

# Weingut Günther Steinmetz

MIDDLE-MOSEL, GERMANY



Stefan Steinmetz collects lesser-known top sites from the old days and brings them back onto the map with expressive crus. He has made his name with dry and off-dry wines, but also proudly presents a range of sweet predicates. Steinmetz has run the estate since 1999, when he was 18 years old, and farms 11.8 hectares, of which 95% are on steep slopes. He ferments partly in large oak barrels, partly in stainless steel. West and East exposed sites are fermented in oak to sharpen the wines, and stainless steel is used to maintain the finesse and precision in top south-facing sites. Since Steinmetz does not force his wines to become trocken, he accepts 15 grams per liter as dry, whereas sweeter qualities up to 20 or 30 grams of residual sugar are designated as feinherb. "We are focussing on terroir expression and don't care that much about residual sugar," he says.

Stefan Steinmetz is known for permitting his wines very leisurely fermentation; extended lees contact; residual sugar if they appear to wish it; and at times malolactic transformation. Make no mistake, here is one of the Mosel's top emerging talents, whose highly distinctive, gastronomically versatile wines are well worth any Riesling lover's attention. Steinmetz proves himself not just a sensitive and tireless explorer of the old vine and site-specific potential trapped in little known or out-of-the-way places, but also a master of stylistically-distinctive and ridiculously under-priced gems, several of which the word "intro-level" cannot be used without scare quotes. His wines are noteworthy for combining leesy richness and textural allure with alcoholic levity and perfectly-integrated hidden sweetness.

*-Robert Parkers Wine Advocate*

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1900's

**PROPRIETORS:** Edith and Stefan Steinmetz, since 2000

**WINEMAKER:** Stefan Steinmetz

**SIZE OF PROPERTY:** 11.8 Hectares (291 acres)

**TERROIR:** Grey, brown, blue, and purple slate stone with influences of quartz and lava rock

**VARIETIES CULTIVATED:** Riesling, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Merlot

