

**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR
REGISTRATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS**

NAME OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

Rheingau

PRODUCT CATEGORY

Wine, Quality sparkling wine, Semi-sparkling wine

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Germany

APPLICANT

Bundesland Hessen
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PROTECTION IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Date of protection in the European Union: 18/09/1973

Date of protection in Member State: Anordnung des Reichsnährstandes für Wein
of 7 January 1936 (RNVBl. p. 17)

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

- **Raw material**

Most significant vine varieties:

Weißer Riesling
Blauer Spätburgunder
Weißer Burgunder
Müller Thurgau
Ruländer
Dornfelder

- **Alcohol content**

	Wine
<i>Minimum alcohol content (% vol.)</i>	4.5

- **Physical appearance**

- Rheingau white
- Rheingau red
- Rheingau rosé

DESCRIPTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

In terms of natural environment, the Rheingau counts as part of the Rhine-Main Lowlands. The Rheingau lies on the eastern side, the so called “right side”, of the Rhine, mainly to the west of the Rhine elbow near Wiesbaden, and extends along a narrow strip in the form of gently rolling hills from the heights of the main ridge of the Taunus uplands down to the Rhine, which at this point is diverted from its general northerly direction for 30 kilometres and flows west until it reaches the Binger Loch. The predominant landform in the Rheingau is south-facing slopes. But the Rheingau also includes the vineyards of the Rhine’s steep incision into the main ridge of the Taunus uplands from the Binger Loch to Lorch/Lorchhausen, as well as the vineyards of Wiesbaden, the *Land* capital, and on the north bank of the Main between Flörsheim and Hochheim to Frankfurt am Main and Felsberg.

The production of quality wine from defined regions (Qualitätswein b.A.), quality sparkling wine from defined regions (Sekt b.A.) or quality semi-sparkling wine (Qualitätsperlwein) with the protected name ‘Rheingau’ must take place in the winegrowing area defined above, in another winegrowing area in the *Land* of Hessen or in a winegrowing area in a neighbouring *Land*.

LINK WITH GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

The winegrowing area extends along the Lower Main and the Rhine. The positive influence of the Rhine rift valley means that the growing season starts early. Because the slopes and steep slopes face mainly south to south-west they trap more heat. The major differences between daytime and night-time temperatures during the ripening phase prolong that phase and have a positive effect on the grapes’ aromatic development. Morphology, geology and the winegrowers’ influence result in products typical of the area.

The Rheingau is characterised by numerous, mostly family-run, winegrowing businesses which market their products themselves. Those businesses which do not do their own marketing are organised into winegrowers’ cooperatives. The mostly very small-scale structure and steep slopes restrict the technical possibilities for mechanisation in the vineyards. Tending the vineyards so as to meet the requirements applicable in each case has a positive effect on quality and stabilises yields. Tending them in this way also has a positive influence on the wines’ must weight, aromatic development and harmoniously bound acidity. The grapes’ long growing season and ripening period coupled with the particular topography of the winegrowing area, the microclimatic conditions and the characteristic composition of the soils determine the typical features of wines with the geographical indication ‘Rheingau’. These factors result in aromas and tastes typical of the vine varieties, producing in some cases high-minerality wines. The human influence is based on a centuries-old winegrowing tradition.

SPECIFIC LABELLING RULES (IF ANY)

Before the traditional terms linked to the designation of origin ‘Rheingau’ may be used on their labels, the wines must pass an official inspection.

Only wines which have met the specific requirements in the context of that official inspection are issued with official inspection numbers, each comprising several digits indicating the winegrowing area in question, the holding number, the number of wines submitted for inspection and the year in which they were submitted or in which the inspection number was issued. The inspection number must be quoted on the label.

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