

5. Red (with CG)

Colin Mair

**Wine:** Pfaltz Spatburgunder Trocken , Hahnen

**Producer:** Weingut Rings, Freinsheim

**Year:** 2005

**%:** 13.5

**Cepage:** Spatburgunder

**Price & Availability in the UK:** n/a UK, bought at €7.5/£5.36

### **Tasting Notes:**

Weingut Rings is a family business, and in the last three or four years their principal winemaker has been the son of the family, Steffen. He is very keen on the concept of Terrior, and is exploring their vineyards to ensure that the optimum varieties are placed to give their best. He has travelled to New World wineries to learn more about winemaking, and clearly has red wine production sussed. He started a new planting of Syrah, with the first vintage 2004.

Weingut Rings is in the village of Freinsheim, north of Landau, south of Worms. The vineyards are an extension northwards of Alsace, and form the gently sloping west bank of the Rhein. They have four guest rooms, which make a very comfortable visit (double room with breakfast €75).

They make white wines, from Riesling, Wiessburgunder, Grauburgunder, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. They are good, but undistinguished.

They make red wine from Dornfelder, Spätburgunder, Sankt Laurent, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. They are all remarkable, with great extract.

The Spätburgunder from the Hahnen vineyard has a typical Pinot Noir nose, if rather rich, and a style more reminiscent of a good New World variety than a Burgundy; it is certainly a complete contrast with PN from Alsace. I bought it at €7.50, which was £5.36,

The 2004 Syrah is perhaps the best Syrah I have tasted, and is priced accordingly (€17). The other big-flavour reds (SL, M, CS) are wonderfully rich and priced between €8 and €9. although at today's exchange rate this would be £5.64. On the label it says PFALZ 2005 Spätburgunder Trocken im Holzfass gereift Qualitätswein.

Try [www.weingutrings.de](http://www.weingutrings.de)