

A true island of warmth - flora and fauna

The many agricultural roads that form peaks in the vineyards along Landstraße 50 are seen as landscaping elements. Together with the DLR Mosel, the vineyard association Piesport is planning to increase the biodiversity of the steep-slope wine-growing areas and particularly, by rearranging the vineyard plots, to promote the common wall lizard.

The landscaping elements can be identified by the roses and lavender planted there. But the warm climate is not just reflected in the region's flora, the fauna has been similarly influenced. There are for example the common wall lizard and the smooth snake, which are more common on the Moselle River than anywhere else in Germany. The rock bunting, which is native to the Mediterranean, has its northern-most European population here.

A place of superlatives - the Riesling in Piesport

2000 years ago the Romans recognised the great potential of the Moselle region and its mild climate for wine-growing. In Piesport the winemakers of antiquity set up the largest wine pressing facility north of the Alps by a fully south-opening Moselle curve. It is a striking example of the long and uninterrupted wine-growing tradition, which continues to this day. Because with a wine-growing area of 400 hectares, Piesport is the largest wine-growing community on the Moselle. It was not just the size of this wine-producing area that contributed to its importance. Piesport is also the cradle of Riesling cultivation on the Moselle. We have the far-sighted pastor Johannes Hau to thank for this; he worked in Piesport from 1765 until 1803, and he managed to get the local council to agree that only Riesling could now be cultivated in the vineyards at Piesport. Following a decree to this effect by the electoral prince Clemens Wenzelslaus in 1787, the clever and business-minded pastor Hau started to sell vine cuttings throughout the Moselle region from his pastoral vineyard, located in today's Goldtröpfchen. This was a significant contribution to the spread of the Riesling grape, and the high-quality vines are still sold today under the term "Piesporter Klon".

400 million years - the Moselle terroir

Steep-slope wine-growing has an almost 2000-year tradition on the Moselle. But the foundations for the special wine-growing features in this river valley go back even further. 400 million years to be precise, to the Devonian period. At the time, the earth's supercontinents Laurasia (north of the equator) and Gondwana (south of the equator), which were separated by the sea, clashed and formed the basis of today's soil formations from marine sediments: the Devonian slate.

And so it was the earth's geological history that created the soil on which today's wine-growers plant their vines. And these soils have a significant influence on the sensory properties of the wine grown here. On the Moselle, the dark Devonian slate dominates (around 50 percent), which is mostly found on the steep slopes. This is also true for the Moselle curve at Piesport, which boasts a wine-growing area of almost 150 hectares. The Piesporter Goldtröpfchen area, which the German Association of Quality Wine growing Estates (VDP) describes as a "major location" and thus counts as one of Germany's most exclusive vineyards, is south and south-west facing and comprises around 60 hectares. In this location the slate is particularly soft, clayey and deep.

Other cultivated soils on the Moselle are the "dolomite brick and marl" in the south of the region and "limy sandstone, silt and argillaceous schist" in the northern part of the Moselle.