



DECANTER

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Dream dozen

There are 51 grand cru vineyards in Alsace, each granted the status after years of research and debate. While the arguments still rage over the merits of various sites, Freddy Price argues in favour of the appellation and names his top 12 standout crus.

Vorbourg (72.5 ha)

Vorbourg in Rouffach is a huge vineyard. The microclimate is very dry and sunny, and the soil is marl with sandstone pebbles and limestone, which give the wines great concentration and peach and apricot aromas. The best growers can produce high-quality Riesling, Gewurztraminer, Pinot Gris and Muscat. The finest wines are from a 15ha section inside the grand cru, Clos Saint Landelin, that has sandstone terraces on marl limestone soil, richer in lower rows, more rocky towards the top.



One to try:

Domaine René Muré, Clos Saint Landelin Riesling, Vorbourg 2008 *** 17**

£27.10-£28 **Berkmann Wine Cellars, Slurp**

Clos Saint Landelin is a landmark on a steep, terraced hill facing east and south. This Riesling has good acidity and a powerful, pungent character that will soften when it has ideal balance in about three years. Drink: 2012-2019. Alc: 12.5%