

Baden

10 Sep 2008 by Jancis Robinson

In a nutshell: full-bodied reds and powerful whites.

Main grapes: Spätburgunder (red); Grauburgunder, Weissburgunder (white).

The most southerly of Germany's wine regions, just across the Rhine from Alsace, has the climate to produce some impressive red wines and some sturdy Grauburgunder (Pinot Gris) and Weissburgunder (Pinot Blanc), often oaked. By far the most important producer is the Badischer Winzerkellerei based in Breisach, which is commendably ambitious. Very good deep-red Spätburgunders (Germany's Pinot Noir) are becoming more common - this variety now representing one vine in every three in the region - but they are still under-appreciated abroad.

Some favourite producers: Dr Heger, Bernhard Huber, Karl Heinz Johner, Franz Keller, Fritz Keller, Andreas Laible, Martin Wassmer and Wolff-Metternich.