

BATTENFELDSPANIER
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Biologisch-dynamisch  ausgebaut von
H.O. SPANIER

The success of the country's finest winemaking estates is grounded first and foremost in the people who lead them. Yet one ought never underestimate the impact of vineyard quality.

Spanier has drawn the attention of wine experts back to the Zeller Valley, working more or less unilaterally to restore one of the oldest vineyard sites in existence: the Mölsheim Zellerweg am Schwarzer Herrgott.

Vinum Weinguide 2018 - on Carolin & Hans-Oliver Spanier, Winemakers of the Year 2018

AUSZEICHNUNG

Vinum
WEINGUIDE DEUTSCHLAND
2018

**Carolyn Spanier-Gillot und
Hans-Oliver Spanier**

Weingüter Kühling-Gillot und
Battenfeld-Spanier, Rheinhessen

werden von der Redaktion des VINUM Weinguide als

Winzer des Jahres

ausgezeichnet.



Joel B. Payne
Chefredakteur VINUM Weinguide Deutschland



Carsten S. Henn
Chefredakteur VINUM Weinguide Deutschland

CHRISTIAN

History

THE SPANIER FAMILY HAS BEEN LIVING AND CULTIVATING WINE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE WONNEG AU FOR CENTURIES. I COMPLETED MY OWN TRAINING AS A WINEMAKER IN 1992 AND WITH THE GRACIOUS HELP OF DEAR FRIENDS, THE BATTENFELD FAMILY, FOUNDED A WINEGROWING ESTATE OF MY OWN. FROM THE START, WE WERE DEDICATED TO ORGANIC PRINCIPLES. BACK THEN THIS WAS STILL CONSIDERED HIGHLY UNUSUAL.

RESTORING AND ENCOURAGING MICROBIAL LIFE IN THE SOIL IS MY MOST IMPORTANT GOAL. SOIL FOR ME IS AT THE VERY CORE OF OUR EFFORT TO CONVEY THE TASTE OF WHAT CAME LONG BEFORE US AND THAT WHICH LIES AHEAD.

SINCE 2007, THE WINES OF BOTH KÜHLING-GILLOT AND BATTENFELDSPANIER HAVE BEEN VINIFIED IN HOHEN-SÜLZEN. BEYOND DIFFERENT HARVEST DATES, OUR SINGLE-SITE WINES ARE ALL PRODUCED LARGELY IDENTICALLY. AND SO THE STRIKING CONTRASTS THAT CONSISTENTLY EMERGE IN THE WINES OF THE RHEIN-TERRASSE AS COMPARED WITH THOSE FROM THE WONNEG AU CAN'T SIMPLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE „SIGNATURE OF THE WINEMAKER.“ THEY INSTEAD REFLECT DISTINCTIVE VARIATIONS IN THE VINEYARDS, THE SOILS AND THE MICROCLIMATE.



Oliver

FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I HAVE BEEN CAPTIVATED BY THAT SPECIAL COMBINATION OF METICULOUS PREPARATION, ATTENTIVENESS TO THE BODY'S POSSIBILITIES, AND PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STRENGTH THAT COME TOGETHER TO PRODUCE AN ELITE PERFORMANCE. IF I HADN'T BEEN INVOLVED IN A BAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT AT AGE 17, I'D ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE BECOME A PRO ATHLETE. MY WORK AS A WINEMAKER TAPS INTO THIS SAME FASCINATION, ALTHOUGH IN THIS CASE IT'S THE SOIL AND GRAPES THAT NEED MY DISCIPLINED ATTENTION.

RIESLING IS MY VISION. NO OTHER GRAPE IN THE WONNEGAU CAN TRANSLATE THE SOIL AND LIGHT MORE PRECISELY AND DELICIOUSLY INTO WINE. THE JUICINESS OF THE RIESLING BY CONTRAST IS ONE TRANSITORY STOP ON ITS METAMORPHOSIS INTO AN AUTHENTIC MINERAL-DRIVEN WINE.

OUR ESTATE HAS GROWN OVER TIME TO ALMOST 30 HECTARES, WITH AN ACCOMPLISHED TEAM OF EMPLOYEES NOW WORKING ALONGSIDE THE FAMILY. OUR SUCCESS IS A SHARED TRIUMPH AND HAS HELPED ME MAKE THE MENTAL SHIFT FROM LONE WOLF TO TEAM PLAYER. EVEN TODAY, SPORT CONTINUES TO SHAPE MY VIEW OF THE WORLD.



Hohen-Sülzen

HOHEN-SÜLZEN IS ON THE SOUTHERNMOST PEAK OF THE WONNEG AU, NOT FAR FROM WORMS. THE REGION IS KNOWN FOR ITS CALCAREOUS SUBSOILS. AND LIKE THE NIBELUNGEN OF LORE, WE WINEMAKERS BELIEVE THE REAL TREASURES ARE HIDDEN BELOW! THE MIGHTY LIMESTONE FORMATIONS UNDER THE SURFACE FORCE THE VINES TO DIG DEEP FOR THEIR NUTRIENTS.

THE NEARBY DONNERSBERG MOUNTAIN ACTS AS A BARRIER AGAINST WEATHER PATTERNS FROM THE WEST. IN SUMMER, IT LEAVES THE WONNEG AU IN A RAIN SHADOW DRIER THAN THE SURROUNDING AREAS. BECAUSE LIMESTONE RETAINS WATER, VINES THAT GROW IN IT CAN STILL THRIVE IN SUCH CONDITIONS, PRODUCING RIPE AND VIBRANT WINES. THOSE SAME DEEP ROOTS ALSO ENCOURAGE MINERAL INSTEAD OF FRUIT AROMAS.



Hohen-Sülzen

Viticulture

SINCE 2003, I HAVE EXPANDED OUR INITIAL ORGANIC APPROACH TO INCLUDE BIODYNAMIC PRACTICES. NO SYNTHETIC FERTILIZERS ARE USED ON OUR SOIL OR VINES. BEYOND THE BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES IN THE SOIL THAT IMPACT FRUIT FORMATION, THE IMPACT OF LIGHT IS ALSO OF GROWING IMPORTANCE, ESPECIALLY IN THE FACE OF A CHANGING CLIMATE.

THE APPLICATION OF PREPARATIONS AND TEAS HAS ENHANCED THE VITALITY OF THE VINES SIGNIFICANTLY. WE SEE A MORE UNIFORM VEGETATION, AS WELL AS A CALMER AND MORE EVEN REACTION TO HEAT AND MOISTURE, WHICH HELPS TO PREVENT DISEASE AND OVERRIPENESS.

OUR MEMBERSHIP IN „RENAISSANCE DES APPELLATION,“ FOUNDED BY BIODYNAMIC WINE PIONEER NICOLAS JOLY, IS EQUAL PARTS HONOR AND RESPONSIBILITY. FOR ME, DISCUSSING MY EXPERIENCES WITH OTHER BIODYN WINEGROWERS IS A CORNERSTONE TO MY OWN CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT.



LA RENAISSANCE
des Appellations



Wines

MY WINES SOUND OUT THE SPACE BETWEEN INTERVENTION AND INACTION, BETWEEN REASON AND RISK. EVERY YEAR – EVERY DAY TO BE HONEST – IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER WHEN IT COMES TO WINEGROWING. AS A WINEMAKER, I NEED TO TAKE EVERYTHING I HAVE LEARNED AND CONSIDER SETTLED AND SIMPLY FORGET IT ALL AGAIN AT PRECISELY THE MOMENT WHEN IT'S TIME TO APPLY IT.

OTHERWISE THERE IS NO SPACE FOR INTUITION.

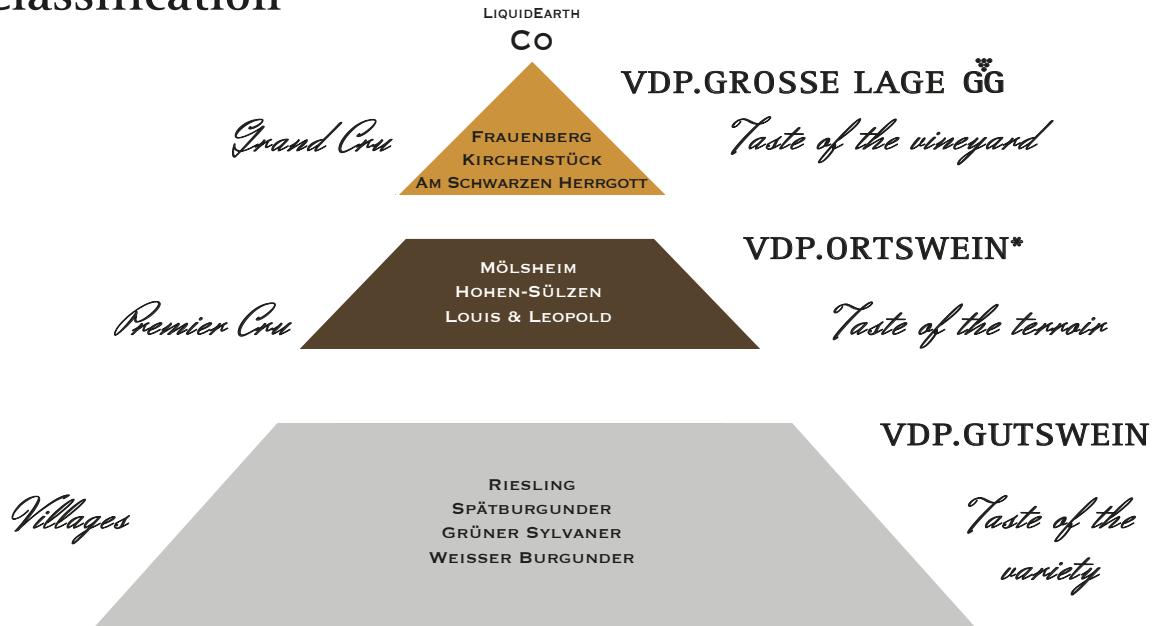
AND WITHOUT INTUITION, ONE IS DOOMED TO PRODUCE A SAFE PRODUCT – WHICH IN WINE INVARIABLE MEANS MEDIOCRITY.

THE GRAPE IS FOR ME AN INTERPRETER OF OUR SOUTHERLY WONNEGAU SOILS AND THEIR EXTREME LIMESTONE. AND THAT IS WHAT INTERESTS ME: THE RANGE OF STONE AND SOIL AROMAS THAT EXIST OUT BEYOND THE TRANSIENT FRUIT. DANCING MINERALITY. SALTY PROVENANCE.

THIS HOLDS TRUE FOR RIESLING AND SYLVANER, AS WELL AS WHITE AND RED PINOTS, WHICH ARE WHAT I CHOOSE TO CULTIVATE.

International Classification

VDP.Rheinhessen



*The VDP.Rheinhessen has agreed that Ortswein will be produced solely from grapes from classified Erste Lage vineyards

Wannegau & Zellertal

THIS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE, ONE OF THE OLDEST IN GERMANY, HAD SLIPPED INTO A LONG PERIOD OF OBSCURITY BEFORE WE WINEMAKERS BROUGHT IT BACK TO LIFE A DECADE AGO. MOST PEOPLE ARE UNAWARE THAT THERE IS IN FACT DOCUMENTED PROOF THAT WINEMAKING HERE IN THE ZELLER VALLEY STRETCHES BACK TO AT LEAST THE 8TH CENTURY.

THE SITES AROUND HOHEN-SÜLZEN ARE EXPOSED TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE EISBACH VALLEY. DURING THE EVENING, THE COOL EISBACH WINDS PROVIDE THE LOW TEMPERATURES NEEDED TO PREVENT THE ACIDS FROM DISSIPATING. THE SOILS ARE SHAPED BY A HEALTHY COMPONENT OF BROKEN LIMESTONE.

THE VILLAGE OF MÖLSHEIM IS AT THE HEART OF THE ELONGATED ZELLER VALLEY, WHOSE SHAPE FUNNELS THE WINDS LIKE AN AIR JET. VINES BENEFIT FROM THIS CONSTANT AIR CIRCULATION, WHICH HELPS TO DELAY RIPENING AND PREVENTS ANY FORM OF BOTRYTIS FROM TAKING HOLD. THE CHALKY ROCK FORMATIONS IN THE SUBSTRATE PUSH AND HEAVE TONS OF SMALL, FRAGMENTED STONE TOWARDS THE SURFACE, MEANING THE LIMESTONE LITERALLY GROWS FROM THE SOIL HERE.



Ortsweine

WE IN THE VDP.RHEINHESSEN HAVE AGREED THAT OUR ORTSWEIN TIER WILL CONSIST SOLELY OF FRUIT FROM OUR CLASSIFIED ERSTE LAGE VINEYARDS. ALL OF OUR ORTSWEINE THUS FULFILL THE SAME STRICT REGULATIONS THAT APPLY TO OTHER WINES FROM VDP.ERSTE LAGE SITES.

THE HOHEN-SÜLZEN RIESLING IS CHARACTERISTICALLY RIPE AND JUICY WITH A CHALKY SPICE AND WARM FRUIT. IT IS THE LITTLE BROTHER OF THE KIRCHENSTÜCK.

THE MÖLSHEIM RIESLING IS SHAPED BY WILD HERBS AND AN ELECTRIC ACIDITY. FOR ME IT IS THE LITTLE BROTHER OF THE FRAUENBERG.

THE HOHEN-SÜLZEN GRÜNER SYLVANER „LEOPOLD“ CARRIES SYLVANER TYPICITY TO AN EXTREME: CHISELED AND PRECISE, WITH BODY AND VOLUME THROUGH ITS MATURATION IN LARGE WOODEN BARRELS.

ONLY THE OLDEST OF WEISSBURGUNDER PLANTINGS, AGED BETWEEN 25 AND 40 YEARS, ARE USED FOR THE PINOT BLANC „LOUIS,“ WHICH IS PRIMARILY MATURED IN TONNEAUX CASKS FROM BURGUNDY. EXTENDED TIME ON THE LEES LASTING UNTIL JUNE OF THE NEXT YEAR GIVES THE WINE A GENEROUS DEPTH AND CREAMY TEXTURE.

BATTENFELDSPANIER



2016 HOHEN-SÜLZEN
RIESLING



**2016 MÖLSHEIM
RIESLING**



BATTENFELDSPANIER



Louis

2016
PINOT BLANC

VDP. ORTSWEIN



BATTENFELDSPANIER



BATTENFELDSPANIER



LEOPOLD

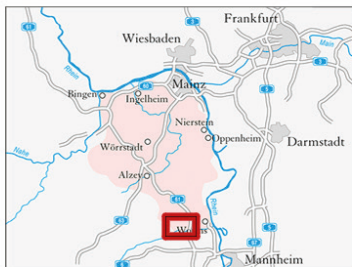
2016
GRÜNER SYLVANER

Grosse Lagen

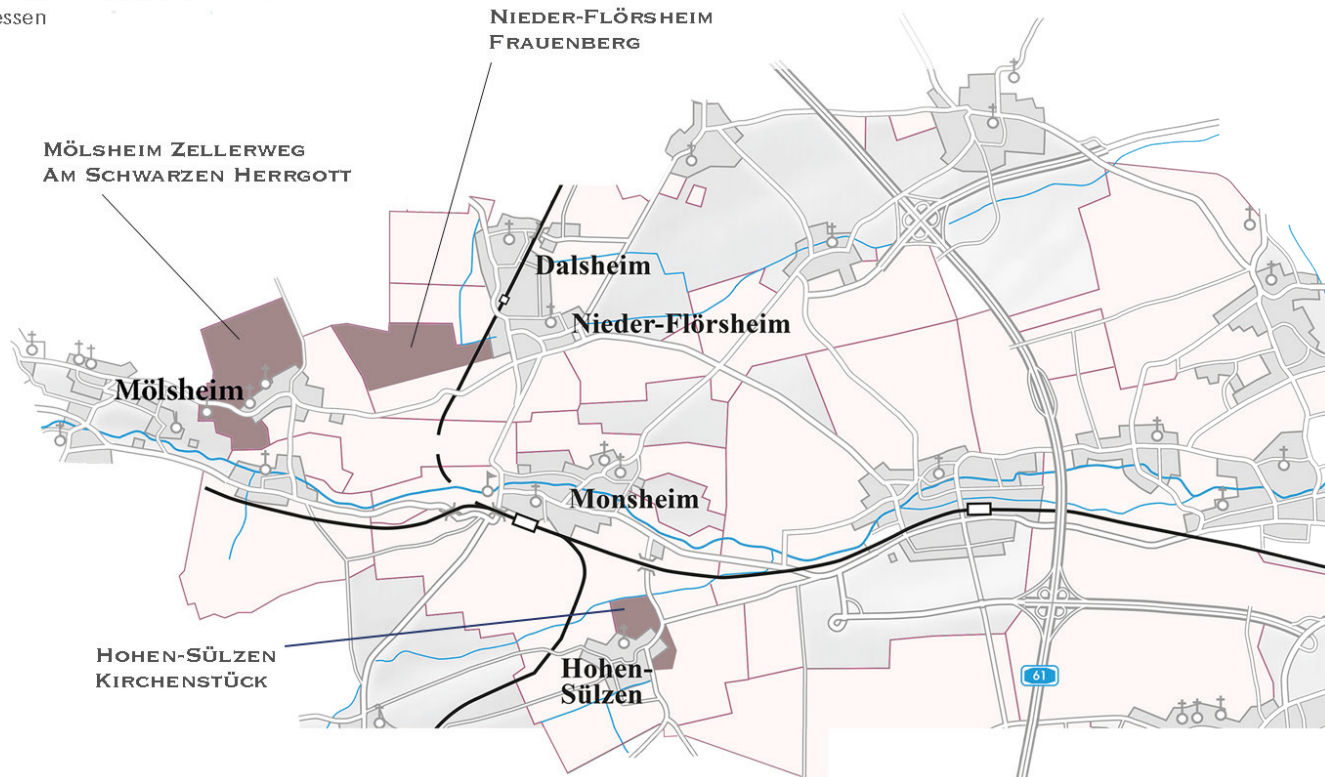
THE VERBAND DER DEUTSCHEN PRÄDIKATSWEINGÜTER (VDP) HAS ESTABLISHED A SITE CLASSIFICATION PYRAMID THAT FEATURES THE FAMOUS VDP.GROSSE LAGE SITES AT ITS PEAK. ANY VINEYARD EARNING THIS CLASSIFICATION IS CONSIDERED AMONG GERMANY'S ABSOLUTE FINEST, AND WE ARE PROUD TO HOLD THREE SUCH GROSSE LAGE SITES.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATUTES OF THE VDP'S GG COMMISSION, DRY WINES FROM GROSSE LAGE SITES ARE KNOWN AS GROSSE GEWÄCHSE. THE GROSSE GEWÄCHSE FROM RIESLING MAY ONLY BE BROUGHT ONTO THE MARKET ON SEPTEMBER 1 OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE HARVEST. THE RULES ARE EVEN STRICTER FOR SPÄTBURGUNDER RED WINES, WHICH MAY BE RELEASED ONLY TWO YEARS AFTER HARVEST.

ALL OF OUR ORTSWEIN AND LAGENWEIN BOTTLES FOLLOW UNIFORM INTERNAL GUIDELINES: BIODYNAMIC CULTIVATION, EXCLUSIVE HAND HARVEST, ADDITIONAL MANUAL SELECTION ON THE SORTING TABLE, SPONTANEOUS FERMENTATION WITHOUT EXTERNAL TEMPERATURE CONTROLS, VINIFICATION IN TRADITIONAL STÜCK AND HALBSTÜCK CASKS, SIX TO NINE MONTHS ON THE FULL LEES.



Rheinhessen



Frauenberg

250 M OF ELEVATION, UP TO 40 % GRADIENT.

A LAYER OF BROKEN LIMESTONE COMPRISES THE TOPSOIL, WITH A SOLID LIMESTONE SUBSTRATE BELOW. THE EXPOSED POSITION AND HIGH RIDGE OF THE FRAUENBERG PUSH THE GRAPES TO THE LIMIT. THERE IS WARMTH FROM THE SOUTH, COUNTERACTED BY CONSTANT COOLING WINDS THAT CIRCULATE THROUGH THE ROWS. EXTREMELY CRAGGY AND MINERAL-RICH SOIL FORCES THE VINES TO DIG VERY DEEP FOR THEIR NUTRIENTS. IN ALL, THE CONDITIONS ARE PERFECT FOR AN EXTENDED AND ROBUST VEGETATIVE PERIOD.

RIESLING FROM FRAUENBERG IS DOMINATED BY STONY AROMAS. HERBAL SPICE, COOL TOBACCO, POLISHED ACIDITY AND A STEELY MINERAL BACKBONE. NOTABLE FOR A FINE CREAMINESS ON THE PALATE, YET THIS WINE KEEPS A COUPLE OF SECRETS IN RESERVE. INDEED, FRAUENBERG LOVES THE THRILL OF THE CHASE.

THE BOTTLES NEED TIME. THE BOTTLES NEED SPACE. GIVEN BOTH, THEY WILL REWARD WITH AN ELEGANCE AND FINESSE CAPABLE OF TAKING YOUR BREATH AWAY.

BATTENFELDSTRA



FRAUENBERG
RIESLING 2016

Am Schwarzen Herrgott

MÖLSHEIM ZELLERWEG AM SCHWARZEN HERRGOTT

240 M OF ELEVATION, UP TO 40 % GRADIENT.

THE SCHWARZER HERRGOTT IS ONE OF GERMANY'S OLDEST AND MOST RENOWNED VINEYARDS, DOCUMENTED AS HAVING BEEN HOME TO WINEGROWING SINCE AT LEAST THE 8TH CENTURY. IN RECENT DECADES, HOWEVER, IT HAD SLIPPED INTO OBSCURITY. THE SITE LIES AT THE HEAD OF THE ZELLER VALLEY BASIN, WHICH OPENS UP A FEW KILOMETERS TO THE EAST, AND ABUTS THE FRAUENBERG. THE SUBSTRATE HERE IS PURE LIMESTONE. EVEN AMONG WINES FROM THE SCRAGGY, LIMESTONE-RICH HILLS OF THE WONNEGAU, THE PRECISION OF THESE RIESLINGS IS RENOWNED.

SPICY AROMAS OF IODINE AND MINERALITY PLAY WITH THE DISCREET NOTES OF WHITE FRUITS SUCH AS MIRABELLE PLUM AND RIPE QUINCES. THE RAZOR SHARP MINERALITY ON THE PALATE HIGHLIGHTS AN UNHURRIED AROMATIC CAROUSEL OF THE KIND THAT ONLY GREAT WINES POSSESS.

BATTENFELDSPANIER



AM SCHWARZEN HERRGOTT
RIESLING 2016

Kirchenstück

150 M OF ELEVATION, 15% GRADIENT

OUR FLAGSHIP IS THE KIRCHENSTÜCK VINEYARD IN HOHEN-SÜLZEN. FIRST MENTIONED IN OFFICIAL

DOCUMENTS AS FAR BACK AS THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR, ITS ORIGINAL NAME WAS 'GRIEBELSTEIN', WHICH ROUGHLY TRANSLATES TO „GROUND STONE.“ AND INDEED, THE TOPSOIL OF THE KIRCHENSTÜCK IS COMPRISED OF SOFT, CALCAREOUS STONES THAT CAN BE CRUSHED BETWEEN THE FINGERS. THIS HINTS AT THE KIRCHENSTÜCK'S SECRET: ITS GRAPES HAVE AN EXCELLENT SUPPLY OF NUTRIENTS, DESPITE THE BARREN LIMESTONE BEDROCK ON WHICH THE VINES GROW.

RIESLING FROM THE KIRCHENSTÜCK CARESSES THE MOUTH WITH A DELICIOUS CREAMINESS AND ENCHANTS WITH ITS STUNNING AND DELICATE FRUIT.

THE SPÄTBURGUNDER FROM THE KIRCHENSTÜCK SHOWCASES COOL HERBAL NOTES, WITH JUICINESS AND A SUBTLE BARREL INFLUENCE CARVING OUT DARK DEPTHS TO ROUND OUT THE COOL AROMATIC SPECTRUM.



SPANIER BATTENFELD



GRÜNER Veltliner
VDP GROSSE LAGE

BATTENFELDSPANIER



KIRCHENSTÜCK
SPÄTBURGUNDER 2015



VDP-ERSTERGÜTE
2018
BIO KREUZNACH - NAHE

ZELLERTAL
KREUZBERG
17

BattenfeldSpanier



A man and a woman are sitting at a rustic wooden table. The woman, on the left, is wearing a black turtleneck and has short blonde hair. The man, on the right, is wearing a green leather jacket over a white shirt. They are both looking towards the camera. The background is a dark, textured wall with some faint, light-colored marks. The word "TOGETHER" is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the image. To the right of the word, there are two gender symbols: a female symbol (♀) and a male symbol (♂), both in white.

TOGETHER ♀♂