THE VDP - THE CLASSIFICATION

The narrower the appellation of origin, the higher the quality of the wine.
THE VDP. CLASSIFICATION

The vineyard is the supporting pillar of the VDP’s classification and a quality criterion for top wines. The use of vineyard names is reserved for the splendid wines that reflect their terroir. The goal of the VDP classification is to enhance the value of Germany’s finest vineyard sites as an integral part of a unique viticultural landscape. Vineyard sites that are the origin of wines that number among the best in the world.

The implementation of the four-tier VDP classification began with the 2012 vintage.
**VDP. GUTSWEIN**

**GOOD FROM THE GROUND UP**

VDP. GUTSWEINE are entry-level wines in the VDP’s hierarchy that links wine quality with origin. They are quasi the calling card of a wine-grower. The wines originate from an estate’s holdings and meet the stringent standards prescribed by the VDP.

**VDP. ORTSWEIN**

**SOURCED FROM SUPERIOR SOILS**

VDP. ORTSWEINE originate from a village’s best vineyards. They are the ambassadors of its respective terroir. Grape varieties typical of the region and low yields are prerequisites for these wines. VDP. ORTSWEINE are the link between VDP. GUTSWEINE and the wines in the very good and very best categories.

⚠️ In the regions that do without the VDP. ERSTE LAGE® category, VDP. ORTSWEINE are of particular importance.
**VDP. ERSTE LAGE®**
**FIRST CLASS**

VDP. ERSTE LAGE® designates first-class vineyards with an autonomous profile. They provide optimal growing conditions and are planted with grape varieties that are ideally suited to the site’s soils. Yields are greatly reduced to foster higher quality. It has been well documented that wines of exceptional quality are produced from grapes grown in VDP.ERSTE LAGEN®.

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**VDP. GROSSE LAGE®**
**THE PEAK OF THE PYRAMID**

VDP.GROSSE LAGE® designates the very best vineyards of Germany, within which the finest parcels have been narrowly demarcated. The wines produced from grapes grown in these sites have tremendous aging potential. These vineyards are planted exclusively with the very finest grape varieties that are ideally suited to the site’s soils. Subject to the most stringent production criteria, these wines form the peak of the VDP’s classification pyramid.

GG VDP.GROSSES GEWÄCHS® (GG) designates a dry wine from a VDP.GROSSE LAGE®.
* The traditional Prädikats are: Kabinett, Spätlese, Auslese, Beerenauslese, Trockenbeerenauslese, Eiswein.
The VDP is the world’s oldest national association of top-quality wine estates. In 1910, four regional associations joined forces to form the Verband Deutscher Naturweinversteigerer (VDNV). Today, more than a century later, the VDP unites some 200 leading wine estates from all German wine-growing regions. The VDP (Association of German Prädikat Wine Estates) works according to stringent, self-imposed quality standards – from the grape to the bottle.

The “VDP eagle” – a stylized eagle bearing a cluster of grapes – on the capsule is the seal of quality of VDP wines. It stands for handcrafted wines made from grapes grown in excellent vineyard sites.

Cultivation of the best vineyard sites, based on soil, topography, and microclimate
Production in harmony with nature to foster individualistic wines
Preservation of unique cultural landscapes
Cultivation of traditional grape varieties, particularly Riesling, Silvaner, and Pinots
Reduction of yields to foster the highest quality
Care and passion in winemaking to bring forth the best of the grape into the bottle

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All information about the VDP and its members is available at www.vdp.de

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