

PIERRE SPARR®

2018 RIESLING GRAND CRU SCHOENENBOURG



2018 VINTAGE NOTES: Harvest dates are set to achieve the best sugar-to-acid ratio, generally 100 days after the median date of flowering. Copious rain marked the start of the 2018 vintage followed by a hot late summer and early fall, which resulted in full-flavored, generous wines.

ORIGINS: This wine is 100 percent estate-grown. The Schoenenbourg Grand Cru vineyard stretches across a steep south- and southeast-facing hillside between the villages of Riquewihr and Zellenberg, at an altitude of 265 to 380 meters. As part of the Ribeauville Fault Bundle in the sub-Vosgian Hills, the subsoil consists of water-retaining marl, dolomite and gypsum, overlaid with fine layers of Vosges sandstone, siliceous gravel and Muschelkalk (consisting of a sequence of limestone and dolostone beds with fossil shells, formed 240 million years ago in the Middle Triassic.) Schoenenbourg vineyard has been renowned since the 16th century.

AOC: AOC Alsace Grand Cru

VARIETAL COMPOSITION: 100% Riesling

VINEYARD REGION: Vosges hillside, south/southeast exposure

ELEVATION: 265 to 380 meters / 870 to 1,246 feet

VINEYARD SIZE: 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres)

SOIL: Water-retaining Keuper, marl, dolomite and gypsum, overlaid with fine layers of Vosges sandstone, siliceous gravel and Muschelkalk (fossil shells)

VINE AGE: 36 years

VITICULTURE: No irrigation; trellised vines; hand-harvesting

HARVEST DATES: Third week of October, set by decree for each AOC

YIELDS: 50 hectoliters per hectare (3.7 tons per acre)

VINIFICATION: Traditional, temperature-controlled fermentation, no malolactic

AGING: Stainless-steel tanks, wine on fine lees for 8 to 10 months

AGING POTENTIAL: +10 years

ALCOHOL: 13.5%

TOTAL ACIDITY: 5.5 g/L

RESIDUAL SUGAR: 8.2 g/L

TASTING NOTES: Bright yellow hue, with aromas of lime zest, pine and honeysuckle. The full minerality appears on the palate, framed by fresh citrus and a dynamic, racy body. The long mineral/aromatic finish indicates the age of these vines. This charismatic Alsatian Riesling still has many years to develop its full potential.