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Decanter

Chile & Argentina

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Florence for wine lovers

Alsace's grands crus

Loire reds 2009

White Burgundy's ageing problem




★★★★★

RIESLING GRAND CRU KITTERLE

2005

Kitterlé (25.8ha)

This vineyard in Guebwiller rises from 270m to 420m and most of it faces due south. It has a very complex geological basis because it is in the main Vosges fault area and incorporates carboniferous volcanic sandstones as well as clay, quartz and micas. It has incredibly steep terraces, known locally by the workers in the vineyard as *brise-mollets* (calf muscle-breakers). The Riesling has great finesse and fruit, while the Gewurztraminer and Pinot Gris show royal opulence and autumnal fruit aromas.

Photographs: Mick Rock/Cephas; Pierre Mosca/Cephas

One to try:
Domaine Schlumberger, Riesling, Kitterlé 2005 ★★★★★ 18
 £26 Everywine, Henderson Wines, Maisons Marques & Domaines, Moke Fine Wines, Portland Wines, The Wine Society

The Schlumberger family domaine is the largest in Alsace (130ha) and Kitterlé is the finest vineyard in the estate. This wine has a slightly volcanic, smoky nose and a soft, creamy texture. **Drink:** 2011–2020. **A/c:** 12%

