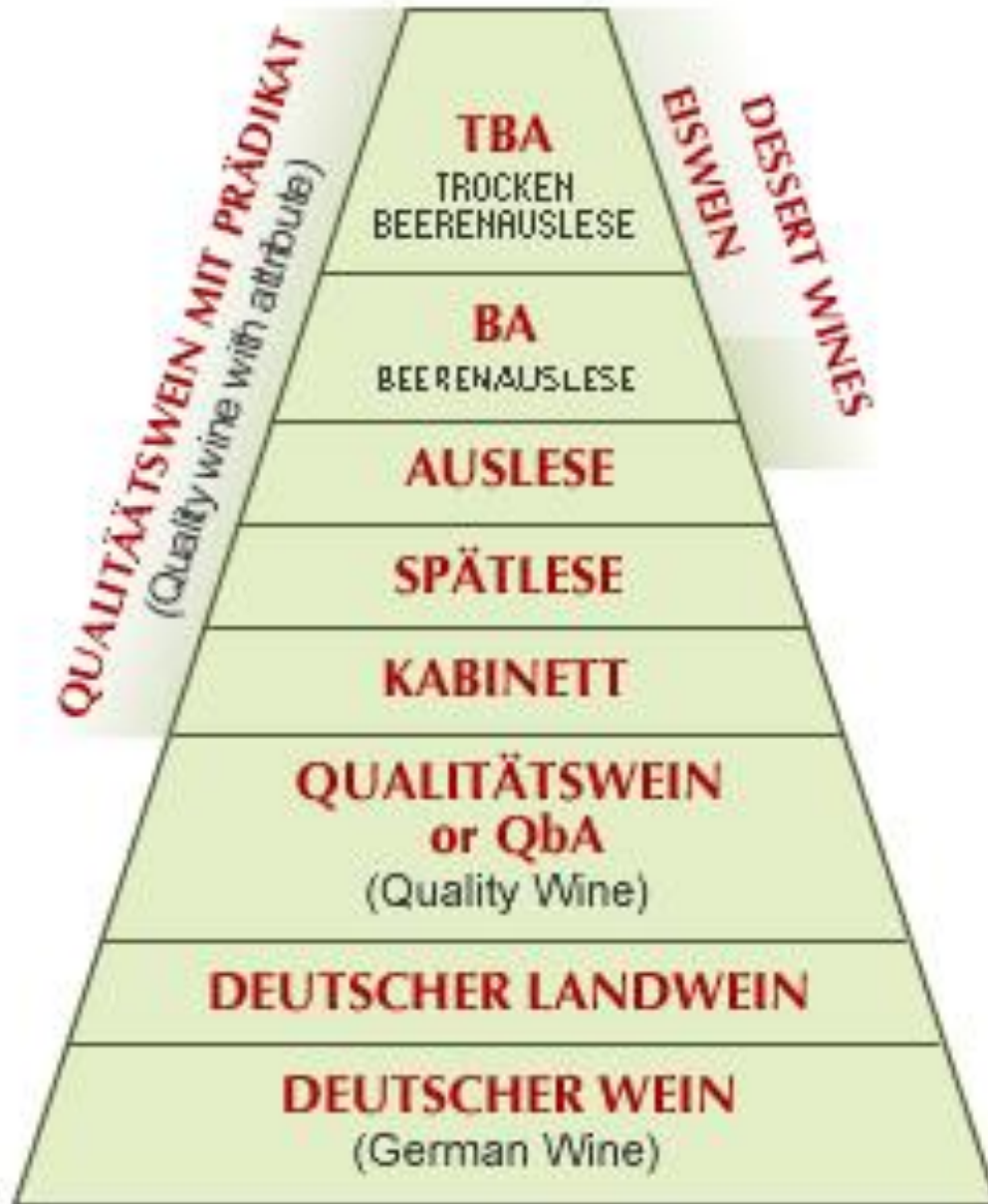


Wine Laws: Qualitätswein

- ⦿ Approved Grape Varieties
- ⦿ Reflect natural flavor characteristics of grape and region
- ⦿ Can be Chaptalized
- ⦿ Can use *Süßreserve*
- ⦿ Grown in one of 13 *Anbaugebiete*

Wine Laws: Prädikatswein or QmP Categories

- Kabinett: fine light wines, high acidity
- Spatlese: “late picked”, fuller flavors than *kabinett*, higher sugar levels
- Auslese: “selected” harvested in clusters with signs of botrytis
- Beerenauslese: “berries out picked” wines are rich and luscious, \$\$\$
- Trockenbeerenauslese: selected raisins, very rare \$\$\$\$\$
- Eiswein: “icewine” rare, pressed frozen to concentrate grape characteristics \$\$\$\$



All wines from table wine to Auslese can be dry, medium-dry or sweet.

German Wine Laws: Another view

Which is PDO?

Which is PGI

Source: <http://www.germanwineusa.com/press-trade/ripeness.html>



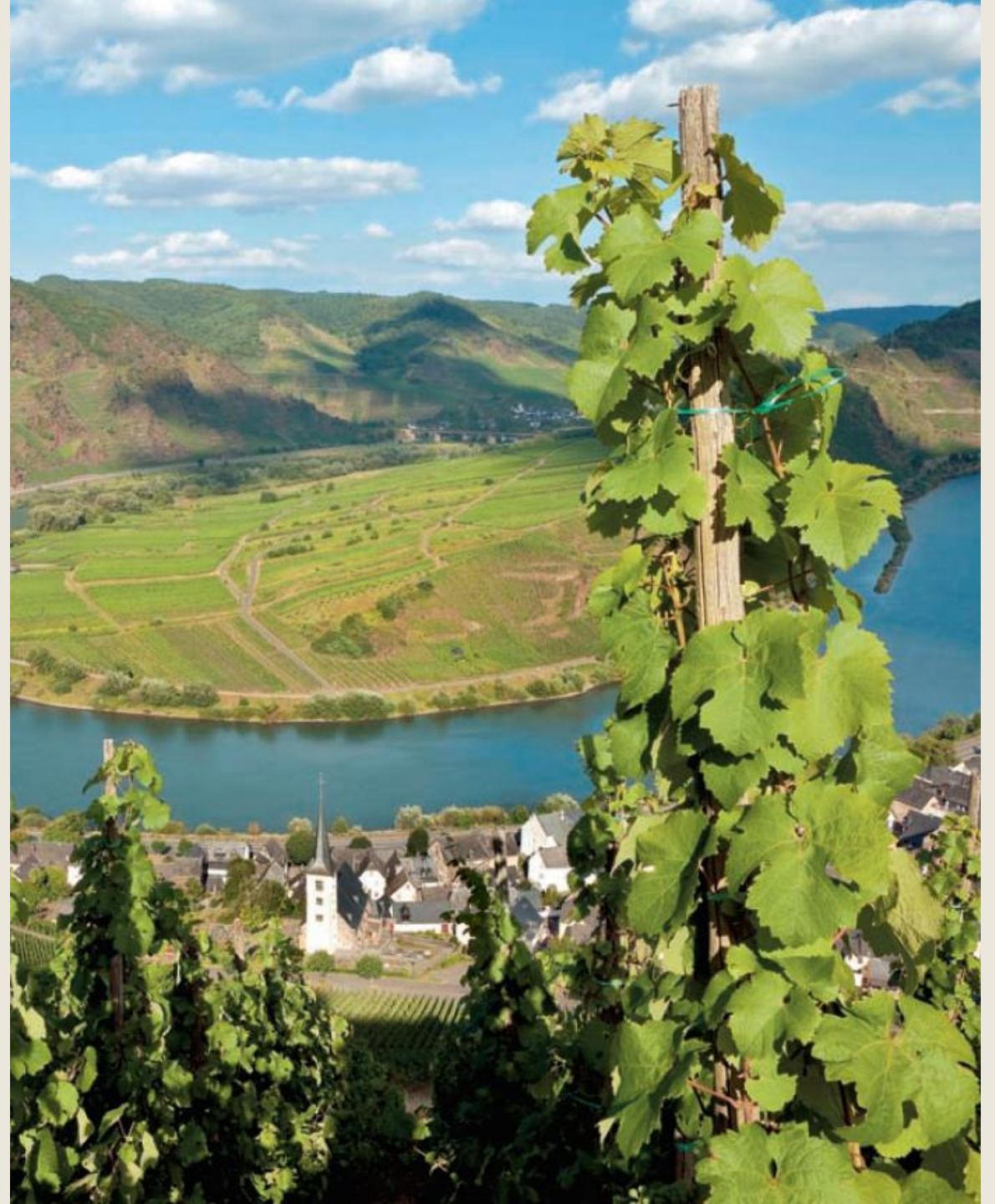
An aerial photograph of a Moselle valley. The foreground is dominated by lush green vineyards on a steep slope. A road winds through the vineyards. In the middle ground, a wide river flows through a valley, with a road running alongside it. The background shows rolling hills and a clear blue sky with light clouds.

Mosel

THE RIESLING SPECIALISTS

Climate: Ideal warming and optimal proportion of rainfall in the scarps as well as in the valleys.

Soil: Slate, greywacke, shell limestone, marl and limestone, in valley sites: debris, gravel and sand deposits



A scenic view of a vineyard on a hillside. The foreground shows rows of grapevines with green leaves. The middle ground is a steep hillside covered in a dense vineyard. At the top of the hill, a large, light-colored building with a dark roof and several windows is visible, surrounded by a few trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

Rheingau

SHEER "JOIE DE VIVRE"

Climate: Many days of sunshine and many wind-protected vineyards. The river Rhine acts as a heat reservoir.

Soil: Slate, quartzite, pebbles, sandstone, sandy loess, marl, loam.



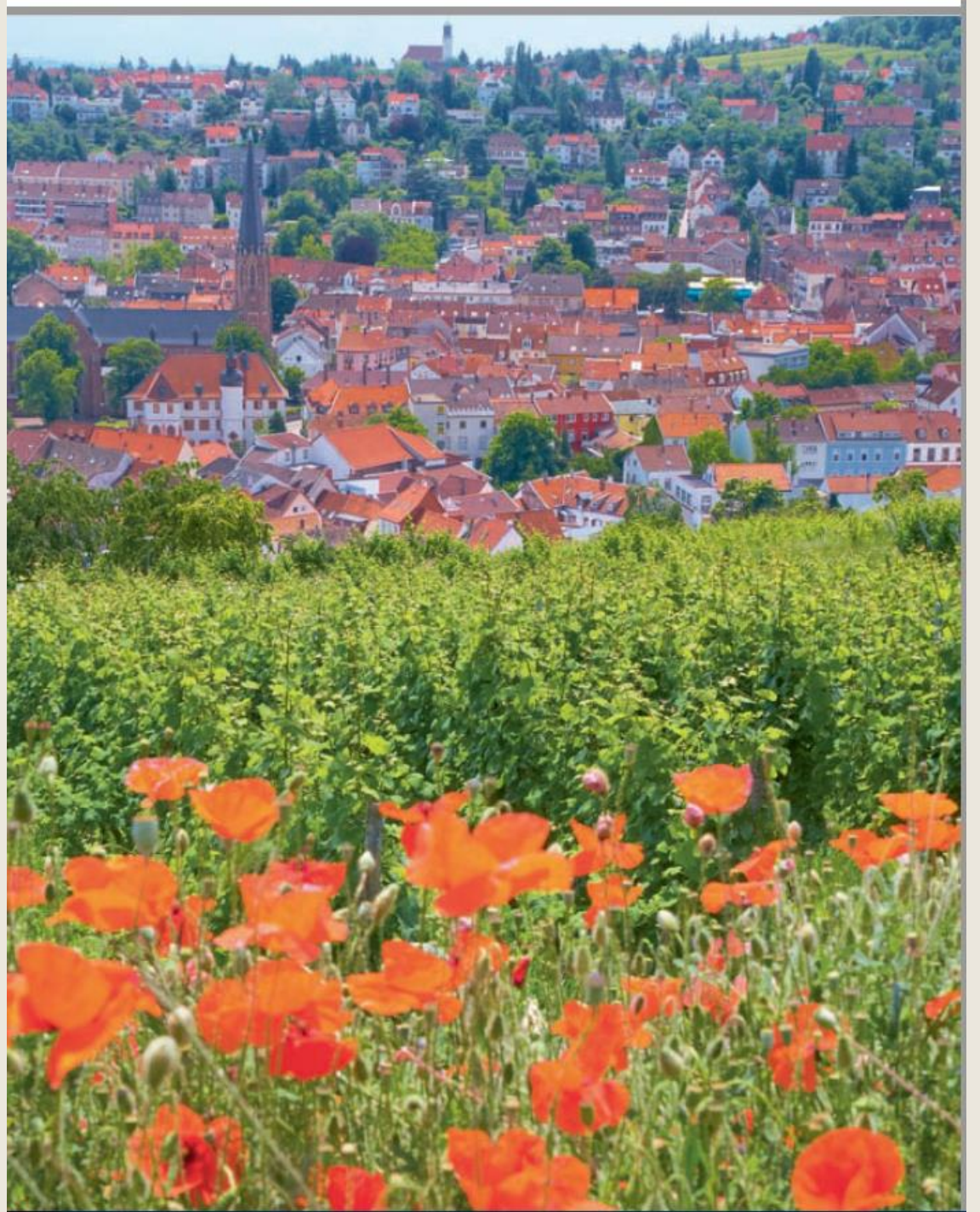


Pfalz

ON THE ROAD TO
WINE PLEASURE

Climate: Many sunny days, mild and diversified climate.

Soil: Red sandstone, chalky loam and clay soils, marl and keuper soils, isolated patches of granite, porphyry and clayish slate





Rheinhessen

MUCH TO DISCOVER

Climate: Mild average temperatures with high sunshine duration and sufficient rainfall.

Soil: Loess, sand, marl, limestone, clay, brown soils, quartzite, porphyry, reddish mixture of clay, slate and sandstone

