

#### Dr. Loosen

"Ernst Loosen has built his family's estate into one of the Mosel's defining properties. It wasn't a move that anyone would have predicted: When his father fell ill in the late 1980s, the estate was not in top form and Loosen himself was off studying archeology. Soon after he returned home to help out, his father died and much of the staff abandoned the property. Only Bernhard Schug stayed on. The two quickly figured out that they had a terrific advantage in the age of their vineyards; at the time, the youngest were 50 years old, and many were ungrafted. With focused determination, the duo turned the estate around. Today, Schug runs the cellars, and Loosen has increased the estate's holding to 72 acres, with parcels in some of the Mosel's most hallowed sites, including Bernkasteler Lay, Erdener Prälat and Treppchen, Graacher Himmelreich, Urziger Würzgarten and Wehlener Sonnenuhr. The oldest parcels are around 120 years old. Together with viticulturist Roland Orthmann, Loosen works to sustain the vines by farming organically. In the winery, Loosen and Schug tend long, slow ferments without added yeasts, in old wooden fudern. While Dr. Loosen might be most widely known for the Dr. L Riesling—a bargain-priced Mosel riesling from purchased fruit—the reputation of the winery is based on its sweet wines. As the 2011 Auslesen demonstrate, Schug and Loosen use ripeness to magnify the terroir expressions of their vineyards: The Wehlener Sonnenuhr reflects that vineyard's sunny exposition in its roasted peaches-and-cream flavor; the Erdener Treppchen mirrors the vineyard's red soils in the ruddy cast of its luscious fruit. The Gold Cap Auslese from Erdener Prälat shares the red-fruited intensity of the Treppchen, while framing it with a structure that feels as chiseled as the rocky outcrops on this vineyard's steep slope. Focused and long, it's built to last decades. In future years, this association with sweet wines may change: Inspired by a bottle of 1948 Ürziger Würzgarten his grandfather had vinified dry, Loosen has been experimenting with vinifying the wines of some of his best vineyards dry, with extended lees contact, and bottling them as Grosses Gewächs. Meanwhile, however, scoop up all the 2011 Auslesen you can get."

- Dr. Loosen 2012 Urziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese (Best Buy) 95 pts
- Dr. Loosen 2013 Urziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese (Best Buy) 90 pts
- Dr. Loosen 2012 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Best Buy) 91 pts
- Dr. Loosen 2013 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Best Buy) 94 pts
- Dr. Loosen 2013 'Dr. L' Riesling QbA (Best Buy)
- Dr. Loosen 2013 Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Kabinett 92 pts
- Dr. Loosen 2012 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett 90 pts
- Dr. Loosen 2013 Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese (Best Buy) 94 pts
- Dr. Loosen 2012 Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese Gold Capsule 94 pts