

## A fantastic wine list in Alsace

27 Aug 2008 by JR

Any wine lover within striking distance of Basel or Alsace should book seriously about a trip to the Restaurant de la Gare in the tiny village of Guewenheim just west of Mulhouse and about 40 minutes' drive south-west of Colmar.

I have just been bedding wines from Alsace's acclaimed 2007 vintage and will report on these at the end of next week. But I can tell you that a high point was lunch at this little haven of sound cooking and terrific wine prices.

This relatively simple place was established by Antoine Schengen in 1874 and is still run by the great-granddaughter Arnieck and her chef husband (convenient, that), Michel Saeber who just happens to be absolutely passionate about his wine cellar and about keeping prices flat. On their sunny terrace I had Saeber's fine goose carpaccio au naturel (€18) and corderon with choucroute (€10) while Nick had a rich, local snail speciality and flûte of carp in beer with flûte and salad (€17). We enjoyed a half of Bouvier 2002 Chardonnay Monopile (€25) and Kessler, Gendberg Reuilly 2001 Alsace (€25).

Here are a few sample prices:

Pierre Monje 1990 Muschel €20

Coché Drey 2001 Meunault €10

Ch de Fomelle 1999 Clos de Hilsine €30

Ch Suardo Muler 1990 Haut-Moulin €125

Ch Monrose 1990 St-Etienne €250

Ch Margaux 1983 Margaux €300

Capprado 2004 Toscana €80

Egly Ornel NV Champagne €50

Paul Ripper, Cuvée Western Church 1990 Champagne €130

The welcome could not have been warmer – despite the fact that, thanks to a truck of liquid cement's having shed its load over the entrance, we did not arrive until after 2pm.

Restaurant de la Gare, 68110 Guewenheim, France tel +33 3 83 82 51 29