

**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR
REGISTRATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS**

NAME OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

Rheinhessen

PRODUCT CATEGORY

Wine, Quality sparkling wine, Semi-sparkling wine

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Germany

APPLICANT

Ministerium für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft, Ernährung, Weinbau und Forsten
1 Kaiser-Friedrich-Str.
55116 Mainz
Deutschland/Germany
Tel: +49 (0) 6131 - 16 - 0
Fax: +49 (0) 6131 - 16 - 4646
poststelle@mulewf.rlp.de

PROTECTION IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

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

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

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

- **Raw material**

Most significant vine varieties:

Bacchus
Chardonnay
Dornfelder
Grauer Burgunder
Huxelrebe
Kerner
Müller Thurgau
Blauer Portugieser
Regent
Weißer Riesling
Scheurebe
Grüner Silvaner
Blauer Spätburgunder
Weißer Burgunder

- **Alcohol content**

	Wine (Qualitätswein)	Wine with special attributes („Beerenauslese“, „Trockenbeerenauslese“ und „Eiswein“)	
<i>Minimum alcohol content (% vol.)</i>	7.0	5.5	

- **Physical appearance**

- Rheinhessen white
- Rheinhessen red
- Rheinhessen rosé

DESCRIPTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

The Rheinhessen winegrowing area coincides almost exactly with the area comprising the Rheinhessen Plateau and Hills and the Mainz Basin. The Rheinhessen landscape is characterised by plateaus of resistant limestone cut through by broad depressions with gentle hills and lowlands. Winegrowing is concentrated on the hillsides, although the average gradient is about 7%. Steep-slope winegrowing is found particularly in the area around Nierstein and in Bingen. On average the wine grows at an altitude of 175 metres above sea level. The vineyards face mainly south-east to south-west.

The production of quality wine (Qualitätswein), wine with special attributes (Prädikatswein), quality sparkling wine from defined regions (Sekt b.A.) or quality semi-sparkling wine (Qualitätsperlwein) with the protected name 'Rheinhessen' must take place in the winegrowing area described above, in another winegrowing area in the *Land* of Rheinland-Pfalz or in a winegrowing area in a neighbouring *Land*.

LINK WITH GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

The Rheinhessen winegrowing area comprises mainly Tertiary and Quaternary sediments lying on a base of red rocks. Those red rocks appear on the surface of the earth only in the extreme south-west and near Nierstein (Nierstein Uplift). Most of the area comprises Tertiary rocks predominantly overlaid with Quaternary sediments (loess loam, river terraces, watercourse sediments, slope sediments). Devonian quartzites and argillaceous schist occur in the north-western part of the Rheinhessen winegrowing area near Bingen.

The average annual temperature is about 9.9 °C. The average temperature during the growing season is 14.6 °C. Average annual precipitation is about 550 mm. On average 65% (355 mm) of the annual precipitation falls during the growing season. On average the Rheinhessen vines are exposed to about 650 000 Wh/m² of direct sunshine during the growing season.

The winegrowers work on large connected parcels, which means that effective mechanisation and economic cultivation are possible. 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 'Rheinhessen' may be used on their labels, the wines must pass an official inspection. The inspection number issued must be quoted on the label. That number is the batch number.

CONTROL BODY

Landwirtschaftskammer Rheinland-Pfalz
Burgenlandstr. 7
55543 Bad Kreuznach
Deutschland/Germany
Telefon +49 (0) 671 7 93 0
Telefax +49 (0) 671 7 93 11 99
E-Mail: info@lwk-rlp.de