



SCHLOSS



Experience in cultivating 15 fungus-resistant grape varieties on a 35 ha-vineyard in northern Germany

Wine estate Schloß Rattey

- oldest and largest winery in Northern Germany -

A quarter of a century ago, the renaissance of viticulture in northern Germany started in Rattey, a small village in east Mecklenburg. After a couple of years of insecurity and confusion in 2004 Mecklenburger Landwein was legally recognized by the German Federal Council.

Until 2019, the winery had a total vineyard area of 4.75 hectares in the village of Rattey.

With the change of ownership in 2019, more than 30 hectares of new vineyards were planted. Today, a team of oenologists, winemakers, and viticultural technicians manages the estate. Within just three years, a modern winery was built with underground barrel storage, a bottle fermentation cellar, a dealcoholization facility, and a distillery. A new hotel building was also constructed directly at the vineyard.

Grapes are pressed, cleared and fermented in the new cellar. A part of the wine ages in an 100.000 l barrel cellar. In addition to Mecklenburger Landwein, the winery also produces sparkling wine, traditionally bottle-fermented Sekt, verjus, fortified wine, base wine for vinegar, and grape juice.

A own dealcoholisation plant with aroma recovery is used for non-alcoholic wine and sparkling wine. In addition to the old sites in the middle of the village, the 10-hectare Voigtsberg in the east and the 20-hectare Windmühlenberg in the northern direction are also cultivated.

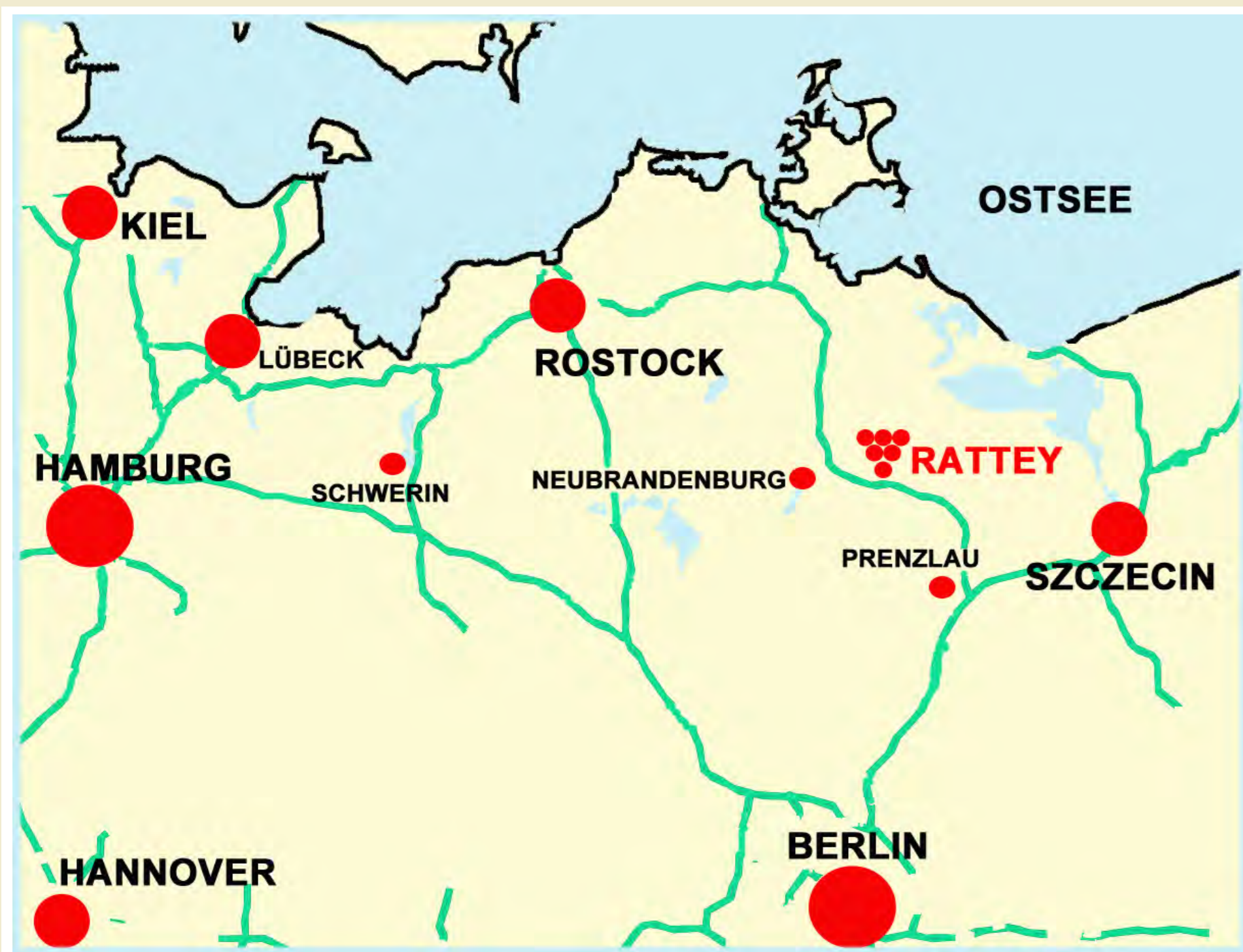


In 2012, when VITINORD took place in Neubrandenburg and Szczecin (Northern Germany and Poland), Schloß Rattey was one of the hosts.

In addition to Mecklenburger Landwein, the estate also produces spirits. A grappa-style spirit is distilled from red wine pomace using a copper pot still with aroma basket.

The "Stokeree Alte Eiche" brandy is made from specially selected base wines and matures for at least 36 months in small wooden barrels.

In recent years, Schloss Rattey wines have earned more than 60 medals at national and international competitions. The prestigious international Falstaff Magazine awarded the winery a second star after just three years of participation in the Wine Guide Germany.



Wine Estate Schloß Rattey	
winegrowing region	Stargarder Land
Position	53°34'44.3"N 13°37'43.7"E
soil profile	plain or south to southwest slope orientation
soil	sandy soil with loam layers
annual average temperature	~ 9 °C
annual sunshine hours	1.700 - 1.800
annual precipitation	600 - 700 mm
main wind direction	northwest
total winegrowing area	35 ha
# vines	175.000
# varieties	16
raw distance	2 m
vine distance in row	1 m
#1 Training of old vines	wire bound with two arched canes
#1 Training of younger vines	one arched cane and one renewal spur
#2 Training of vines (testing)	wire bound cordong pruning
late frost protection	fog dragon frost protection candles
protection	hail protection nets in all rows
irrigation	no
Harvester	Braud
pre-pruner	Binger
finger hoe and finger roller	Clemens
over-the-row trimmer	ERO double-sided
over-the-row sprayer	Wanner double sided

Climat and soil

The climat of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern ist affected from the marine influence in the coastal area of the baltic sea to continental temperate climat in the south-eastern region.

The precipitation tendenca is diminished from coast to the inland. The north-east coastal region has the highest number of sunny days throughout Germany. Ample rainfall and above-average sunshine define the climate in the sheltered zone between the Brohm and Helpt hills. Late flowering shortens the growing season and influences quality.

The region is characterised by its hilly landscape with elevations ranging from 50 to 180 metres above sea level. The profile which was formed during the Ice Age, features many glacial mills (dead ice holes). This indicates layers of clay in the soil that store rainwater even during prolonged periods of drought, eliminating the need for artificial irrigation.



Hail-protection nets

Advantages:

1. No necessity to tying the new canes (shoots) to the trellis wire in spring
2. Hail Protection
3. Bird protection
4. Insect protection
5. protection against sunburn on berries
6. Easy handling

Disadvantages:

1. High costs
2. Higher risk of fungal diseases in damp conditions (fog, dew) during ripening due to poorer ventilation
3. Before harvesting, the nets must be manually raised by cranks.



Experience in cultivating 15 PIWI grape varieties in Stargarder Land

#	Name	Peronospora	Oidium	Botrytis	Reproducibility after late frost	Sprouting	Blossom	Maturation
White varieties								
1	Blütenmuskateller	++++	+++	++	+-	m	m	
2	Donauriesling	++++	+++	++	+-		m	
3	Donauveltliner	++++	+++	++	+-	m	m	m
4	Helios	++++	+++	++	++	m	m	m
5	Hibernal	+-	++	+++	+-	m	m	
6	Johanniter	++++	++	+-	+-	m	m	
7	Muscaris	++++	++	++	+-	e	e	m
8	Phoenix	++++	++	+-	+++	m	m	m
9	Riesling	++++	++	++	+-	m	m	
10	Solaris	++	++	+-	+-	e	e	e
11	Souvignier gris	++++	+++	+++	++	e	e	
Red varieties								
12	Cabernet cantor	++++	+++	+++	++	m	e	m
13	Cabernet cortis	+++	++	+++	+++	m	m	m
14	Monarch	++++	++	++	++	m	m	e
15	Regent	++++	+++	++	+++	m	m	m
16	Rondo	+++	++	+++	+-	e	e	e

Resistance	Time
very high	early
high	middle
middle	late
low to middle	
low	
very low	



Challenges and solutions

The biggest challenges for winegrowing in our northern latitudes and their solutions are:

1. Severe, prolonged winter frosts
2. Late spring and early winter, resulting in a short growing season
3. Risk of late frost in spring is increasing in all German wine-growing regions
4. Precipitation-rich and rainy weather in autumn leads to an increased risk of fungal diseases.

1. Planting winter-hardy grape varieties (not well researched)
2. Selecting grape varieties with a short growing season (Solari, Rondo)
3. Cultivating varieties with good regenerative capacity after frost damage
Use of frost protection measures
4. Use of PIWI grape varieties and good ventilation of the grape zone

