



Rolly Gassmann

Alsace, France

The wine Estate Rolly Gassmann is situated just North of Colmar and the cellar is found in the tiny village of Rorschwihr.

The Rolly family has been making wine in Rorschwihr since 1676. It's a common mistake to think there is a Mr. Gassmann whose first name is Rolly. The Rolly Gassmann estate was created in 1967 when Marie-Thérèse Rolly married Louis Gassmann.

The family tree goes back to 1611 for the Gassmann from Rodern and 1676 for the Rolly from Rorschwihr. Since 1997 Pierre, Marie-Thérèse and Louis's son, runs the 86acre/35ha wine estate located in Rorschwihr. The estate is nurtured by 15 people working all year around in the vineyards. The vineyards are situated in three municipalities; Rorschwihr, Bergheim and Rodern. The real wealth of the 250 ha village of Rorschwihr, apart from its micro-climates, is found in the diversity of its 21 different types of soils, a remarkable geological mosaic dominated by limestone from the primary and tertiary era. These terroirs were identified from the year 1000 when the wines already had established their own reputation.

The village is not part of the AOC Grand Cru classification system. The French legislation does not recognize any grand cru or lieu-dit, a lieu-dit is a specific name sites. The main reason for this is that the local producers have been against operating within the AOC Grand Cru system and refused to be part of it. To them taking part in the AOC Grand Cru system would mean that the 21 specific sites would no longer be differentiated and therefore eliminate 10 centuries of heritage through the new classification system from the 70's. To this day this is why there are no Grand Cru in Rorschwihr.

Rolly Gassmann converted to the biodynamic philosophy around 1997 and Pierre Gassmann is a founding member of the Vignes Vivantes, 'the living vineyards', which is a regional composting body.

Wines from the Rolly Gassmann wine estate are the result of the following three main elements: the light, the earth and the deep underground. It is expressed through the vegetal cycle of the vineyard. The belief is that wine is made in the vineyard and the work in the vineyard is focused on finding the right balance between the biological activity of the under-soil and the growth of the foliage in order to obtain the most subtle and complex fruits

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