

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## **Issue No 34 - April 2017**

### **Mosel Fine Wines**

The aim of Mosel Fine Wines is to provide a comprehensive and independent review of Riesling wines produced in the Mosel, Saar and Ruwer region, and regularly offer a wider perspective on the wines produced in other parts of Germany.

Mosel Fine Wines appears on a regular basis and covers:

- Reports on the current vintage (including the annual Auctions held in Trier).
- Updates on how the wines mature.
- Perspectives on specific topics such as vineyards, Estates, vintages, etc.

All wines reviewed in the Mosel Fine Wines issues are exclusively tasted by us (at the Estates, trade shows or private tastings) under our sole responsibility.

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### **Contact Information**

For questions or comments, please contact us at: info@moselfinewines.com.

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### **Understand Our Tasting Notes**

The core of Mosel Fine Wines is to publish independent tasting notes. The particularity of Mosel and German Riesling made us adopt a specific structure in order to capture all the information needed for wine lovers to make informed choices based on our tasting notes which we explain below.



This wine immediately stands out as the airy precision of its elegant nose of white peach, a hint of cassis, herbs and spices is simply mind-boggling. The wine then delivers a gorgeous array of orchard and delicately exotic fruits on the zesty palate and leaves one with an explosion of minerals and herbs in a hauntingly deep and elegant finish. This is an epic effort on par with the best at this Estate. 2025-2055

- 1. NOMENCLATURE: For simplicity, consistency and clarity, we rely on the following to define a wine:
- We stick to the traditional "Village + Vineyard" denomination even for wines from VDP classified vineyards (where only the vineyard name appears on the consumer side of the label).
- No Prädikat in the name means that the wine was bottled as QbA.
- GG stands for "Grosses Gewächs" and EG for "Erstes Gewächs".

You can find more information on how to decipher German wine labels in the article "Deciphering the modern German wine label" in this Issue.

- **2. AP NUMBER:** The AP Number is the unique number associated with any lot of German quality wine. We systematically provide this information (actually the last 4-5 "meaningful" digits of the AP) as wine growers sometimes differentiate between wines only through this AP Number. You can learn more about AP numbers <a href="here">here</a>.
- 3. AUCTION: We add the mention "Auction" for wines sold via the annual Auctions held in September as they are different from the ones sold via traditional channels. You can learn more about the annual Trier wine Auctions and these particularly fine expressions of Riesling here.
- **4. DRINKING WINDOW**: Mosel Riesling has a long development cycle and can be enjoyable for 20 years and more. Like other great wines from this world, Mosel Riesling usually goes through a muted phase before reaching maturity. At the end of each tasting note, we therefore provide a drinking window, which refers to our estimation of the maturity period for the wine. This maturity period is based on the following principles:
- It consists of the "fruit" and "terroir" phases as defined in our review of Maturing Mosel.
- It does not explicitly mention the additional drinking window for fruity-styled wines which typically lasts for 1-3 years after the vintage.

You can find more about the different maturing phases of Mosel Riesling here.

- **<u>5. Score</u>**: The use of scores to evaluate wines has advantages (clearly communicating a perspective) and disadvantages (over-simplifying such a complex matter as wine). We believe the advantages prevail as long as <u>a rating is put into the perspective of a tasting note</u>. Here our principles:
- Scale: We rely on a 100-point scale with the following overall principles:

95-100	<u>Classic</u> : A true classic that sets the standards for its style and terroir. Only few wines make it into this "super-class" of Riesling and no stone should be left unturned to find them.
90-94	Outstanding: Stands out as distinctive example of its style and terroir. It will offer immense pleasure and should be actively looked out for.
85-89	Good to very good: Is a good to very good wine with special qualities. It will be delicious and is worthy of any cellar, especially if the price is right.
80-84	Solid to good: Is technically correctly made and will be enjoyable in its simple solid way. Price is the key driver for the decision to buy.
Below 80	Not worth it: Does not show any distinction and may even have some flaws. Given the currently still quite reasonable price level for Mosel Riesling, there is no reason to bother.

- Assessment: We evaluate <u>complexity</u>, <u>balance and elegance</u> ("more is not better") as well as <u>respect of terroir and style</u> (a great Kabinett will get a higher score than an average Spätlese). If the actual style does not match that on the label (say a Spätlese bottled as Kabinett), we will review the wine according to its intrinsic style (in the example as "the Spätlese it is") and add a remark about its true style in the tasting note.
- Timing: Our ratings for young wines refer to the expected quality of the wine at maturity (i.e. during its drinking window) and not at moment of tasting.
- Firm Scores vs. Score Ranges: Bottled wines get firm scores. Score ranges indicate tasting notes based on cask samples.

The principles above cover the basics. We remain at your disposal under info@moselfinewines.com should there be a question.



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## **Background Articles**

Each country has its own specificities regarding naming, labelling, style, etc. This is no different in Germany. In this country also, there are specific subjects such as vineyard classification, AP numbers, etc. which any lover of German Riesling needs to understand to get the most of their wines and our reviews. We regularly publish articles on topics which may help readers get a first grasp at or deepen their knowledge in a particular aspect of German wine or winemaking. As these articles have appeared in different Issues and / or on our website since 2008, we insert here a comprehensive list of background articles published to date with the topic and where it can be found:

Theme	Topic	Issue	Website
Wines	Deciphering the Modern German Wine Label	Issue No 34 (Apr 2017)	-
Region	Mosel Visiting Guide	Mosel Visiting Guide 2017	-
Estates	Bert Selbach   40 Years at the Service of Riesling	Issue No 33 (Jan 2017)	-
Winemaking	Karl Erbes   Precursor of the Flying Winemaker	Issue No 33 (Jan 2017)	-
Estates	The Merkelbach Brothers   Living Legends celebrating their 65th vintage	Issue No 33 (Jan 2017)	-
Estates	State Estates in Trier, Ockfen and Serrig   Historic Estates Given a New Life	Issue No 33 (Jan 2017)	Avelsbach Estate Serrig Estate
Region	German Wine   A Look at a Century Ago	Issue No 33 (Jan 2017)	-
Region	Grosser Ring   The Mosel Branch of the VDP	-	Click Here
Wines	Let's Talk About Sekt – The Sparkling Joy of Riesling	Issue No 30 (Mar 2016)	Click Here
Vineyards	Vineyard Revivals - Lambertskirch by Peter Lauer - Neumagener Sonnenuhr is back - Trabener Zollturm, revival of a forgotten glory	Issue No 29 (Oct 2015)	<u>Click Here</u> <u>Click Here</u> <u>Click Here</u> <u>Click Here</u>
Wines	Winemaking in the Age of Climate Change	Issue No 28 (Jun 2015)	Click Here
Vineyards	Geisberg - The Revival of a Forgotten Saar Glory	Issue No 28 (Jun 2015)	Click Here
Wines	Maturing Mosel and drinking windows	Issue No 27 (Mar 2015)	Click Here
Wines	AP Number	Issue No 27 (Mar 2015)	Click Here
Wines	Eiswein	-	Click Here
Wines	Understanding German classification and associated labelling (Grosses Gewächs, Erstes Gewächs, Grosse Lage, Erste Lage, etc.)	Issue No 26 (Oct 2014)	
Wines	Dry Mosel Riesling	Issue No 14 (Jan 2011)	-
Vineyards	Erdener Prälat	Issue No 10 (Jan 2010)	Click Here
Estates	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Issue No 7 (May 2009)	-

Past issues are available to subscribers on simple request.



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## Latest Vintages: An Update on 2015 – 2008

Mosel Riesling does age beautifully well but it does go through different phases, including "closed" / "muted" phases (see Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 27 from March 2015 for a detailed explanation). The profile and timing depend on the vintage and are quite difficult to generalize. We therefore provide an annual update on how the different vintages from the last decade are developing based on our own experience over the past year.

2015	The 2015 vintage allowed growers to produce great wines in all stylistic directions but this required harnessing the underlying ripeness. As it was the case with the 2007s, many wines have gained weight as of late summer, which indicates that these are likely to close down soon. The incredible depth of fruit makes that the wines remain enjoyable, but without showing the full cut and finesse that will eventually show at maturity. We have an inkling that this great vintage will test our patience.
2014	The heterogeneity of the 2014 vintage carried directly over onto the aging process. Except for a few light dry wines, the top wines made from clean fruit have closed down, as one would expect from these wines which are a remake of those from the 1990s. The wines affected by gin, saffron and mushroom flavors still remain comparatively open and offer a not unattractive Scheurebe styled fruit opulence. If you have not done so yet, we would opt to drink up these lesser wines except for the odd bottle and bury the little treasures of the vintage deep into the cellar.
2013	The fruity-styled 2013 wines have closed down for good now, making the underlying acidity seemingly sharp and out of balance. The better dry wines have come out of their early armor of smoke and tannins but the acidity gives an austere and sharp side to the wines. Also the top botrytized wines now show signs of closing down, even if they may still prove quite enjoyable as the sweetness provides the right balance to the acidity. Overall, this is a vintage to lay down and wait for.
2012	The 2012 wines have put on some flesh and go through a "fattier" phase which is not unlike what the 2007 went through at the same period. However, the zestier acidity cuts through this "weight" and makes many of these wines still thoroughly enjoyable today. In particular, the fruity Kabinett and Spätlese as well as the off-dry and dry wines offer much pleasure. These wines will most probably never go through a hard close down phase but they are currently more expansive and bulky. Only time will allow the finesse and elegance of the wines to come through.
2011	While many fruity-styled 2011 wines are shut down and go through a quite difficult and muted phase now, some of the drier wines start to slowly reveal some of the potential that we expected with age. Their low acidity makes for great food companionship now. The fruity wines are still really best left alone. Their comparatively low acidity combined with the high maturity of their fruit make them feel rich, opulent and often bulky, and thus not really enjoyable now. We expect that these will need at least a decade to integrate their sweetness and gain in harmony.
2010	After a mellower period in 2012-2013, many 2010 wines have firmed up and developed a stronger smoky side. However, some continue to shine through fruit opulence, structure and a deliciously zesty but ripe acidity. This suits in particular the off-dry bottlings, which have more charm than the legally dry wines. In all wines, the initially crisp acidity has given way to a much softer form of zest, providing further evidence that these wines will turn out harmonious after all.
2009	Most 2009 wines are still very much closed down, which accentuates their round and soft side. While the fruity wines can still be quite enjoyable, the roundness gives them unnecessary weight at this stage. We would definitely recommend keeping your hands off any bottle in your cellar and possibly buying more wines from this vintage on the market as these are true gems in the making. The story is different for the dry wines. These are slowly coming out of their shelf and can prove utterly enjoyable.
2008	Against all odds, 2008 continues to remain quite enjoyable since bottling, with only few wines having firmly closed down. We continue to love the Kabinett and Spätlese from this vintage characterized by a fresh aromatic profile not unlike that of the great 1988 vintage. Also the finest dry and off-dry bottlings show much promise. The first wines seem to enter their fruity phase now and offer gorgeous vibrancy and complexity.



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### 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2007 – The Vintage at a Glance

#### The Growing Conditions

A good start in the year led to flowering a month ahead of long-term average but a poor summer pushed ripening out.

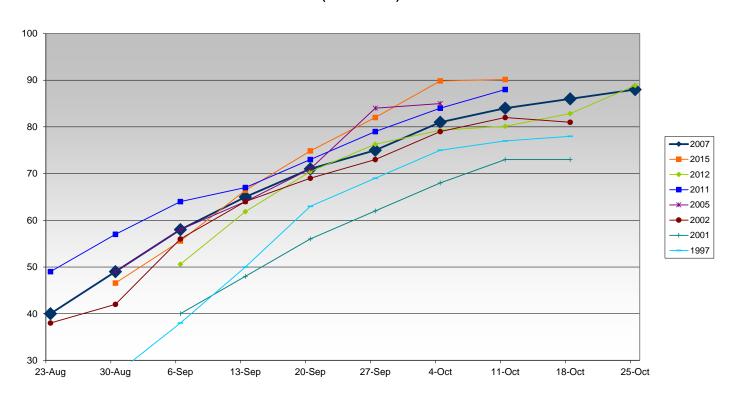
A mild winter and a very hot and extremely dry April led to an early bud break. This was followed by the earliest flowering in history, by the end of May, i.e. a full month ahead of long-term average! The Saar got unfortunately hit by hail in Wiltingen, which created some damage in particular around the Wiltinger braune Kupp and Wiltinger Kupp area. Everyone was getting ready for one of the earliest harvest ever as flowering was very early, yet the summer proved quite contrasted with an unusually warm June followed by a normal July, a colder August. September proved also rather cool and wet. As a result, there were far fewer days of sunshine as usual. By September, the "month ahead" had dwindled to just "two weeks ahead." The cooler weather also led growers to delay their harvest as grapes did not ripen physiologically as fast as the rise in sugar levels.

Harvest only happened in October, which meant that fruit had a record long hang time of up to 130 days (instead of the usual 100 days). The main harvest only started at the beginning of October, i.e. still quite early but very late when compared to the moment of flowering. Common wisdom says that Riesling ripens 100 days after flowering. The hang time in 2007 easily exceeded this by 20 if not 30 days! Fortunately, the weather turned for the better as October was dry and cool, so that the harvest itself eventually proved a relaxed affair. As Konstantin Weiser (Weingut Weiser-Künstler) remembered, "the weather was perfect, everything was super stable without any notable rain beyond the odd shower and we could harvest for 4 weeks, the longest ever at our tiny Estate." While most started their harvest by early October, some notorious late harvesters such as Joh. Jos. Prüm only started their main harvest in mid-October and only finished it by the end of November.

#### Some Eiswein. BA and TBA were harvested.

The morning fog and a little rain during harvest allowed for some botrytis to develop and the overall good harvest weather gave the growers the time to select it out. Some BA and TBA were made in 2007. In addition, 2007 allowed for some Eiswein, in mid-November but, above all, just before Christmas. However, many growers had waited for so long for their regular grapes that they did not take a chance with Eiswein. Those who did include Joh. Jos. Prüm, S.A. Prüm and Max Ferd. Richter.

## Evolution of Sugar Levels (° Oechsle) - 2007 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages (Bereich Trier)

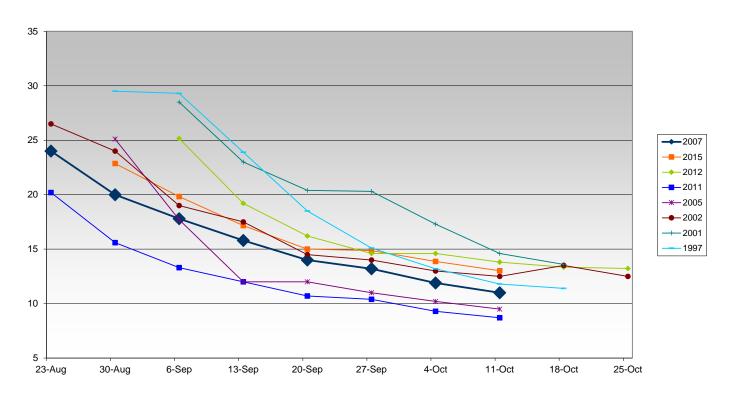




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## Evolution of Total Acidity Levels (g/l) - 2007 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages (Bereich Trier)



Source: German Ministry of Agriculture - Rheinland-Pfalz

### The Vintage Style

The intensity, purity and zesty ripeness of the wines got these wines superbly well received at first ...

The resulting wines were highly acclaimed when young as they had very high physiological ripeness (from the long hanging time), good inner intensity (from partial drying on the vine during autumn), great aromatic purity (from the perfect autumn) and still good acidity (from the overall coldness of the summer and the cool nights during harvest). Martin Müllen is particularly upbeat about his 2007 vintage: "The dry wines were a bit more powerful than usual but my fruity and sweet wines are some of my finest ever." Gorgeous scents of pear, yellow peach and toffee pepped up by good acidity made for comparisons to a "blend of 2002 and 2001 pepped up by the best of 2005." Other comparisons were with 1997 enhanced by some 2004 zest.

... but the intrinsic ripeness of the wines started to scare wine lovers off the vintage barely a year later.

However, as you can see from the graphs above, all the comparisons with former vintages really failed as the combination of ripeness with still good acidity was unheard off by that time. The riper side of the wines came through barely a year after harvest, leading critics and wine lovers to shift their guns and cast doubts on the greatness of the vintage. Erni Loosen also mentioned that "2007 was also well received even if, later on, It proved a bit riper than 2008."

In particular, the big and bold side of the dry and off-dry wines got critics and wine lovers worried alike.

The dry wines were remarkably concentrated when young and this added to their immediate pleasure, but also the ripe (and hence alcoholic) side of these wines came through after a year or two, making wine lovers worry about the intrinsic weight of the wines and their ability to age gracefully.

What hit the vintage most though was no fault of the vintage itself, but the economic crisis of 2008.

The vintage hit the US market, as usual, after the summer 2008, just in time for the bank and subprime crisis which was to engulf the world. Orders were cancelled and the world held its breath to see if the banking system would survive. By the time the worst of the crisis was over, the 2008 vintage was hitting the market and the 2007 vintage got somewhat forgotten, stuck between the superb 2005-2006 duo for sweet wines and the crisp and zesty 2008 which appealed more to lovers of focus.



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### 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2007 Fruity / Sweet Wines Today - Ripe Riesling Purity



2007 has developed into a higher-toned version of the great 1953, with ripe purity nicely lifted up by zesty elements.

We admit to have been more than positively surprised at how well the finest 2007 fruity and sweet Riesling have developed. The early signs after bottling that the wines are going to develop into broad and heavy wines have fortunately not materialized. Of course, there are some such wines. But the high quality of vintage highlights underlines the greatness of the vintage. Although it is very hard to pinpoint a vintage style, the better wines share a core of juicy to creamy pear, almond cream, pineapple and sometimes apricot, yet a good streak of zesty acidity (often underlined by mint, lime or grapefruit) cuts through the richness. There is little to no botrytis presence in the wines despite the high level of ripeness, so that the wines do not show the exotic exuberance and viscosity so common in the 2006s and 2005s. What all wines have in abundance is aromatic purity. Having looked at our records on historical vintages, 2007 looks very much like a modern and hence higher-toned rendition of the great 1953 vintage, one of the finest vintages of the Mosel after World War II. Lastly, the common saying "Saar fares better in riper vintage" did not really materialize in 2007. If anything, the Middle Mosel proved particularly successful in this vintage.

Many of the sweet wines in 2007 are hugely impressive ... but absolutely not yet ready!

If we had to mention a sweet spot, it would have to be the sweet wines, and in particular the "Auslese GK" and "Auslese lange GK" renditions of Mosel Riesling. The ripeness of the vintage, the lack of botrytis and the good weather during harvest (giving growers the time for making the right selections) all played into the hands of clean "Auslese GK" and "Auslese lange GK" wines. In particular, Geltz-Zilliken, Fritz Haag, Heymann-Löwenstein, Schloss Lieser, Dr. Loosen, Martin Müllen, Egon Müller and Joh. Jos. Prüm produced some stunners in this stylistic direction. Usual suspects for BA / TBA excellence, including Dr. Hermann, Schloss Lieser and Vollenweider are joined by the Bernkasteler Ring members, Philipps-Eckstein and Andreas Schmitges, which respectively produced a cracking TBA and BA. However, many of these wines are still heavily under the impact of their sweetness, which makes some come over as surprisingly simple at the time. Of course, the look at the tasting note will tell you all, but, as a rule of thumb, nobody would go wrong by aging these beauties for another decade before cracking any bottle in earnest. As the wines have a very high level of tartaric acidity in addition of the high level of residual sugar, these will evolve smoothly over the next decades.

If you think 2007 is only big and ripe, think again: The vintage yielded gorgeously pure and playful fruity-styled wines ... even if no real Kabinett. The basic DNA of the vintage is one of ripeness from the long hang time. This has as side effect that all wines are usually higher toned than usual, with Kabinett being effectively Spätlese or even Auslese in structure and Spätlese usually of Auslese if not of Auslese GK presence. It is therefore fair to say that if light Kabinett is your only reason for German Riesling, 2007 is not a vintage for you. However, if you would conclude that 2007 is too ripe for being interesting, then we would beg to reconsider. Some Estate produced eminently juicy and playful wines which would put a smile on the face of every lover of elegance and freshness. This concerns, above all, the Spätlese by Fritz Haag and von Hövel, the Spätlese and Auslese by Joh. Jos. Prüm and Max Ferd. Richter, the Spätlese by Martin Müllen and the Kabinett and Spätlese by Vollenweider and Weiser-Künstler. These wines can offer tremendous fun!

The good news: Quite some 2007s are still commercially available at Estates, courtesy of the 2008 economic crisis.

We keep the best part of this 2007 report for last: Many 2007 fruity and sweet Riesling are still available at the Estates. This is not because these wines are so bad, as some of the finest wines of the vintage can still be bought! 2007 had the bad fortune to hit the market when the economy collapsed after the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy in September 2008, leaving German Estates with many unsold bottles from that vintage. You will find more than 30 recommended wines still commercially available at the Estate from the 2007 at the end of this Issue!

A lookback to finish: Those who followed our advice back in 2008 have some crackers in their cellar!

We started Mosel Fine Wines in October 2008 so too late for a full review of 2007 (our first detailed vintage review was 2008 in 2009) but not too late for recommending some as "wine of the month" on our website. We put our money where our mouth is and had hence the chance to re-taste all these wines. They all confirmed (sometimes even exceeded) our early high hopes and those who had the good idea to trust the palate of the then "new kid on the block" have some crackers maturing in their cellars. In addition, the 2007 auction wines we had the chance to re-taste actually often exceeded our high expectations we had set on them in our Auction Report 2008. Alas, none of these recommended wines is still commercially available.



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## 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2007 Fruity / Sweet Vintage Highlights

#### 2007 Vintage Highlights - Sweet and Noble Sweet Wines \*

2007er	Dr. Hermann	Erdener Prälat Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese GK	22 08		98
2007er	Schloss Lieser	Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	15 09		98
2007er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese	11 08		98
2007er	Philipps-Eckstein	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	31 08	Auction	98
2007er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese #14		Auction	97
2007er	Heymann-Löwenstein	Winninger Uhlen R Riesling Auslese lange GK	08 08	Auction	97
2007er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	12 08		97
2007er	Dr. Hermann	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese GK	21 08		96+
2007er	Keller	Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen Riesling Auslese GK Abts E®.de	36 08	Auction	96+
2007er	Vollenweider	Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Beerenauslese	09 08		96+
2007er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK #13		Auction	96
2007er	Martin Müllen	Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Auslese	08 08		96
2007er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	26 08	Auction	96
2007er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese	12 08	Auction	95+
2007er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	25 08	Auction	95+
2007er	Andreas Schmitges	Erdener Prälat Riesling Beerenauslese	18 08	Auction	95+
2007er	Vollenweider	Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Auslese lange GK	08 08		95+
2007er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese GK	02 08	Auction	95
2007er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	12 08		95
2007er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese lange GK	13 08		95
2007er	Loersch-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Beerenauslese	01 08		95
2007er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese GK	52 08		95
2007er	Dr. Hermann	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese lange GK	16 08		94+
2007er	Schloss Lieser	Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Auslese lange GK	11 08		94+

<sup>\*</sup> Mainly Auslese GK and upwards but we also add those Spätlese or Auslese which are Auslese GK in all but name.



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### 2007 Vintage Highlights - Fruity Wines \*\*

2007er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Auslese	14 08		95
2007er	Max Ferd. Richter	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese	20 08		95
2007er	Dönnhoff	Norheimer Dellchen Riesling Spätlese	20 08	Auction	94
2007er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	07 08		94
2007er	Martin Müllen	Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese ** Deare	12 08		94
2007er	Martin Müllen	Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Spätlese	09 08		94
2007er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese	32 08		94
2007er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	18 08	Auction	94
2007er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Kabinett	80 80		94
2007er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Spätlese	05 08		94
2007er	von Hövel	Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Spätlese	07 08		93
2007er	von Hövel	Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese	02 08		93
2007er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	80 80		93
2007er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese	49 08		93
2007er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese	35 08		93
2007er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese	42 08		93
2007er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	22 08		93
2007er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	34 08		93
2007er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	15 08		93
2007er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	05 08		93
2007er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Kabinett	80 80		93
2007er	Vollenweider	Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese	02 08		93
2007er	Vollenweider	Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese Portz	05 08		93
2007er	Vollenweider	Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese Reiler	06 08		93
2007er	Robert Weil	Kiedricher Gräfenberg Riesling Spätlese	14 08		92+

<sup>\*\*</sup> Mainly Kabinett and Spätlese but also Auslese if they are particularly light and elegant in style.



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### 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2007 Dry / Off-Dry Riesling — Smooth Presence



Overall, the 2007 dry / off-dry Riesling are driven by ripeness underpinned by some zest and a tad more presence than usual. The long hang time led to dry and off-dry wines which share an underlying feel of ripeness as well as rich aromatic profile driven by pear, sometimes melon and quite a lot of spices. The wines also prove slightly bigger than usual and, despite some nice acidity, their overall structure is one of assertive presence. In this ripe vintage, the cooler Mosel fared comparatively well, even if the underlying feeling of ripeness also comes through. This vintage is rather ideal if you like a bit of flesh and power on your Riesling. If you like your dry / off-dry Riesling to be focused and ethereally light, then 2007 is definitely not for you.

At the top, the vintage proves far better than its reputation: The finest wines are in fact stunning and really worth digging out.

Our huge horizontal tastings of some of the finest wines from the vintage made the classic names emerge on top, namely: Georg Breuer, Keller, Koehler-Ruprecht and Trimbach. These possibly most iconic names in the world of dry Riesling all produced the finest dry Riesling in 2007. These wines manage to completely defy the ripeness of the vintage and retain finesse, play and a sense of freshness. At this level, the best wines are a slightly riper and zestier remake of the great 2002 vintage and are on track to become legendary.

Many of the top wines are not yet fully ready and opening well in advance should be the default option.

All dry and off-dry Riesling from 2007 that we tasted gained in precision and presence over several days. While it may sometimes prove cumbersome, 2007 is one of these vintages where opening well in advance is almost a must for being able to enjoy the wines. But then, the 2007 Riesling should offer you, if not overly alcoholic, great pleasure!

The body and zest of the best 2007 dry / off-dry Riesling make them ideal companions for richer dishes.

The additional presence and the nice zesty side of the best 2007 dry Riesling gives these wines the body for pairing ideally with richer food including fish with a creamy sauce, spicy chicken, (grilled) veal with mushrooms (the same is true for off-dry Riesling and more Asian cuisine with coconut-based creaminess). These wines will do the trick at least as well as medium to full-bodied Chardonnay or Pinot Gris and, if you prefer your wine to be un-oaked and show a touch of acidity, then the best 2007 dry and off-dry Riesling are the better option at the high table. We encourage you to try this out for yourself, you will be amazed!



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## 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2007 Dry / Off-Dry Vintage Highlights

#### 2007 Vintage Highlights – Dry / Off-Dry Wines

2007er	Keller	Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen Riesling Trocken Abts E®.de GG	51 08	96
2007er	Georg Breuer	Rauenthaler Nonnenberg Riesling	03 08	95
2007er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken R	56 08	95
2007er	Trimbach	Riesling Cuvée Frédéric Emile		95
2007er	Georg Breuer	Rüdesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling	01 08	94
2007er	Emrich-Schönleber	Monzinger Halenberg Riesling Trocken GG	12 08	94
2007er	Keller	Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG	52 08	94
2007er	Alzinger	Loibner Steinertal Riesling Smaragd		93+
2007er	Hugel	Riesling Jubilee		93
2007er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	53 08	93
2007er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Bockenauer Felseneck Riesling Trocken GG	31 08	93
2007er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese ** (White Capsule)	61 08	92+
2007er	Dönnhoff	Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Trocken GG	30 08	92
2007er	Keller	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken GG	54 08	92
2007er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Trocken	07 08	92
2007er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett Feinherb	42 08	92

NB: The 2007er Koehler-Ruprecht Auslese Trocken RR and 2007er Trimbach Clos Sainte Hune were unfortunately corked and hence not rated.



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### **10-Years-After Retrospective: 2007 – Tasting Notes ( Mosel )**

We had the opportunity to re-taste over 200 Mosel Riesling from the 2007 vintage over the last few weeks. Besides Mosel wines, we also included some tasting notes from other regions in Germany as additional reference points in a separate section.

A.J. Adam

**Bauer** 

Josef Bernard-Kieren

**Heribert Boch** 

Jos. Christoffel jr.

Dietmar Clüsserath-Hilt

**Bernhard Eifel** 

Karl Erbes

Dr. Fischer

Geltz-Zilliken

Fritz Haaq

Willi Haaq

Joh. Haart

Reinhold Haart

**Kurt Hain** 

Dr. Hermann Heymann-Löwenstein

Hoffmann-Simon

von Hövel

Jacoby-Mathy

Kees-Kieren

Le Gallais

Schloss Lieser

Loersch-Eifel

Dr. Loosen

Meulenhof

Merkelbach

**Markus Molitor** 

Martin Müllen

Egon Müller

von Othegraven

Philipps-Eckstein Joh. Jos. Prüm

S.A. Prüm

Familie Rauen

Max Ferd. Richter

Josef Rosch

Roth

Willi Schaefer

C. Schmitt-Wagner

**Andreas Schmitges** 

von Schubert - Maximin Grünhaus

Später-Veit

Marcus Stein Günther Steinmetz

Marcus Stein

A. Stoffel

St. Urbans-Hof

Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch

Vollenweider

Van Volxem Dr. F. Weins-Prüm

Weiser-Künstler

Werner

Neumagen-Dhron

Mülheim

Graach

Trittenheim

Ürzig

Trittenheim

Trittenheim

Ürzig

Ockfen

Saarburg

Brauneberg

Brauneberg

Piesport

Piesport

Piesport

Erden

Winningen

Piesport

Oberemmel .

Kinheim

Graach

Kanzem Lieser

Leiwen

Bernkastel-Kues

Erden

Ürzig Wehlen

Traben-Trarbach

Wiltingen

Kanzem

Graach Wehlen

Wehlen

Thörnich

Mülheim

Trittenheim

Erden

Graach

Longuich

Erden

Mertesdorf

Piesport

Kinheim

Brauneberg

Kinheim

Leiwen Leiwen

Bernkastel-Kues

Traben-Trarbach

Wiltingen Wehlen

Traben-Trarbach

Leiwen





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### **10-Years-After Retrospective: 2007 – Detailed Tasting Notes ( Mosel - 210 Wines )**



#### Weingut A.J. Adam

(Neumagen-Dhron - Middle Mosel)

2007er A.J. Adam Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Auslese 05 08 94

Already golden-bronze in color, this big Auslese offers a beautifully pure nose of candied grapefruit, greengage, mirabelle, date and honey. The wine develops the full unctuous oiliness of a BA on the palate as raisin, candied pear, honey, barbeque herbs, tea and fine spices make for a beautiful complex experience. The straightness, purity and elegance of the finish are admirable. This full-on dessert wine is a little treat. Now-2042

 2007er
 A.J. Adam
 Riesling Kabinett
 01 08
 92

The 2007er Riesling Kabinett is only made from grapes harvested in the Dhroner Hofberg. It starts off with gorgeously fresh scents of smoke, mint, grapefruit, anise and herbs. The wine then gains in presence and intensity as it develops in the glass and peach, orange and apricot join the party. The wine proves of Spätlese presence and is still on the sweet and fruity side on the palate. Yet, there is a most delicate touch of acidity coming through in the long and nice finish. This superb fruity-styled Riesling may be a bit rich by Kabinett standards but it does prove utterly delicious as a juicy Spätlese. Now-2037

2007er A.J. Adam Dhroner Hofberger Riesling Spätlese 04 08 91

This offers a refined nose of smoke, yellow peach, apple, pear, apricot and a touch of litchi before richer notes of toffee and candied exotic fruits emerge with airing. The wine is still on the sweet side on the palate as creamy and honeyed exotic fruits make for a soft, round and mouth-coating feel. The finish is smooth and driven by toffee and whipped cream. This Auslese in all but name is best left alone for at least five more years. 2022-2037

#### **Weinaut Bauer**

(Mülheim - Middle Mosel)

2007er Bauer Mülheimer Elisenberg Riesling Auslese 13 08 92

This Auslese made from heavily botrytized fruit harvested at a whopping 122° Oechsle delivers a quite intensely aromatic nose of candied grapefruit, honey, pineapple, litchi, toffee and orange enhanced by fresh scents of lime and mint. This superb wine remains comparatively light-weighted and juicy despite mouth-coating richness. Notes of grapefruit, candied orange, apricot and honey come through in the very long, creamy and sweet finish. This "lange GK"-styled Auslese is quite a superb dessert wine. Now-2037

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#### Weingut Josef Bernard-Kieren

(Graach - Middle Mosel)

2007er Josef Bernard-Kieren

Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese \*\*

16 08

90

This offers a delicately flowery bouquet made of ripe yellow peach, coconut cream, spices and herbs. The wine coats the palate with plenty of juicy yellow fruits wrapped into some gorgeous slightly toffee-infused cream. The finish proves smooth and very long. The wine is still youthful and sweet yet the finesse makes it already very enjoyable now. It should however offer much pleasure for at least two more decades. Now-2037

2007er Josef Bernard-Kieren

Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese \*\*\*

09 08

89

This rich, yellow-golden colored Spätlese starts off with quite some smoky notes of slate as well as licorice. It then gradually reveals creamy and ripe notes of pineapple, apricot, toffee and honey. These lead to a juicy and creamy feel more associated with that of an Auslese than a Spätlese on the palate. The finish is smooth, direct and long. This nicely made Auslese-styled Riesling should prove quite easy to drink for at least another decade. Now-2027

2007er Josef Bernard-Kieren

Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese \*\*\*\*

24 08

00

Quite golden in color, this develops a very nice and direct set of flavors blending pear, apple and grape juice with some caramel, honey, wet stone and smoke as well as a touch of volatile. The wine is juicy and honeyed on the palate (with some raisin and cinnamon making their appearance) yet this light BA in all but name remains light and easy to enjoy in a quite direct style. Now-2027

#### **Weinaut Heribert Boch**

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

2007er Heribert Boch

Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese Alte Reben

15 08

93

Comparatively shy at first, this Auslese only gradually develops a ripe and exotic bouquet made of caramel, honeyed canned peach, dried apricot, pineapple and candied grapefruit. A creamy and unctuous side comes through on the palate where notes of beeswax, honey and caramel add a round and supple side to this rich wine of almost BA intensity. The finish is smooth, delicate and very long. As the wine benefits from airing in the glass it significantly gains in presence and intensity on the palate without ever becoming overpowering. This is an outstanding expression of botrytized Auslese in the making! Now-2037

#### Weinaut Jos. Christoffel ir.

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2007er Jos. Christoffel jr.

Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese \*\*\*

09 08

93+

This offers still a rather reduced nose of caramel, honeyed fruits, apricot, quince, herbs and spices. The wine develops the rich and creamy yet nicely balanced side of a classy Auslese GK on the palate and finishes with a beautiful explosion of almond, ripe pear and fine spices. The aftertaste proves full of promises but is still quite under the impact of the noticeable residual sugar. This is therefore best left alone for a good decade in order to enjoy the wine at its full potential. 2027-2047

2007er Jos. Christoffel jr.

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese \*\*\*

80 80

92

This offers a gorgeous nose of pear, passion fruit, almond paste, melon and mirabelle. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate as clean and juicy scents of fruit lead to a long, delicately medium-bodied finish. More almond and marzipan as well as ripe fruits and some floral elements come through in the after-taste, bringing a nice touch of freshness to this intrinsically ripe but finely sizzled sweet Auslese. Now-2037

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2007er Jos. Christoffel jr.

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese

05 08

91

This offers a delicately spicy and smoky nose which only gradually reveals elderflower, coconut cream, vanilla and pear. The wine proves surprisingly forceful and a tad ripe on the palate driven by sweet quince, coconut and pineapple. This Auslese-styled fruity wine manages to bring everything in focus in the very long, zesty and smoky finish. This Spätlese is quite enjoyable in a slightly riper than usual style (by the standards of this Estate). Now-2032

#### Weingut Dietmar Clüsserath-Hilt

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

2007er Dietmar Clüsserath-Hilt

Mehringer Zellerberg Riesling Auslese \*

80 80

90

This light-colored Auslese delivers a delicate but somewhat ripe nose of flowers, yellow peach, whipped cream, candy floss, smoke and tar. The wine is very sweet on the palate yet it is also rather playful and elegant. The very long finish is spicy and driven by juicy yellow peach and grapefruit. This is a superb "drinking Auslese" with plenty of life ahead. Now-2032

#### **Weinaut Bernhard Eifel**

(Trittenheim - Middle Mosel)

2007er Bernhard Eifel

Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese

16 08

90

Baked apple, pineapple, honey, apricot and spices emerge from the glass before a touch of tar and smoke join them after some airing. The wine is still primary and delivers ripe and sweet fruits wrapped into honey on the palate. This is clearly a dessert wine with plenty of creamy viscosity. The finish has good presence and even a touch of power packed into some dried spices, baked apple and candied grapefruit. Now-2027

2007er Bernhard Eifel

Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Riesling Auslese

15 08

89

This rather backward wine only delivers some smoky scents with notes of tar and licorice at first. It is only gradually that ripe and fruity notes of baked apple, candied tangerine and pear join the bouquet. The wine is light on the palate with sweet and ripe fruits leading to a nicely long and round finish pepped up by a touch of citrusy acidity in the after-taste. This easy drinking Auslese will suit lovers of light dessert wines. Now-2032

2007er Bernhard Eifel

Schweicher Annaberg Riesling vom roten Schiefer Der Wurzelechte

06 08

88

This wine greets one with quite enticing notes of grapefruit, candied lime, herbs, smoke and almond. The wine is dynamic and zesty on the palate with a good and even intense structure. A touch of juicy fruits and almond cream emerges in the finish, giving the wine a pleasant and enticing side. A nicely spicy kick of acidity rounds off the after-taste of this direct and refreshing wine. Now-2022

2007er Bernhard Eifel

Trittenheimer Altärchen Riesling Spätlese Feinherb

10 08

88

Yellow-golden in color, this delivers rich and intense scents of spices, herbs, quince, mirabelle, smoke and licorice all wrapped into some coconut milk and toffee on the nose. The wine is creamy and smooth on the comparatively light-weighted palate yet it develops more presence and even a touch of heat (from the alcohol) in the finish. This nice even if bold off-dry Riesling needs some food to buffer off its after-taste. Now-2022

2007er Bernhard Eifel

Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Riesling vom blauen Schiefer Faszination

04 08

86

Yellow-golden in color, this dry-tasting Riesling exhibits a ripe nose of almond, butter cream, coconut milk and pineapple. The wine is still quite rich on the palate with juicy yellow and ripe fruits wrapped into a creamy and deliciously spicy structure. The finish is long and quite saturating, but the wine should pair well with Asian-styled dishes with coconut milk. Now-2027

2007er Bernhard Eifel

Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Spätlese Trocken

05 08

85

A whiff of citrus gives way to riper notes of pineapple, candied grapefruit, coconut, citronella and smoke with air. The wine is slightly round and supple on the palate. It develops a more forceful side in the powerful, intense and slightly phenolic finish driven by lime, herbs and ginger. This rather direct and intense expression of dry Riesling requires food to buffer off its intrinsic power. Drink up



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#### **Weingut Karl Erbes**

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2007er Karl Erbes

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese \*

80 80

92

This offers a gorgeous nose of cinnamon, greengage and fine spices. The wine proves rather ripe yet nicely juicy on the palate as more cinnamon, greengage and mirabelle come through. A hint of acidity wraps up the rich but beautifully complex flavors in the still rather sweet finish. This starts to reach its maturity window as it proves nicely engaging in a sweet yet juicy Auslese style, but can be waited for another few years if you prefer your Auslese less sweet. Now-2037

2007er Karl Erbes

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese \*\* GK

9 08

92

A whiff of volatile is joined by beautiful botrytis-driven scents of honey, mango, apricot, almond, date and smoky slate. The wine proves rich but also delineated on the palate as some acidity joins the party. One is left with beautifully pure scents of almond, apricot and canned yellow peach in the long and lingering after-taste. This gorgeous dessert wine only needs to be opened a little bit in advance to attenuate the initial touch of volatile acidity. Now-2047

2007er

Karl Erbes

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese

27 08

90

The Estate bottled its Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese under both cork and screw cap in 2007. The bottle under screw cap proves still rather reduced and really youthful as flint stone and wet stone drive the aromatics on the nose. The wine is rather direct and precise on the palate, with a hint of sweetness marking the finish. This lean and rather focused expression of Mosel Spätlese is enjoyable in a primary, precise and direct style, but it is still far away from any maturity plateau. 2027-2037+

2007er Karl Erbes

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese

27 08

90

The Estate bottled its Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese under both cork and screw cap in 2007. The bottle under cork delivers a rather lean and completely reduced but still playful aromatic profile driven by lemon, greengage and minty herbs on the nose and the palate. Firm acidity wraps the aromatics, giving the wine an almost modern Saar or Ruwer Kabinett like structure. The finish proves slightly green but very vibrant. This is far away from reaching its optimal drinking window but should by then prove a racy companion to food. 2022-2037

2007er Karl Erbes

Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese

28 08

89

This offers a lively nose of elderflower, almond paste and greengage. The wine proves rather juicy yet also slightly powerful on the palate, as exotic fruits and almond come through and give a ripe feel to the wine. This is however nicely balanced out by lemony acidity towards the finish. Now-2027

2007er Karl Erbes

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett

05 08

87

This offers a rather attractive even if quite ripe (at least by Kabinett standards) nose of pear, yellow peach, smoke and a hint of almond. Some CO2 livens up the medium-bodied and toffee-driven palate. The finish is slightly on the powerful side so that this very good effort is best served with food. Now-2027

#### Weingut Dr. Fischer

(Ockfen - Saar)

2007er Dr. Fischer

Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese

03 08

90

This offers a gorgeous nose of white peach, spicy herbs and smoky slate. The wine is elegantly light and juicy on the palate and leaves a clean and easy feel in the long finish. Now-2027

2007er Dr. Fischer

Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett

06 08

88

This offers an attractive even if somewhat direct nose of herbs and spices and a hint of orange peel and pear. The wine is easy and playful on the palate and leaves a satisfying elegant feel in the medium-long finish. This well-made Kabinett proves easy and straight. Now-2022



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2007er Dr. Fischer Riesling Steinbock 09 08 87

The Riesling Steinbock is made from fruit exclusively harvested in the Ockfener Bockstein. The 2007er version offers a gorgeously direct and satisfying nose of pear and peach. The wine is elegant and refined with grapefruit and herbs bringing a great enjoyable side on the palate. The finish is nicely made and long. This Estate Riesling should prove ideal with food now. Now-2022

#### Weinaut Geltz-Zilliken

(Saarburg - Saar)

2007er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese GK 02 08 Auction 95

This proves hugely attractive with great notes of pear, lime, mirabelle and herbs all immersed into almost TBA-styled raisin and date (no doubt from highly shriveled fruit). What lifts this wine apart is the gorgeously, dare we say unexpectedly, lively kick of acidity which brings an almost Eiswein character to the whole wine. The finish is all about vibrancy and tension. What a beautiful "BA Eiswein"! Now-2037

2007er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese 04 08 Auction 93+

This hay-colored wine delivers a beautiful even if still slightly broad and backward nose of candied grapefruit, pear, whipped cream, fine green herbs and a hint of smoke. The balance of this clean Auslese on the palate is however already stunning as beeswax and whipped cream frame a most vivid kick of grapefruit-infused acidity. The finish is full of tension with fresh fruity elements joined by a hint of apricot blossom and minerals wooing for attention. This "pick of the Auction" in our Auction Report 2008 is on track to deliver handsomely in a slightly rich but intensely zesty style. This could even exceed our high expectations if it gains further in aromatic precision. 2022-2037

2007er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese 05 08 Auction 91+

This hay-colored wine delivers an inviting nose of grapefruit confit, pear, apricot blossom and minty herbs. The wine has the creaminess of an Auslese on the palate and leaves a slightly expansive and tart feel in the long and surprisingly racy finish. This beautiful Auslese in all but name proves still too youthful but should develop into quite a cracker at maturity, especially if the tart side mellows away. 2022-2042

#### **Weingut Fritz Haag**

(Brauneberg - Middle Mosel)

2007er Fritz Haag Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese #14 *Auction* 97

This great wine more than delivered on the upside potential it exhibited at an early stage when we tasted it at the auction (see our Auction Report 2008). It delivers a most staggering and rich nose of mirabelle, a hint of grapefruit, fine spices, whipped cream and herbs. The wine has the presence of a rich Auslese on the silky and multi-layered palate and proves really too sweet at this stage for being fully enjoyable. But the fruit intensity and purity are just breathtakingly gorgeous. What a stunner of a wine in the making! 2022-2042

2007er Fritz Haag Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK #13 Auction 96

This auction Auslese GK is still in its infancy but is well on its way to become a cracker of a wine. It offers incredibly pure scents of raisin, date, pear and exotic fruits. These are wrapped into a superbly fresh feel of whipped cream and juicy acidity on the palate, which leaves a huge impression of fruits, almond and a hint of earthy spices in the long finish. This stylish version of a BA is simply to die for, even if one should ideally leave the wine alone for another decade as the sweetness is still driving the after-taste. 2027-2057

2007er Fritz Haag Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese 07 08 94

This offers a stunningly fresh nose where notes of smoke, grapefruit, vineyard peach and herbs are beautifully wrapped into some mint and sage. The superbly juicy wine delivers multi-layered complexity and depth with simply incredible purity and lightness for a 2007. There is still enough sweetness for this beauty to age effortlessly over at least two more decades. This amazing wine amply confirms our high early expectations (we featured this wine already as wine of the month back in 2008). Now-2037



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2007er Fritz Haag Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese 06 08 92

A whiff of smoky reduction gives way to rich notes of apricot, pineapple, orange, grapefruit and honey, all enhanced by a nice touch of mint in the background. The wine confirms this richness with ample and sweet honeyed fruits on the palate, giving this sweet wine quite a smoothness and suave side. The very long finish is all about peach and pear and a delicate touch of zest adds freshness to this Auslese GK styled Riesling which proves fully open for business. Now-2037

2007er Fritz Haag Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett 03 08 90+

This hay-colored wine still proves rather shy on the nose as wet stone and smoke still tower above some gorgeously zesty grapefruit, pear and passion fruit. The exotic fruit cocktail comes fully forward on the juicy and zesty palate. The wine develops the presence and the creaminess of a Spätlese in the finish. This is far from being ready as the wine still tends to close down after a few minutes in the glass. But the raw materials in this Spätlese Feinherb (the wine does boast 9.5% of alcohol) in all but name are superb! 2027-2042

#### Weingut Willi Haag

(Brauneberg - Middle Mosel)

2007er Willi Haag Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese 12 08 91

This wine greets one with superbly complex and refined notes of herbs, smoke, mint, yellow peach, apricot and flowers. Quite some yellow creamy flavors of peach, pineapple, almond, honey and a touch of beeswax emerge on the palate, giving the wine more the smooth delicacy of an Auslese than that of a Spätlese. Yet the after-taste has more grip thanks to a kick of grapefruit-driven acidity. This beautiful wine has only started to reach its maturity and should offer much pleasure for at least two more decades! Now-2037

2007er Willi Haag Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK 17 08 Auction 88

Quite deep-golden in color, this offers a direct and nice nose of cooked apple, lead pencil, honey and baked spices. The wine is quite thick and compact on the palate and develops a nice apple-driven side in the long finish. This dessert wine has not changed much since the VDP Auction in 2008. It is nice in a direct, rich and fruit-driven style but misses slightly the complexity and elegance of truly great auction Auslese. Now-2022

#### Weingut Joh. Haart

(Piesport - Middle Mosel)

2007er Joh. Haart Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese 12 08 89

A whiff of volatile enhances rich and ripe scents of apricot, mango, honey, almond cream and strawberry on the nose. The wine turns out to be of Auslese GK presence as supple and honeyed flavors of candy floss and brown sugar emerge on the palate. The finish is soft, easy and direct. This will please lovers of fruit-driven dessert wines. Now-2027

2007er Joh. Haart Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese 14 08 89

This is still reduced and marked by some sulfur at first before the wine gradually reveals a complex nose of apricot blossom, yellow peach, lead pencil and smoke. Juicy flavors of yellow peach, pineapple and apricot are well wrapped into zesty and ripe acidity on the palate and lead to a very long and fresh finish. This beautiful Auslese-styled Riesling ideally needs a few more years to fully blossom. 2022-2037

2007er Joh. Haart Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese 13 08 87

Yellow-golden in color, this offers a smoky and ripe nose of toffee, pineapple cream, apricot, candied grapefruit and smoke. The wine is quite spicy and zesty on the palate and comparatively light in structure and proves almost dry to the taste in the fresh and slightly tart finish (no wonder as the label indicates 12.5% of alcohol). Now-2022



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2007er Joh. Haart

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Kabinett Trocken

09 08

86

Flowery elements quickly give way to richer notes of ripe apple, raspberry, almond cream and licorice on the nose. Juicy and creamy fruits add to the presence on the palate. The wine remains however light-weighted even if there is a touch of power coming through in the long finish of this very nice dry Riesling with Spätlese presence. Now-2022

#### **Weinaut Reinhold Haart**

(Piesport - Middle Mosel)

2007er Reinhold Haart

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese

15 08

92

A superbly smoky and fresh nose greets one before offering notes of flowers, yellow peach, apricot and toffee. While still sweet and rich on the palate, the apricot-driven aromatics offer great purity and precision. The wine is delicately creamy and refined, and its juicy fruits are wrapped in a nicely playful acidity. This offers quite some complexity without being overpowering. This joyful Spätlese fully handsomely delivers on our early expectations (we had featured it as wine of the month in early 2009). Now-2032

2007er

Reinhold Haart

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Feinherb

06 08

91

This wine fermented to a moderate 16 g/l of residual sugar by Feinherb standards. It offers a rather elegant and rich nose of spices, candied grapefruit, coconut, pear and herbs. The wine is nicely playful on the palate and in the finish, where a nice multi-layered side comes through in this slightly more forceful expression of Goldtröpfchen than usual. Now-2032

2007er

Reinhold Haart

Piesporter Grafenberg Riesling Spätlese

12 08

91

This wine greets one with nicely ripe and aromatic nose driven by quince, pear, orange peel and vanilla as well as fresher scents of smoke and mint. The wine clearly shows the richness and presence of an Auslese on the palate, where sweet and ripe fruits are wrapped into cream and toffee. All this richness is however well framed by an animating acidity in the very long and structured finish. The after-taste shows quite some citrus and spices, making this Spätlese remarkably easy to drink. 2022-2037

2007er

Reinhold Haart

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Trocken GG

03 08

90

This offers an ample but refreshing nose of greengage, candied grapefruit, pineapple and smoky herbs on the nose. This proves medium-bodied on the palate with zesty acidity providing some structure to a deliciously tart side in the finish. This is a very nice wine made in a more direct style than usual. Now-2027

2007er

Reinhold Haart

Wintricher Ohligsberg Riesling Trocken GG

02 08

90

This offers an ample and inviting nose of candied grapefruit, almond cream, toffee, brown sugar, macerated pear and strong notes of earthy spices and herbs. The wine is delicately full-bodied on the palate and leaves a satisfying and very complex feel in the long and comparatively smooth finish. This is nicely made in a slightly more ostentatious style. Now-2027

#### Weinaut Kurt Hain

(Piesport - Middle Mosel)

2007er Kurt Hain

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Beerenauslese

30 08

89

A quite direct nose of smoke, nut paste, gingerbread, apple jelly and honey leads to a juicy, sweet and rich feel on the palate. Honey and nut paste emerge towards the finish, making this easy and nice BA seem rather mature and evolved. It should please lovers of lightly oxidative-styled BA tough. Now-2027



"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

#### Weingut Dr. Hermann

(Erden - Middle Mosel)

2007er Dr. Hermann

Erdener Prälat Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese GK

22 08

98

This big TBA harvested at over 240° Oechsle has evolved beautifully well over the recent years and now offers an admirably complex nose of apricot, almond, raisin, baked spices and licorice, which are all enhanced by a superb touch of lime peel. Despite huge oiliness and aromatic intensity, the wine proves remarkably subtle, multi-layered and precise as almond paste, date and nut bring depth to the palate. Only the candy-floss styled saturating sweetness in the finish still needs to integrate, which should happen within the next decade. This wine should then prove a stunning and baroque expression of TBA. 2027-2087

2007er Dr. Hermann

Erdener Treppchen Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese GK

21 08

96+

Harvested at 235° Oechsle, this golden-hay colored Mosel answer to Tokaji Eszencia delivers an absolutely huge nose of raisin, apricot puree, mango, papaya, marzipan, acacia honey and fine spices. The oiliness and concentration on the palate are almost painful as quince, saturating candy floss, nut paste and spices coat the palate with creamy and oily flavors. The finish is endless as complex scents packed into sweetness linger on for minutes in the after-taste. This is still pretty raw and almost impenetrable due to its huge level of sweetness. But what a stunning wine in the making for whoever has the honor of owning a bottle and the patience to wait for at least two more decades before enjoying it! The upside is huge here if the wine eventually sheds its big and saturating armor of sweetness. 2037-2107

2007er Dr. Hermann

Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese lange GK

16 08

94+

This offers a huge nose of quince cream, elderflower and vanilla lifted up by some elderflower and minty herbs. The full concentration of the wine immediately comes through on the BA-styled viscous and sweet feel on the palate. The sweetness proves still quite saturating and conveys a feeling of low acidity at the moment but the depth and elegance coming from some coconut and pineapple in the after-taste are simply remarkable. This huge wine still needs a solid decade to master its internal power but could then prove not only prove remarkable but also almost indestructible. What an impressive effort which only requires some patience to shine! 2027-2067+

2007er

Dr. Hermann

**Erdener Treppchen Riesling Eiswein** 

18 08

93

This Eiswein was harvested at 138° Oechsle on December 23. A whiff of volatile acidity gives way to a huge nose of candy floss, pear enhanced by a hint of orange peel, apricot and mango. The wine proves remarkably sweet and rich on the palate without the typical Eiswein-bite coming through at this stage, except at the very end of the after-taste. This gorgeous effort behaves like a juicy "Auslese lange GK" as it is driven by pineapple and coconut in the finish. As such, it is remarkable. Now-2037

2007er Dr. Hermann

Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese Herzlay

11 08

91

This offers a rather bold and delicately exotic nose of cinnamon, quince, greengage, canned pineapple and minty herbs on the nose. The wine proves rather sweet on the powerful side but the finish already shows the underlying potential of this wine. This only needs to mature for a few more years to develop into a textbook Auslese as they were made in the old days, i.e. with a little bit more presence (from slightly higher levels of alcohol, here 9%) and less residual sugar. 2022-2037

#### Weingut Heymann-Löwenstein

(Winningen - Terrassenmosel)

2007er Heymann-Löwenstein

Winninger Uhlen R Riesling Auslese lange GK

80 80

Auction

97

This little jewel of a wine delivers a stunningly airy nose of yellow peach, pineapple, orange zest, whipped cream and essence of almond. The tactile finesse and depth on the palate are simply staggering, as the wine seems to glide effortlessly into a finish made of freshness and purity. The inner balance and utter completeness is what makes this wine so fascinating. What a beautiful dessert wine! Now-2037

2007er

Heymann-Löwenstein

Winninger Uhlen R Riesling

01 09

91

This offers a nicely complex and aromatic nose of pineapple, almond, tangerine, cassis, grapefruit and peach. The wine proves creamy and fruity at first on the palate before a slightly fresher and more vibrant sweet-sour tension enhanced by lemon peel livens up the very long finish. The wine proves beautifully integrated and very easy to enjoy. Now-2022



"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

#### **Weingut Hoffmann-Simon**

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2007er Hoffmann-Simon

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese

13 08

91

This delivers a rather complex nose of candied grapefruit peel, apricot, pineapple, strawberry, beeswax and mint. Bright yellow and creamy fruits are nicely wrapped in some candied citrusy fruits on the rather intense and rich palate. The finish is nicely honeyed and juicy and the creamy side of an Auslese comes through in the after-taste. This is very nice to enjoy as a dessert wine. Now-2032

2007er F

Hoffmann-Simon

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese

15 08

90

Smoky elements quickly give way to ostentatious scents of caramel, grilled pineapple, cooked apple, baked spices and honey wrapped into a touch of volatile on the palate. The wine has great presence as it offers plenty of ripe and honeyed juicy fruits. It develops a creamy, comparatively soft and juicy side in the long finish. This big Auslese Lange GK styled dessert wines is still quite sweet but will particularly please lovers of expressive and rich dessert wines. Now-2027

#### Weinaut von Hövel

(Oberemmel - Saar)

2007er von Hövel

Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Auslese \*\* lange GK

15 08

Auction

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This wine proved already utterly impressive when tasted at the Auction almost a decade ago and the early signs of greatness are beautifully confirmed here. Magnificent scents of passion fruit sorbet, pear, mint and a hint of truffle give way to a beautifully vibrant and silky feel of fresher fruits mingling with apricot and whipped cream on the palate. The finish is lively, creamy and hugely playful. What a gorgeous success to sip and reflect or to drink heartily! Now-2037

2007er

von Hövel

Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese \*

12 08

94

This delivers a gorgeously airy and vibrant nose of candied grapefruit, lemon zest, minty herbs and smoky slate. The wine develops the presence of a refined Auslese as more citrusy fruits and some fine white flowers make for a great zesty and delicately creamy feel on the palate. Mouthwatering minerals and citrusy fruits come through in the long and superbly light-feathered finish. This textbook of an old-style zesty version of an Auslese GK is very hard to resist. Bravo! Now-2037

2007er

von Hövel

Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Spätlese

07 08

93

This yellow-colored wine develops an absolutely beautiful nose of grapefruit cream, white peach, passion fruit sorbet and slate. Gorgeous flavors of grapefruit and passion fruit wrapped into a hint of beeswax make for a great feel on the zesty and light-weighted palate. The finish is elegant and shows the telltale creamy yet mouthwatering airiness of a great old-style Spätlese. This wine fully confirms (and even slightly exceeds) the high hopes we had set on it early on (it was our first wine of the month when we started back in 2008). What a great light-feathered success in this rather ripe vintage! Now-2032

2007er

von Hövel

Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese

02 08

93

A whiff of reduction quickly gives way to gorgeously fresh scents of mint, white peach, apple, lime, herbs, smoke and fine spices. The wine is however rather rich, ripe and still comparatively sweet for a Spätlese on the palate. Yet all the fruity elements are gorgeously well wrapped into a spicy and zesty core, making this a great drinking Spätlese with incredible depth and purity. Lime and grapefruit give a great racy and fresh feel to the after-taste. This is quite a magnificent fruity-styled bottle of Scharzhofberger. Now-2032

2007er

von Hövel

Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese \*

11 08

Auction

92+

Harvested at a full 100° Oechsle from highly botrytized fruit, this auction Scharzhofberger Auslese \* develops a rather delicate and complex nose driven by candied grapefruit, lemon cream, white peach and some apricot blossom. The richness of the underlying fruit comes through on the palate where apricot blossom, almond and fine herbs make for a slightly direct but ripe feel. While the finish proves already nicely airy, the feel on the palate is still rather sweet and so this is best left alone for another few more years. This fine Auslese GK-styled wine could then even slightly exceed our early assessment at the Trier Auction in 2008. 2022-2037



"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2007er von Hövel Kanzemer Hörecker Riesling Auslese \*\* 14 08 92

This wine delivers a comparatively big nose of pear, bergamot and herbs on the nose with a touch of volatile. A feeling of power not unlike that of a lighter expression of Sauternes kicks in on the palate (the wine does boast 9.5% of alcohol) and leaves a nicely playful and intense feel of honeyed fruits and fine herbs in the long finish. Now-2027

2007er von Hövel Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Auslese \* 10 08 91

This offers a quite attractive and bright nose of pear, passion fruit, herbs and spices. The wine is deliciously light bodied and playful on the palate and leaves a nice, slightly direct but oh-so satisfying feel in the medium-long finish. This is a drinking Auslese in the juicy style that had made the attraction of the wines from Eberhard von Kunow. Now-2032

#### Weingut Jakoby-Mathy

(Kinheim – Middle Mosel)

2007er Jakoby-Mathy Kinheimer Rosenberg Riesling Beerenauslese 13 08 93

Quite restrained at first, this delivers a gorgeous honey-driven aromatic profile with acacia, caramel, marzipan and apple jelly. The wine is syrupy and viscous on the palate yet there are enough juicy honeyed fruits as well as a touch of acidity to make this a lively and intense experience. The finish is still very sweet but also hugely long. This juicy TBA-styled Riesling will particularly please lovers of rich and unctuous dessert wines. Now-2047

2007er Jakoby-Mathy Kinheimer Hubertuslay Riesling Auslese GK 16 08 92

A whiff of volatile acidity gives way to intense notes of dried apricot, mango, pineapple, tar, caramel and candy floss on the nose. The wine is hugely juicy, creamy and even unctuous as it delivers gorgeous flavors of marzipan, raisin and ripe mango on the palate. The noticeable sensation of sweetness is that of a BA. The finish offers quite some intensity and even power with candied citrusy fruits adding a touch of freshness to this full-blown dessert wine. Now-2037

2007er Jakoby-Mathy Kinheimer Rosenberg Riesling Beerenauslese GK 17 08 91

This quite deep golden-colored wine develops quite some volatile acidity at first before notes of caramel, grilled pineapple, cooked apple, nut paste and baked spices kick in. It proves viscous and unctuous on the palate as honey and juicy raisin lead the pace. The finish is all about sweetness and juicy apple while the after-taste develops a more oxidative, caramel-infused side. This ostentatious juicy TBA in all but name will particularly please lovers of Eszencia-like dessert wines. Now-2047

2007er Jakoby-Mathy Kinheimer Hubertuslay Riesling Spätlese GK 15 08 90

Quite smoky at first, this gradually develops honeyed notes of yellow peach, pineapple, pear, candied grapefruit and toffee. The wine proves creamy on the palate yet a great fresh kick of zesty acidity runs through the wine. This adds depth and complexity, and leaves one with a feeling of Eiswein in the after-taste. Although Auslese in style in all but name, this wine retains a sense of elegance and lightness. Now-2027

2007er Jakoby-Mathy Kinheimer Rosenberg Riesling Auslese Eulenlay 12 08 90

This Auslese made from the prime, steep-hill Eulenlay sector of the Kinheimer Rosenberg develops a rich and fresh nose of pineapple, pear, grapefruit, mint and smoke. The wine starts off on the riper side on the palate, with quite some honeyed yellow and juicy fruits tickling one's senses. The whole thing then livens up as a tickly touch of grapefruit-driven acidity kicks in. The finish is very long and possibly a tad powerful but this remains a gorgeous Auslese made in a very "drinking" style. Now-2032

2007er Jakoby-Mathy Kinheimer Rosenberg Riesling Spätlese 11 08 88

This delivers an elegant nose driven by almond cream, yellow peach, herbs, smoke, ginger spices and a touch of licorice. The wine is playful on the palate as it blends yellow and slightly honeyed fruits into a smoky and intense structure. The after-taste is more off-dry than fruity by now (which is not surprising as the wine has 9% of alcohol). Now-2022



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#### Weingut Karthäuserhof

(Eitelsbach - Trier-Ruwer)

2007er Karthäuserhof

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Kabinett Trocken

32 08

90

This bright-colored wine still proves slightly on the reductive side on the nose. It is only gradually that the scents of roasted peanut and caramel give way to juicy white and yellow peach, a hint of melon, elderflower and mint. The wine is beautifully light-bodied and delicate on the palate, as one expects it from a Kabinett. The finish is focused and not very expressive, but gorgeously long and elegant. This is a brilliant effort and ample proof that Kabinett can age beautifully well! Now-2027

2007er Karthäuserhof

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese

17 08

89

This already golden-colored wine proves rather shy on the nose as wet stone, minerals and smoke play first violin. It is only after a while that some fleeting scents of ripe apple, pear and a touch of licorice come through. The wine is round and rather powerful on the palate, where a more oxidative side emerges, driven by backed apple, almond, honey and fine spices. The finish is nice but also rather broad and linear for a wine from this otherwise impeccable Estate. Now-2027

#### Weinaut Kees-Kieren

(Graach - Middle Mosel)

2007er Kees-Kieren

Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Beerenauslese \*

28 08

92

This offers a powerful and quite aromatic nose driven by notes of caramel, acacia honey, cherry, licorice and mint, all whipped up by a touch of volatile acidity. A gorgeously juicy and still very sweet structure leads to a great finish lifted up by some tickly grapefruit-driven acidity. This thick yet juicy BA proves quite pleasing. Now-2027

#### **Weingut Le Gallais**

(Kanzem - Saar)

2007er Le Gallais

Wiltinger braune Kupp Riesling Auslese GK

13 08

Auction

This wine proves remarkably open for business and on the lighter side of "braune Kupp Auslese GK" by Le Gallais. The wine delivers a very attractive and comparatively airy feel of pineapple, nut paste, almond, date, honey and herbs on the nose. These are joined by some flavors of apricot on the remarkably racy and hence zesty palate. A hint of creaminess comes through in the long finish. This ripe expression of braune Kupp is of course superb and more than outstanding in its own right, without really match the depth from the finest vintages. Now-2037

2007er

Le Gallais

Wiltinger braune Kupp Riesling Spätlese

08 08

91

Quite smoky at first, this develops a telltale and stunning nose of bergamot, citrusy fruits, raspberry and aniseed herbs. The wine proves remarkably racy and highly sprung on the palate and leaves a rather lively but also slightly common sweet-sour tension in the medium-long finish. The aftertaste is juicy, light and smoky, but also surprisingly direct in style. Now-2027



"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

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#### **Weingut Schloss Lieser**

(Lieser - Middle Mosel)

2007er Schloss Lieser

Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese

15 09

98

Harvested at 190-195° Oechsle, this wine delivers a stunning nose of dried apricot, nut, date, honey and herbs. Superb acidity livens up the oily and viscous baroque flavors on the palate and the finish is festival of nut, almond, dried fruits and exotic freshness. The finish is still slightly saturated with sweetness (the wine has no less than 320 g/l of residual sugar!) but this will prove a magical wine in a decade or so. Bravo! 2027-2057

2007er Schloss Lieser

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK

12 08

95

This is completely reduced at first yet already hints at a beautifully complex expression of pear, apricot, whipped cream and herbs wrapped into citrusy fruits. The wine is juicy, slightly honeyed and still on the sweet side. But the finesse of the finish is however already staggering. While big on flavors, this Auslese GK remains precise and focused into the after-taste. 2022-2042

2007er Schloss Lieser

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese lange GK

13 08

95

This delivers a gorgeous nose of baked pineapple, raspberry, pear and dried herbs. The wine proves hugely complex on the palate but also still rather saturating and sweet in the finish. The wine needs certainly still a decade to fully integrate but its overall balance, finesse and aromatic purity are simply staggering. 2027-2042

2007er Schloss Lieser

Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Auslese lange GK

11 08

94+

This offers a beautiful and remarkably fruity nose of yellow peach, raisin and fine spices. The wine is still marked by a hint of reduction on the palate but the finish is beautifully long and elegant. Only the after-taste is still marked by sweetness and in need of integration. Give this wine another decade and it will deliver a feast for the senses! 2027-2047

2007er Schloss Lieser

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese

08 08

93

This wine proves still quite reduced at first but gradually reveals its wonderfully smoky nose of spices, almond, yellow peach, licorice, mint and butter cream. The overall balance is clearly that of a light Auslese on the palate and the sweetness is still pretty much at the forefront at this stage. However, the rich fruity side and the mouth-coating structure are nicely balanced out by some zesty acidity and the wine freshens up and becomes more vivid as it develops with air. This only needs a few more years of aging to integrate the remaining sweetness and gain in aromatic integration. It should then prove a splendid rendition of a light and playful Auslese. 2022-2037

2007er Schloss Lieser

Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Auslese GK

10 08

93

This beautiful wine which we had highlighted it as wine of the month in back in 2009 is handsomely on target to confirm our early high expectations. Even if still rather reductive and marked by almond and caramel, it gradually reveals delicately exotic fruits, banana flambé, date, some fine spices and herbs all nicely enhanced by a beautifully zesty acidity. The finish is still too much on the sweet side for ideal enjoyment and this beautiful dessert wine is best left alone for another couple of years. 2022-2037

2007er

Schloss Lieser

Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Spätlese

07 08

92

This bright-colored wine is still marked by some stink at first before revealing an ample but pure nose of melon, almond paste, green apple, herbs and laurel. The wine is nicely round on the palate and leaves a still rather sweet feel in the nicely long and elegant finish. This light Auslese-styled wine will need another few years to develop its inner balance. 2022-2037

2007er

Schloss Lieser

Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett

04 08

91

This offers a rather gorgeous even if still quite reduced nose (with even a touch of reduction stink lurking in the background). These reductive elements only gradually give way to fresh and comparatively silky elements of grapefruit, pear and smoky slate. The wine comes over with the presence of a Spätlese (if not light Auslese) on the palate but proves nicely fresh and enticing in the smooth and slightly direct finish. 2022-2037

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#### Weingut Loersch-Eifel

(Leiwen - Middle Mosel)

The Weingut Loersch-Eifel was renamed Weingut Loersch as of the 2012 vintage.

2007er Loersch-Eifel

Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Beerenauslese

01 08

95

Already orange-mahogany in color, this big BA harvested at a whopping 170° Oechsle develops a beautiful nose of dried apricot, almond, candied mango, furniture wax, nut and herbs. The wine is gorgeously unctuous on the palate where more dried apricot, backed pineapple, laurel, nut and honey make for a gorgeously smooth experience. The finish is sweet and comforting, but also superbly playful thanks to a kick of acidity livening up the absolutely pure and elegant after-taste. This textbook of a slightly oxidative BA is simply gorgeous and a feast for the senses. Now-2047

2007er Loersch-Eifel

Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese

02 08

aзт

This bronze-golden colored TBA harvested at over 200° Oechsle develops a rather elegant even if backward nose of date, raisin, brown sugar and some fine spices. The wine is still almost cloyingly sweet on the palate with more date, barbeque herbs, laurel, honey and spices coming through towards the rich and rather round finish. The wine lingers on for minutes in the after-taste. This still needs a few years to develop aromatically but could then prove remarkable, especially if it firms up and gains in multi-layered complexity. 2027-2057

2007er Loersch-Eifel

Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese Alte Reben

18 08

93

This Auslese harvested at 120° Oechsle develops the bouquet of a rich noble-sweet Riesling as some pear, laurel and smoky slate are wrapped into a beautiful blanket of backed pineapple, apricot, pear and coconut. The wine almost exhibits the oily side of a BA as more rich and creamy apricot, quince and honey play with some fresher apple and pear. The finish is smooth and creamy with beeswax, black tea, quince and honey. This is a beautiful effort made in a noble-sweet style. Now-2032

2007er Loersch-Eifel

Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Spätlese

17 08

91

This hay-colored wine exhibits an intensely fruity nose driven by quince cream, mango, grapefruit, laurel and smoky slate. The fruitiness carries over onto the still rather sweet palate but a kick of zesty pear and apple freshens up the Auslese-styled cocktail of creamy cocktail of mirabelle, quince and beeswax. The finish is slightly big (as so often in 2007), rather direct, but above all very nicely balanced and pleasing. Now-2037

2007er Loersch-Eifel

Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Spätlese Trocken Vogelsang-Terrassen

11 08

89

This dry Riesling is made from the south-west facing terraced part of the Trittenheimer Apotheke called Vogelsang and situated high up the hill above the bridge. This hay-golden colored wine proves still rather reduced at first and only gradually reveals ripe and slightly rich scents of greengage, candied grapefruit, pear, brown sugar, fine spices and laurel. The presence on the palate is intense as pear, licorice, dried herbs and a hint of grapefruit play with one's senses but at no moment does the wine feel broad. The finish starts off on the smooth side before a tarter and more structured side kicks in. Some passion fruit and white minerals underline the playful side of the wine in the after-taste. This is a nice effort made in a slightly ripe but very satisfying style. Now-2027

#### Weingut Dr. Loosen - Johannishof

(Bernkastel-Kues - Middle Mosel)

2007er Dr. Loosen

Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese GK

52 08

95

This still bright golden colored Auslese was made from 100% botrytized fruit harvested at over 110° Oechsle. It delivers a great nose of frangipane, mango, honey, beeswax, pear, tart tatin and fine spices. The wine develops the full creamy and oily richness of a BA on the palate and wraps this into a gorgeously pure and multi-layered structure in the long and refined finish. The after-taste manages to retain gorgeous freshness and playfulness. This is a great BA-styled expression of Prälat! Now-2037

2007er Dr. Loosen

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese GK

55 08

94

This surprisingly bright-colored wine delivers an enticing nose of William's pear, mirabelle, coconut cream and fine minerals. A creamy side driven by mirabelle, pear and whipped coconut cream comes through on the palate. This leads to a gorgeous feel to the vibrant and surprisingly fresh finish. This is a superbly playful Auslese GK which delivers incredibly juicy fruits as well as superb freshness. Now-2037



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2007er Dr. Loosen Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese 49 08 93

This offers a gorgeous nose of mango, brown sugar and dried herbs with in addition more exotic fruits and whipped cream as it evolves in the glass. The wine is beautifully well balanced and leaves a delicately ripe a gorgeous feel of pear, mirabelle, spices and herbs, all underlined by a pretty good kick of acidity and minerals in the surprisingly juicy and fruity finish. Now-2032

2007er Dr. Loosen Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese 35 08 93

This is superbly open for business and delivers a fruity expression of Treppchen. The nose offers peach, quince, and grapefruit as well as some bakery notes. The wine retains the full juiciness of a Spätlese as it proves gorgeously racy and playful on the palate with creamy notes of peach but also citrusy sorbet. The finish is beautifully elegant as it combines richness and playfulness. Now-2037

2007er Dr. Loosen Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese 42 09 93

This Auslese was bottled late (hence the AP number from 2009). It offers a slightly rich yet appealing nose of almond, yellow peach, orange blossom, ripe pear and spices. The wine proves nicely creamy, delightfully pure and well balanced on the palate. This beautifully playful fruity Auslese leaves a persistent and hugely playful feel in the finish. This is plain gorgeous and a huge success. Now-2037

2007er Dr. Loosen Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese 47 08 91

This offers a gorgeous and still somewhat reduced nose of quince, grapefruit, pineapple, spices and herbs. The wine is nicely playful and elegant on the palate and leaves a beautiful feel of minty herbs and nice fruits. The finish is smooth, light and delicate, and delivers notes of candied orange and licorice. Now-2032

2007er Dr. Loosen Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Kabinett 29 08 91

This offers a gorgeous nose of pineapple, yellow peach, flint stone, spices and herbs as well as a touch of toffee and quince. The wine is quite racy and elegant on the palate, with a surprisingly structured, direct and a smoke-infused feel in the finish. There is still a touch of CO2 which adds freshness to the whole experience. This wine has hardly bulged since bottling and offers great almost youthful pleasure. Now-2032

#### **Weingut Alfred Merkelbach**

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2007er Alfred Merkelbach Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese 12 08 91

This Spätlese was harvested at a full 92° Oechsle, which is rather high by the Estate's standards. The wine starts off on the ripe side with some quince, pear, melon, caramel and herbs on the nose. The feel of the palate remains however on the fresh side as some citrusy freshness comes through in the long and guite playful finish. This is still rather primary and needs a few more years to develop aromatically. 2022-2037

2007er Alfred Merkelbach Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese 16 08 89

Harvested at a full 97° Oechsle, this offers a ripe yet still lively nose of brown sugar, apricot, honey, cassis, pear, spices and herbs. The ripe side carries over onto the palate, where scents of juicy melon, quince and mirabelle are pepped up by fresh herbs and fine spices. The finish is delicately forceful yet beautifully balanced. Now-2027

2007er Alfred Merkelbach Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese 10 08 88

This is still marked by quite some sulfur at first, and only gradually offers shy scents of yellow peach, smoke and herbs. The wine is comparatively forceful on the palate as intense flavors of ripe fruits including peach and apple as well as herbs give the whole thing some power. The finish is very long and gains from airing as it develops creaminess and complexity. This tastes off-dry now (it has 9.5% of alcohol) and is best served with hearty food to buffer off its richness. It is best to open it a little bit in advance for the wine to develop aromatically. Now-2022

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

#### **Weingut Meulenhof**

(Erden - Middle Mosel)

2007er Meulenhof

Erdener Prälat Riesling Spätlese

13 08

88

A smoky and minty reduction (also from sulfur) gives way to quite a nice and delicate set of fruits including vineyard peach, pear, spices and citrus. The wine is playful but has gained in presence since last tasted in 2010. Its generous and creamy fruits make it really of Auslese presence on the palate but the finish, driven by citrusy fruits, remains on the lighter side. This requires some airing but then proves quite enjoyable in its direct style. Now-2027

#### Weingut Markus Molitor – Haus Klosterberg

(Wehlen - Middle Mosel)

NB: The Estate only indicates the style of its wines (dry, off-dry or fruity) via the capsule color: white for dry, green for off-dry and gold for fruity-styled. In addition there is some wording on the back label but no formal indication such as Trocken or Feinherb. In order to avoid any confusion as for style, we indicate the color of the capsule in parenthesis in the description of each wine. Readers should be aware that this is not found on the label nor referred to as such by the Estate internally.

2007er Markus Molitor

Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese \*\* (Golden Capsule)

27 08

92+

This yellow-golden colored wine does not reveal much at first beyond some fleeting scents of honeyed mirabelle, coconut, sage and wet stones. The wine starts off on a nicely unctuous note on the palate before a rather strict and structured feel comes through with some grip still in need of integration in the long and firm finish. This needs some time to develop its full potential. 2027-2042

2007er Markus Molitor

Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese \*\* (White Capsule)

61 08

92+

This yellow-colored wine delivers a hugely reduced nose still slightly marked by sulfur and needs quite some time to reveal gorgeous scents of candied grapefruit, white flowers and a hint licorice. The wine offers great grip on the palate, with a sage-infused spiciness and delicately zesty elegance coming through towards the hugely long and delicately ample finish. This successful effort is not yet fully ready but the potential is huge. 2022-2037

2007er

Markus Molitor

Wehlener Klosterberg Riesling Spätlese (Green Capsule)

20 08

91

This offers a rather backward and somewhat shy nose of pear, dried herbs and fine spices. The wine proves nicely balanced with a well-integrated acidity on the palate. Attractive flavors of pear, aniseed herbs and chamomile lead to a gorgeously smooth and elegant finish. The after-taste is nicely off-dry and delicately tart. This should prove very nice with food now. Now-2032

#### Weingut Martin Müllen

(Traben-Trarbach - Middle Mosel)

2007er Martin Müllen

Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Auslese

08 08

06

This Auslese was made from a prime sector of the Hühnerberg where the grapes had partially shriveled and could be block-harvested at 115-120° Oechsle. This beauty delivers an absolutely stunning nose of pear, candied lemon, strawberry, vine blossom, pear and fine herbs. The wine proves stunningly elegant and smooth on the palate with a superbly refined touch of acidity bringing the right creaminess and silky finesse to the finish. This Auslese easily cruises at the level of a fine auction "Auslese lange GK" from the best producers: It is that impressive! Now-2037

2007er

Martin Müllen

Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese \*\* Deare

12 08

94

This wine is made from a parcel in the north-west facing and steep sector of the vineyard which was previously owned by Andreas Deare (hence the name of the wine). It offers a rather reduced nose of pear, cassis and fine spices. The wine is beautifully elegant and zesty on the palate and the delicate creaminess in the finish is to die for. This is an absolute beauty: What a gorgeous wine made in an elegant and still playful style! Now-2032

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2007er Martin Müllen Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Spätlese 09 08 94

This offers a beautiful nose of grapefruit puree, pear, fine spices and minerals. The wine proves superbly elegant and complex on the palate as zesty acidity provides the right frame to gorgeously fresh and ripe fruits and herbs. The finish is long and delicately racy. A nice fruit sorbet and flowery side akin to that of a Saar wine comes through in the after taste of this beautiful airy wine. Now-2032

2007er Martin Müllen Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Auslese \*\* 06 08 93

This bronze-golden colored wine delivers a rich and inviting nose of pear, marzipan, pineapple, grapefruit zest, tea, sage and smoke. The wine is delicately creamy and rather complex on the palate as a multi-layered feel of almond, delicately candied fruits and fine spices emerges and drives the long and still sweet feel in the finish. This classy and surprisingly playful effort (for such a high end wine) will be quite a treat in a few years' time. 2022-2037

2007er Martin Müllen Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese \*\* Alte Reben 11 08 92

This wine was made from vines in the north-west facing and steep part of the vineyard believed to be planted in 1928. It offers a gorgeous nose of pineapple, apricot and almond, and proves nicely rich yet elegantly zesty on the palate. A beautifully exotic feel of fruits and minerals emerge in the in the vibrant finish of this overall gorgeously creamy Auslese. Now-2037

2007er Martin Müllen Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Auslese \* 07 08 91

This already rather golden-colored wine delivers a rich and delicately exotic nose of pear, pineapple, mango, melon, marzipan, honey and fine aniseed herbs. The wine is rich and delicately round on the palate and leaves a nicely playful feel in the slightly direct and honeyed finish. This is now fully open for business and should offer much sweet pleasure for many years to come. Now-2027

2007er Martin Müllen Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese \*\*\* 10 08 91

This offers a rather ripe nose of pear, laurel and melon. The wine proves nicely ripe yet juicy on the palate with good creaminess and a hint of power in the rather elegant and creamy finish. This rich Auslese remains utterly drinkable despite the high level of ripeness of the fruit. Now-2037

2007er Martin Müllen Kröver Steffensberg Riesling Spätlese Feinherb \*\* 31 08 91

This wine stopped its long fermentation (13 months) at 11 g/l of residual sugar, i.e. just above the legal limit for Trocken but also rather low levels by Feinherb standards. It offers a gorgeous but rather slate-infused nose of pear, mango, apricot blossom and herbs. The wine proves nicely balanced on the palate, where a just off-dry feel adds a smoothness to a superb set of fruits and herbs. The wine is quite creamy but also nicely multi-layered in the long and delicately baroque finish. A gorgeous feel of pear-infusion emerges in the powerful after-taste. Now-2032

2007er Martin Müllen Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese \*\* 9.3 29 08 90

The wine is called "9.3" because it stopped its fermentation after 13 months at 9.3 g/l of residual sugar (i.e. just above the legal limit for dry). A whiff of volatile gives way to gorgeous scents of creamy fruits, spice bread and herbs. The wine proves remarkably powerful on the palate by Müllen standards but remains quite fascinating. The finish is gorgeously long and creamy, as more spices and ginger bread wrap ripe fruits and herbs. This is made for lovers of more ostentatious wines. Now-2027

2007er Martin Müllen Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Spätlese \* 8.8 30 08 89

This wine, made from a botrytis selection, is called "8.8" because it stopped its fermentation after 13 months below 9 g/l of residual sugar but, since total sugar levels exceed total acidity by more than 2 g/l, it does not qualify for legally Trocken. It delivers quite some creamy almond, apricot and fine herbs on the nose. It proves precise but also rather creamy on the palate with quite some honeyed spices coming through in the delicately drytasting and rather powerful finish (the wine does boast almost 14% of alcohol). This will particularly please lovers of slightly ostentatious and botrytis-infused wines. Now-2027



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#### Weingut Egon Müller zu Scharzhof

(Wiltingen - Saar)

2007er Egon Müller

Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese

11 08

98

The Scharzhofberger Auslese AP11 is the result of a small cask of 280 liters made from botrytis-affected fruit which was bottled separately. It offers a gorgeous nose of fresh herbs, spices, yellow fruits, bergamot, almond cream and spices. As the wine gains from airing, multi-layered notes of honey, beeswax, minty herbs and licorice add depth and presence to the already magical nose. The wine is simply mind-blowingly refined and elegant on the palate, with grapefruit zest, white flowers, a hint of licorice and apricot all wrapped in the most wonderfully zesty fruits. This is Egon Müller at its best delivering a beauty of epic dimensions with mirabelle and pineapple in the finish. As with all truly great wines, this seems so obvious, as if it is the easiest thing in the world to produce such utterly perfect balance. What a wine! Now-2047

2007er Egon Müller

Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese

12 08

Auction

This hugely backward wine delivers a rather shy nose still marked by sulfur at first before some greengage, dried date, apricot and coconut join the party on the nose. The wine is beautifully focused and zesty with some bitter orange on the palate and a still slightly sweet-sour tension driving the hugely impressive and multi-layered finish. This still needs quite some time to develop the balance between the zesty side of a Spätlese with the almost BA presence in the finish. 2022-2047

2007er Egon Müller

Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese

06 08

91

This starts off with a rather bright nose of minty herbs, spices, apricot and flowery elements. The wine proves rather structured and assertive on the palate but leaves a nicely well-balanced even if slightly direct feel in the long finish. The 2007er Scharzhofberger Spätlese proves nice but possibly more direct than other renderings of this mythical wine. Now-2032

2007er

Egon Müller

Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett

05 08

90+

This offers an almost Prüm-like nose of reduction stink (even at the age of 10!) and backing powder which only gradually reveals the more telltale scents of grapefruit peel, white flowers and wet stones associated with Scharzhofberg. The wine proves hugely racy and focused on the palate (in absolute and certainly with respect to the vintage) as lime and white minerals cut through the touch of sweetness and power on the palate. The finish is quite primary with candied grapefruit, some fine herbs and minerals driving the off-dry feel in the after-taste. This rather firm expression of Scharzhofberger Kabinett still needs a few years to develop its full potential. 2022-2032

#### Weingut von Othegraven

(Kanzem - Saar)

2007er

von Othegraven

Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Auslese

04 08

92

Yellow-golden in color, this delivers a rich and honeyed nose driven by plenty of exotic fruits including mango, passion fruit and pineapple, all joined by some almond paste, melon, tar and mint as the wine gains from airing. It develops the full honeyed, rich and sweet structure of an Auslese LGK on the palate but a great kick of acidity gives the wine the necessary structure, intensity and length. This big Auslese proves very enjoyable in this stylistic direction. Now-2047

#### Weingut Philipps-Eckstein

(Graach - Middle Mosel)

2007er Philipps-Eckstein

Graacher Domprobst Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese

31 08

Auction

98

Harvested at a whopping 185° Oechsle, this offers a superb nose backed pineapple, apricot, mango, almond and herbs. The wine is hugely sweet but stunningly gorgeous on the palate, with layers upon layers of honeyed and dried fruits adding to the complex nutty and oily structure. The finish is sweet, yet fascinatingly multi-layered and refined. This is glorious TBA in the making! Now-2067 (Reprint from the Mosel Fine Wines Auction Guide 2016)

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#### Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2007er Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK

12 08

97

This proves still surprisingly bright in color, certainly by Auslese GK and 2007 standards. The wine proves hugely delicate and elegant as bakery yeasts, almond paste, juicy pear, yellow peach, white melon, nougat and the finest of spices make for a stunning bouquet. Far from being weighty or powerful, this Auslese GK remains gorgeously delicate and playful on the palate and leaves just an incredibly long and still rather sweet feel of almond, citrusy fruits, pear and honey in the smooth and precise finish. The multi-layered elegance of the wine is simply to die for. This stunner in the making more than confirms our high early expectations (we had highlighted this as our second wine of the month back in 2008)! Now-2037

2007er Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese

26 08

Auction

96

This bright yellow-colored wine delivers an absolutely stunning nose of pear, quince, white peach, almond cream, candied grapefruit, melon and herbs. The wine proves gorgeously racy, playful and multi-layered on the palate as creamy fruits, herbs and spices. The finish is still on the sweet side, but with a gorgeous touch of beeswax and licorice bringing the right smoothness to this complex wine. This auction Auslese proves a little gem of an Auslese GK-styled wine! Now-2037

2007er Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese

25 08

Auction

95+

This still proves hugely reduced and marked by stink but the wine grows in presence and depth on the nose by the minute as it reveals a hugely satisfying and gloriously complex nose of white peach, greengage, almond, pineapple, grapefruit and a fleeting hint of apricot. The feel on the palate is all about silky creaminess and some gorgeous acidity in the background. The wine remains true to the vintage as it reveals some almond, a hint of yellow peach and laurel on the palate. But what sets this wine apart is that this is delivered with incredible finesse, freshness and elegance. The finish is endless, with still a hint of candy floss in need of integration, and leaves one speechless. What a beauty made in a very elegant and light Auslese GK style of the House. 2022-2047

2007er Joh. Jos. Prüm

Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Auslese

14 08

95

This bottle of 2007er Bernkasteler Badstube comes from a batch re-released by the Estate in 2016. It offers a gorgeous nose of yellow canned peach, laurel and red currant, wrapped into some delicately waxy cream. The feel on the palate is superbly elegant and airy as the inner sweetness has completely transformed into silky beeswax. The finish is plain gorgeous, both elegant and refined. What a wine! Now-2037 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 32 – October 2016)

2007er

Joh. Jos. Prüm

Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese

32 08

94

This bright-colored wine still proves loaded with CO2 and marked with the typical "Prüm stink" which gradually gives way to succulent white peach sorbet, flowers, lime and minty herbs. The wine proves gorgeously racy and playful on the palate, and the finish is full of freshness with menthol, juicy pear and herbs. This stunning success made in a remarkably juicy and fruity style which completely transcends the vintage! Now-2037

2007er

Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese

22 08

93

This gorgeous Auslese delivers a superbly playful nose of grapefruit, pineapple, herbs and smoke. The wine is made in a refreshingly light and elegant style with delicate tension on the palate and a superbly elegant feel in the long and bright finish. Despite the riper side of the vintage, this retains a gorgeous feel of playfulness right through the wine. Now-2037

2007er Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese

34 08

93

A touch of reduction quickly gives way to smoky notes of lead pencil, grilled citrus, mint, vineyard peach and tar as well as a touch of yellow flowers with airing. The wine is juicy and delicate on the palate and delivers quite some ripe fruits as it unfolds. There is a light touch of unctuous fruits and sweetness still in need of integration, yet the whole thing is really very promising as the finish is full of finesse. 2022-2042 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 32 – October 2016)

2007er

Joh. Jos. Prüm

**Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese** 

29 08

92

This bright hay colored Auslese delivers a rather shy nose of pear, melon, ground spices and smoky slate. The feel on the palate plays nicely on vibrancy and creamy roundness with lemony and creamy fruits nicely integrated into a zesty structure. The finish is nicely long and, despite an underlying creaminess, beautifully mouthwatering. Now-2037



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2007er Joh. Jos. Prüm Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese 08 08 91

This offers a gorgeous nose driven by white peach, candied orange and pear and enhanced by a slight touch of pineapple. A more apricot driven side comes through on the palate which leads to a rather zesty and almost racy finish driven by CO2 and white minerals. This wine remains true to its Spätlese label and proves remarkably fresh by 2007 standards and a gorgeous wine with good zest, direct fruit and nice presence. Now-2032

2007er Joh. Jos. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese 24 08 91

Still remarkably bright white-yellow in color, this Spätlese still proves marked by the telltale "Prüm stink" which gives however rapidly way to beautiful scents of pear, citrusy fruits, melon and white flowers. The wine comes over as slightly ripe and under-toned on the palate but leaves a delicately zesty even if slightly round feel in the long and smooth finish. This Spätlese cut along the lines of a light Auslese retains nice freshness. Now-2032

2007er Joh. Jos. Prüm Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese 13 08 91

Still marked by the typical "Prüm stink" at first, this unusually bright colored Spätlese gradually reveals a great and delicately exotic nose of candied lemon, melon, pineapple, chalky minerals and earthy spices. The earthy side carries over onto the beautifully airy palate, where a riper side driven by delicately creamy pear, greengage and apple gives the wine the structure and mouthfeel of a light Auslese. The finish is delicately intense yet remains on the playful side, as one would expect from a Prüm Spätlese. Now-2032

#### Weingut S.A Prüm

(Wehlen - Middle Mosel)

2007er S.A. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese Fass 64 93+

A whiff of volatile acidity leads the way to gorgeous scents of candied quince, date, dried apricot, raisin and apricot on the nose. The wine is still on the sweet and almost primary side on the palate (as some candy floss comes through). The finish is beautiful tough and full of promise. While it can be enjoyed now on its baroque and exuberant side, this nice TBA will still refine with further bottle age and could then eventually prove even better than initially anticipated. 2027-2047

2007er S.A. Prüm Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Eiswein Fass 66 Auction 93

A whiff of volatile acidity gives way to an attractive nose marzipan, spices and herbs. The wine is nicely balanced and complex on the palate and leaves a gorgeous sweet and rich feel of apricot, mirabelle and marzipan in the fruity and direct finish. Overall, this Eiswein continues to behave more like a BA than an Eiswein as its acidity is nicely integrated. Now-2032+

2007er S.A. Prüm Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese 34 10 92

This offers a gorgeous nose of marzipan, baked pineapple and grapefruit peel. The wine is nicely playful on the palate and leaves an elegant even if still slightly broad feel of fruits in the finish. This beautiful wine will still benefit from some aging. 2020-2037

2007er S.A. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese 25 08 91

This bright yellow-golden colored wine offers a still somewhat reduced nose driven by pear, cinnamon, slate and spices. The wine is juicy even if still on the rich side on the palate, with some fruity sweetness from pear and melon coming through in the finish. While nice to enjoy now, this could even do with a little more bottle age to integrate the rest of the sugar. 2022-2042

2007er S.A. Prüm Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese Fass 36 GK Auction 89+

This wine proves still very much on the reduced side of life as it does not reveal much beyond a rather rich and powerful nose of marzipan, cinnamon and pear in alcohol. The wine is rather direct and easy on the palate and leaves a structured feel in the medium long finish. This is in desperate need of bottle age to develop its inner grace and it could ultimately warrant a higher scoring should it gain in precision and finesse. 2027-2047

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#### **Weingut Familie Rauen**

(Thörnich - Middle Mosel)

2007er Familie Rauen

Detzemer Würzgarten Riesling Beerenauslese

14 08

88

A spicy and honey-driven nose includes quite some fruity notes of apple, apricot and star anise as well as some caramel. The wine is quite juicy and fruity on the palate and develops its BA character through its sweet side rather than any viscosity. As such, it is a very nice even if somewhat direct expression of BA. Now-2027

#### Weingut Max Ferd. Richter

(Mülheim - Middle Mosel)

2007er Max Ferd, Richter

**Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese** 

20 08

95

This offers a superbly beautiful nose of white peach, pineapple, almond, fine spices and minerals. The wine is gorgeously juicy and delicately creamy on the palate. Yet a great kick of acidity brings freshness and adds to the overall feeling of elegance emerging from this wine. The finish is airy and ethereally long. What a beautiful effort which transcends the ripeness of the vintage! Now-2037

2007er Max Ferd. Richter

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese

15 08

QЗ

A rather discreet nose of pear, mirabelle and herbs leads to a lively feel on the palate still marked by some fizz. The wine is nicely playful in the long and ethereal finish, where more pear, white minerals and white flowers add to the classiness of this gorgeous and remarkably elegant wine. Now-2037

2007er

Max Ferd. Richter

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese

09 08

92

This offers a gorgeous and quite present nose of yellow peach, mango, apricot and coconut wrapped into fine slate. The wine is quite intense on the palate with all the full-blown and creamy side of an Auslese GK. As rich as it may be, this beautiful dessert wine proves elegant and its finish long and nicely complex. Now-2022

2007er Max Ferd. Richter

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Trocken

07 08

92

This bright-colored wine delivers a gorgeous nose of pear puree, a hint of butter, almond cream and some licorice. The wine is beautifully well balanced on the palate and leaves a clean and delicately zesty feel in the refined, comparatively subtle and delicately tart finish. This dry Riesling is a huge success in a truly light and elegant style. Now-2022

2007er Max Ferd. Richter

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese

35 08

92

Harvested at 220° Oechsle, this bright yellow-colored wine exhibits some volatile acidity which gives way to a rather elegant feel of furniture polish, candied fruits, some pineapple, raisin, nut paste, apple jelly, baked spices and herbs. The wine is smooth and intense on the palate and proves on the slightly powerful side in the almost Sauternes-like finish showing flavors of juicy raisin, nut, caramel and honey. Now-2037

2007er Ma

Max Ferd. Richter

Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Kabinett

25 08

92

This offers a juicy and comparatively lively nose of conference pear, a touch of toffee, white minerals and wet slate. Even if slightly on the rich side on the palate, the wine proves nicely playful as a gorgeously zesty touch of acidity adds some pep to the flavors of pear and minerals. The finish is still on the sweet side yet also deliciously tart. This Spätlese in all but name is remarkably enjoyable. Now-2032

2007er

Max Ferd. Richter

Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Spätlese

21 08

92

This offers a gorgeous nose of brown sugar, quince, apricot and fine aniseed herbs. The wine proves gorgeously juicy and playful on the Auslese-styled palate. The finish is nicely racy and still very youthful. The feeling of residual sugar is still on the high side, and lovers of Spätlese-styled wines may want to keep their hands off any bottle for at least another couple of years. But what a beautiful effort! Now-2037



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2007er Max Ferd. Richter Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett Feinherb 42 08 92

This offers a gorgeously juicy nose of mirabelle, candied grapefruit, greengage and sage. The wine is beautifully well-balanced and with Spätlese presence on the palate as smooth fruits and intense minerals make for a gorgeously playful feel right through to the fresh, off-dry and remarkably lively finish. Now-2027

2007er Max Ferd. Richter Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett 01 08 91

This offers a beautiful nose wrapping ripe orchard fruits including apple, pear and apricot blossom into some laurel-infused herbs. The wine proves delicately rich yet, at the same time, beautifully zesty on the palate. It leaves a superbly elegant feel of herbs in the long and juicy finish. This light-Spätlese styled wine is simply delicious as it retains freshness and playfulness despite the intensity found in the 2007 vintage. Now-2032

2007er Max Ferd. Richter Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese 37 08 91

This bright-white-yellow colored wine opens up to gorgeous and very subtle scents of white peach, coconut, fine herbs and some slate. The wine is slightly firm and structured on the palate and leaves a delicately tart and austere feel in the long finish. The after-taste is all about minerals and herbs. This beautiful effort is not yet fully developed and still needs some time to show its full potential. 2022-2037

2007er Max Ferd. Richter Mülheimer Sonnenlay Riesling Spätlese Feinherb 31 08 91

This delivers gorgeous scents of grapefruit, greengage and minty herbs on the nose. The wine is still fully off-dry on the palate and leaves a smooth yet lively feel of juicy apple in the beautifully integrated finish. Lovers of just off-dry wines will probably want to keep this for a little longer before cracking a bottle. Now-2027

2007er Max Ferd. Richter Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese 24 08 91

This delivers a comparatively ripe nose of brown sugar, ripe pear, coconut and aniseed herbs. The wine is firm, structured and racy on the palate and leaves an intensely backward feel of spices and herbs in the long and nicely integrated finish. We feel that this wine actually still benefits from some aging to develop its full potential! 2022-2037

2007er Max Ferd. Richter Mülheimer Sonnenlay Riesling Beerenauslese 34 08 90

A good dose of volatile acidity first emerges from the glass before note of caramel, almond, dried apricot, tar and backed pineapple emerge from the glass of this bronze-colored wine. Flavors of nut, almond, baked spices and apple jam wrapped into a powerful structure (the wine does have 12% of alcohol) makes for a Sauternes-like experience on the palate and in the long and bold finish. Now-2022+

2007er Max Ferd. Richter Graacher Domprobst Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 36 08 89

Harvested at 220-230° Oechsle, this rather thick TBA is marked by volatile and furniture polish at first on the nose. These give then way to oxidative scents of salted caramel, licorice, apricot and slate. The wine coats the palate with plenty of honeyed fruits, creamy viscosity, oily raisin and date. The powerful finish is still quite sweet and driven by candy floss. This will please lovers of oxidative and intense TBA. Now-2022

#### **Weinaut Josef Rosch**

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

2007er Josef Rosch Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese \* 08 08 92

This delivers a rather refined and complex nose of pineapple juice, whipped almond cream, orange, vanilla, spices and a touch of honey. The wine proves intense and creamy on the palate but manages to keep a certain lightness which reaches right into the long unctuous finish. This is an outstanding and rather elegant expression of creamy Auslese. Now-2037

2007er Josef Rosch Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Beerenauslese 12 08 92

Deep-golden in color, this delivers a hugely aromatic nose of quince, litchi, raspberry liqueur, anise, gingerbread and a touch of camphor, which actually reminds one of a fine Gewurztraminer SGN from Alsace. The wine is hugely impressive on the palate, where sweet and juicy honeyed fruits give the wine quite some richness, a feeling which is even amplified by the low sensation of acidity. This is a thick BA ending in a very smooth and long after-taste. This surprisingly aromatic dessert wine may not conform to the traditional canons of Mosel BA but it proves nevertheless quite enjoyable. Now-2027

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"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

#### **Weingut Roth**

(Kinheim – Middle Mosel)

2007er Roth

Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese Fass No. 3

91

Smoky and minty at first, this gradually develops a more honeyed set of aromatics underlined by pineapple, quince, vanilla cream, lead pencil and gooseberry. The wine is still quite rich and sweet on the palate, where honeyed exotic and caramelized fruits give the wine a comparatively mouth-coating and ample structure. The finish is sweet, smooth and very long. This Auslese LGK-styled Riesling proves quite a nice dessert wine. Now-2047

#### Weingut Willi Schaefer

(Graach - Middle Mosel)

2007er Willi Schaefer

**Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese** 

15.00

Auction

Auction

94

This wine is still slightly reduced and it requires a few minutes for an initial touch of caramel and almond to give way to stunning scents of greengage, mirabelle and earthy herbs. A great kick of acidity livens up the palate of this big yet so remarkably precise Auslese. The finish is all about airy smoothness with almond, creamy fruits and silky herbs. This really needs time to develop its full potential. 2027-2042

2007er Willi Schaefer

**Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese** 

18 08

.

This offers a superb nose of grapefruit, pineapple and earthy spices. The wine is still rather reduced on the palate but already hints at gorgeous scents of complex fruits, spices and herbs. The finish is subtly creamy and leaves a great multi-layered feel in the long and elegant after-taste. This is absolutely beautifully made in a light Auslese style. 2022-2037

2007er

Willi Schaefer

**Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese** 

13 08

94

Willi Schaefer only produced one Himmelreich Auslese in 2007 from partially botrytized fruit essentially coming from the prime Goldwingert sector of the vineyard. This cracker of a wine offers a stunningly gorgeous nose of grapefruit, strawberry, pineapple, delicately honeyed apricot blossom and slate. It develops the full elegance of a "Feine Auslese" from the old days, with just a touch of waxy cream bringing the right soothing element to a glorious cocktail of greengage, pear, peach and honey. The finish is multi-layered and gorgeously sizzled as more ripe and juicy fruits wrapped into zesty and waxy elements accompany the long after-taste. What a gorgeous wine! Now-2037

2007er

Willi Schaefer

**Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese** 

05 08

93

The Graacher Domprobst Spätlese AP05 is the finest of the regular Domprobst Spätlese bottled by Willi Schaefer in 2007 (which only differ by the AP number) and comes from the Fergert sector, a prime mid-hill part of the vineyard orientated full south. This Spätlese offers a superb nose of yellow peach, pear, melon and laurel. The wine proves hugely stylish on the palate as layers upon layers of fine fruits, subtle acidity and more spicy herbs come through on the palate and in the superbly well balanced finish. This is a gorgeous wine made in a slightly bigger style than usual. Now-2037

2007er

Willi Schaefer

Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese

12 08

92

The Graacher Domprobst Spätlese AP12 is the smaller of the regular Domprobst Spätlese bottled by Willi Schaefer in 2007 (which only differ by the AP number) and made from fruit out of the Lay (referring to the Nikolausley, a former Class I single vineyard with near full south exposure). It delivers a superbly zesty nose of candied lemon, passion fruit, pear, beeswax and fine spices. It retains real Spätlese character on the palate as the wine proves nicely focused and beautifully precise right into the long and mouthwatering finish. A touch of creaminess just brings the right balance to the fresh and lively aromatic structure in the after-taste. This is a gorgeous and vibrant success which remains true to its style. Now-2032

2007er

Willi Schaefer

**Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett** 

02 08

92

Willi Schaefer bottled two separate sets of Graacher Himmelreich Kabinett in 2007 which differ only through the AP number (AP02 and AP09). This is still delicately marked by sulfur which gives way to succulent flavors of white peach, orange, coconut, licorice and fine herbs. The wine is deliciously creamy and elegant on the palate with great juiciness and freshness. The finish is all about silky elegance and multi-layered finesse. This stunning wine made in a light Spätlese style should offer much to enjoy over the coming decade and more! Now-2032

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"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

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2007er Willi Schaefer Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett 16 08 91

This offers a rather elegant nose of pear, lemon, peach and caraway, all wrapped into some smoky slate. The wine is nicely juicy on the elegantly light-feathered palate with more pear and herbs driving the aromatics. The finish is nicely mineral, with good tartness and a great feel of spices. This slightly ripe expression of Kabinett actually shines through its finesse. Now-2037

2007er Willi Schaefer Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett 09 08 91

This offers a stunning nose of greengage, grapefruit, pear, passion fruit and earthy spices. The wine is delicately silky and zesty on the palate, and leaves a gorgeously playful feel of passion fruit, citrusy fruits and creamy pear in the elegant and very pure finish. This Kabinett made in a light Spätlese style proves a nice success of freshness in the overall rather ripe 2007 vintage. Now-2032

#### **Weinaut Andreas Schmitaes**

(Erden - Middle Mosel)

2007er Andreas Schmitges Erdener Prälat Riesling Beerenauslese 18 08 Auction 95+

This stunning wine has now fully opened up and delivers a huge and gorgeously baroque nose of pear, pineapple, blood orange, almond and fine spices. The wine delivers the full oily precision of a high end noble sweet wine as a saturating feel of sweetness wraps some stunningly complex flavors including dried date, frangipane, honey and candied grapefruit more usually found in a TBA. The finish is smooth, still very sweet yet the underlying zest already hints at its existence in the after-taste. This wine is not yet fully there yet but the upside potential is absolutely huge ... once it will have reached maturity. This remains one of the most impressive BAs which we ever tasted from the Prälat! 2027-2057

2007er Andreas Schmitges Erdener Prälat Riesling Spätlese \*\* 14 08 90

This hay-colored wine proves rather backward and direct on the nose as there is not much beyond some feeble scents of pineapple, greengage and smoke. The wine proves direct and easy on the palate, with pineapple, blood orange and a hint of almond making for a rather zesty even if ripe experience. The finish is that of an Auslese, with creaminess, honey, almond and zesty passion fruit in the after-taste. This proves complex but also rather direct in its structure. Now-2027

#### Weingut C. Schmitt-Wagner

(Longuich - Middle Mosel)

2007er Schmitt-Wagner Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Riesling Kabinett 07 08 90

This is still somewhat reduced with caramel-induced reduction and only gradually reveals a pleasing nose of herbs, cassis and citrusy fruits. It proves on the full-bodied side on the palate for a Kabinett but leaves a gorgeous feel of elegance and finesse in the finish. This is best left alone for a few more years for the wine to grow aromatically. 2022-2032

#### Weingut von Schubert – Maximin Grünhaus

(Mertesdorf – Trier-Ruwer)

2007er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 75 93

This offers a rather elegant and fresh nose made of cassis, grapefruit puree, white minerals and minty herbs wrapped into honeyed apricot blossom. Delicately ripe and comparatively smooth flavors of pear, almond and dried herbs drive the aromatics on the palate. These lead to a rather powerful and hugely intense feel in the rather bold and powerful finish. This is still not fully there but all the elements are in place to eventually produce a fine Grünhaus Auslese albeit in slightly higher toned than usual. 2022-2042

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"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2007er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese 23 08 92

This still proves slightly on the backward side of life and needs quite some time to open up. It then eventually reveals quite captivating scents of pineapple, a hint of honey, camphor and mint on the nose. The wine proves gorgeously playful even if rather rich and full bodied on the palate by the Estate's standards. The finish is gorgeously classy in the typical creamy style of a sweet wine. 2022-2037

2007er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese 17 08 92

This hay-colored Auslese proves nicely inviting as rich flavors of strawberry, grapefruit zest, slate and minty herbs are wrapped into whipped cream. The wine is full of grip on the grapefruit and mint infused palate. It proves rather tart and almost tannic in the remarkably juicy finish. This Auslese proves higher-toned than usual at this Estate known for elegance but the wine retains great complexity and proves quite fun to enjoy in its slightly big style. Now-2037

2007er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Kabinett 30 08 92

This special cask of Herrenberg Kabinett bottled separately develops a beautiful nose of candied grapefruit, strawberry and minty herbs. It has the full presence of a big Spätlese on the palate but retains a gorgeously juicy and playful side as a great fruity side driven by grapefruit, pear and more strawberry mingles with mouthwatering acidity. The finish is deliciously tart and yet nice and long. This gorgeous Kabinett amply confirms our high expectations (we had highlighted it as wine of the month early 2009). Now-2032

2007er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 70 91+

This offers a rather rich nose driven by candied grapefruit, quince, apricot blossom, almond, camphor and smoky slate. The wine develops the delicately creamy side of an Auslese GK on the palate, as almond, licorice and grapefruit zest woo for attention. The finish is full of grip and still rather creamy. This assertive and slightly ripe expression of an Auslese GK still needs a few years to develop its inner balance but could then surprise as it gains in precision. 2022-2037

 2007er
 von Schubert
 Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese
 29 08
 91

This wine offers a nice nose made of passion fruit, melon and a hint of mango as well as minty herbs and spices. Red fruits come through on the nicely playful and not overly powerful palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of cassis, melon, minty herbs and minerals in the long finish. This is nicely made in a slightly bigger style than usual at this Estate (think of this wine as a light Auslese), it nonetheless offers the usual elegance and finesse. Now-2032

2007er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese 08 08 90

This offers a rather rich and ripe feel on the nose of candied grapefruit and freshly cut apple wrapped into a blanket of riper scents driven by melon and camphor. The wine is nicely juicy in a surprisingly big and bold in style on the palate, where grapefruit, passion fruit and ripe creamy elements are wooing for attention. The finish is mouthwateringly tart but also remarkably intense and assertive. This is nicely made but it has not the ultimate finesse usually found in von Schubert wines. Now-2032

2007er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett 33 08 89

This hay-yellow colored wine remains rather shy on the nose with greengage, minty herbs and candied grapefruit wrapped into a feel of wet smoky slate. The wine delivers bold flavors of melon, pear and aniseed herbs with Spätlese presence on the palate. The finish, in turn proves sharp and driven by green apple. This rather forceful effort (at least by the Estate's standards) should drink nicely for another decade. Now-2027

#### Weingut Später-Veit

(Piesport - Middle Mosel)

2007er Später-Veit Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese 13 08 88

Yellow-golden in color, this proves rich on the nose with ripe notes of pineapple juice, honey, apple jelly, almond and grapefruit. Creamy exotic fruits make for a juicy even if ripe feel on the honeyed palate. The finish remains on the light and fresh side even if this Spätlese still shows quite some residual sugar and is really cut along Auslese lines. But, as such, it proves very nice and easy to drink. Now-2027

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### **Weingut Marcus Stein**

(Kinheim - Middle Mosel)

2007er Marcus Stein

Trabener Gaispfad Riesling Auslese

17 08

90

This wine plays on a nice and finely aromatic profile on the nose which includes vanilla, coconut, yellow peach, candied grapefruit, anise and smoke. Sweet yellow fruits wrapped into honey and coconut cream make for a superbly creamy feel on the palate. The wine remains comparatively light right into the long and not too sweet finish. This comparatively juicy expression of Auslese combines fun with good complexity. Now-2027

### **Weingut Günther Steinmetz**

(Brauneberg - Middle Mosel)

2007er Günther Steinmetz

Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Spätlese \*

10 08

90

This offers a rather broad nose driven by botrytis notes including exotic fruits, mango, papaya and grapefruit as well as spices, greengage and herbs. The wine has the presence of an old-style high-end Auslese GK on the palate, as more herbs, apricot and wet stone wrapped into some juicy fruitiness emerge on the palate. The finish is full of flavors and presence. This will please lovers of expressive wines packed with succulent but slightly bold flavors. Now-2027

2007er

Günther Steinmetz

Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Spätlese \*\*

09 08

00

This offers a rather open nose of greengage, tangerine, grapefruit, herbs and spices. The wine is nicely fruity, elegant and delicately powerful on the palate, with a moderate feel of sweetness. Beautiful and slightly ample scents of fruits and herbs emerge in the finish. This proves nicely made in a slightly old-fashioned and very heartening style. Now-2027

### Weingut A. Stoffel

(Leiwen - Middle Mosel)

2007er A. Stoffel

Klüsserather Bruderschaft Riesling Spätlese

14 08

90

Light yellow golden in color, this offers a refined set of aromatics with some dried herbs, almond, vineyard peach, tar and incense. The wine is light-bodied and very delicate on the palate and develops a more structured side in the finish which gives it extra length and presence. The residual sugar is very well integrated and the finish is airy and fine. The label does indicate 9.5% of alcohol but there is at no point any sensation of alcoholic heat. This superb Spätlese proves plain delicious. Now-2027

### Weingut St. Urbans-Hof

(Leiwen - Middle Mosel)

2007er St. Urbans-Hof

Leiwener Laurentiuslay Riesling Auslese GK

26 08

0.1

This offers a delicate yet ripe nose driven by toffee, honey, roasted pineapple, dried apricot, acacia, beeswax and smoke. Every single one of these elements adds a layer of complexity while blending into the bouquet. The wine develops a gorgeously creamy feel with almost BA oiliness on the deliciously exotic palate, yet it maintains superb playfulness and elegance. The intense finish offers great length and presence. This is a little jewel of a noble-sweet Riesling! Now-2047



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2007er St. Urbans-Hof Leiwener Laurentiuslay Riesling Spätlese 20 08 90

Yellow-golden in color, this delivers a highly rich and creamy nose of caramel, date, apricot, honey, melon, nut paste and apple jelly. The wine coats the palate with juicy and creamy fruits, honey and toffee. It develops the structure and ripe presence of a slightly powerful Auslese towards the ample, creamy and juicy finish. The initial touch of alcohol which came through when we tasted it at the Auction in 2008 is by now well integrated in the intense after-taste. This is quite enjoyable in its big Auslese style. Now-2027

2007er St. Urbans-Hof Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett 18 08 89

This wine lives from a tension between an initial minty freshness and more opulent and riper fruits including greengage, quince and apple as well as a touch of camphor. The wine proves juicy, creamy and nicely structured on the palate and develops a creamy side in the long even if direct finish. Overall this wine of Spätlese intensity and ripeness should drink nicely for many more years to come. Now-2027

2007er St. Urbans-Hof Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Kabinett 11 08 88

A very rich and ripe set of aromatics more akin to an Auslese drives this wine on the nose as broad scents of quince, honey, almond paste, melon and smoke emerge from the glass. The Auslese character becomes fully obvious on the palate where the wine unfolds an intense creamy and soft structure with still plenty of residual sugar leading to a medium long finish. This may be a far cry from a Kabinett but a very nice and easy drinking Auslese. Now-2027

 2007er
 St. Urbans-Hof
 Riesling Trocken
 15 08
 88

This delivers a fine nose of anise, dried spices, pear, grapefruit, smoke and licorice. The wine is nicely zesty on the palate and has enough grip to add a playful side to the long and pure finish. This very impressive and enjoyable Estate Riesling aged 10 gives much more ambitious wines a good run for their money. Now-2022

2007er St. Urbans-Hof Schodener Saarfeilser Marienberg Riesling Spätlese Feinherb 25 08 87

This wine proves rich and hugely aromatic as ripe notes of quince, vanilla, almond cream and pineapple juice all wrapped in a good amount of honey and a touch of beeswax emerge from the glass. The wine is supple and creamy on the palate with apple juice and almond cream driving the flavor profile. The feeling of sweetness is still on the high side for an off-dry wine but the finish thankfully develops a fresher and zestier side. This will please lovers of bold ostentatious expressions of off-dry Riesling. Now-2027

2007er St. Urbans-Hof Riesling 16 08 86

This offers a nice and direct nose of ripe apple, quince, yellow peach and a touch of honey. The wine is creamy and juicy on the palate. Supple and ripe fruits are well balanced out by zesty grapefruit and spices in the direct and nicely long finish. This is nicely made and still very easy to enjoy. Now-2022

### Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

(Bernkastel-Kues - Middle Mosel)

2007er Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese 10 08 93

Harvested at a rather full 106° Oechsle, this Auslese proves still reduced and delivers a gorgeous fresh nose of spices and herbs, with a subtle mingling of spices. The wine is remarkably elegant and subtle despite some weight on the palate and leaves a superbly elegant feel of fine spices, a hint of marzipan and citrusy fruits in the long and lingering yet firm finish. This is a superbly refined Auslese LGK-styled Doctor, which needs just a few more years to develop its aromatics but the raw material is just superb 2022-2057

2007er Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Kabinett 08 08 93

Hay-yellow in color, this gorgeous Kabinett is, as so often with Doktor wines, slightly closed at first but it gradually reveals a vibrant nose driven by cassis, pineapple, lemon, pear, white peach and earthy spices which make one salivate in anticipation. The wine proves beautifully well balanced and multi-layered as pineapple, cassis, earthy spices and fine herbs seem to dance on the palate. The overall presence is that of a Spätlese but the liveliness and depth in the finish are simply superb. This great Doctor fully delivers upon our high early hopes (we had highlighted it as wine of the month in early 2009) and should prove remarkably enjoyable over several more decades! Now-2037

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2007er Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese 11 08 Auction 92+

Harvested at 100° Oechsle, this still proves strongly reduced, with only some scents of caramel, marzipan, honey, herbs and spices on the nose. The wine is still fully closed on the palate which does not yield much beyond some firm flavors of wet stone, slate and herbs and little presence in the finish. This desperately needs more time to develop its inner balance. 2027-2047

2007er Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese 09 08 92

Harvested with nearly 100° Oechsle, this offers a gorgeous nose of pear, melon, mango and candied grapefruit. The wine is still very sweet on the palate which still covers the playful side and the finish is still slightly dominated by power, sweetness and creamy fruits. Only the light touch of CO2 in the after-taste lifts up the aromatics at this stage. But there is everything here to make a superb Auslese-styled Doctor wine in a decade or two. 2027-2057

2007er Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Spätlese 05 08 91

An initial spicy and herbal touch gives way to richer notes of baked apple, pear, coconut and toffee on the nose. Sweetness and fruity presence still dominate the wine on the palate yet a feel of lightness and finesse lurks in the background so that the finish, while creamy and honeyed, proves nicely delicate and smooth. The underlying smoky and fresh side of the wine then fully comes through in the after-taste. This Auslese in all but name only needs a few more years of patience to develop its elegance and presence. 2022-2037

### **Weingut Vollenweider**

(Traben-Trarbach - Middle Mosel)

2007er Vollenweider Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Beerenauslese 09 08 96+

Harvested at over 190° Oechsle, this golden-colored wine delivers a huge TBA-styled nose driven by raisin, date, mirabelle compote and orange marmalade. The wine is oily and still cloyingly sweet on the palate but the precision, depth and multi-layered purity, above all in the after-taste, is simply remarkable. One is left with brown sugar, date, sage and the purest of honey and a great acidity in the long and creamy finish. This is far from ready and could develop positively in aromatic precision as the sensation of sweetness recedes with further aging. 2027-2047

2007er Vollenweider Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Auslese lange GK 08 08 95+

Harvested at well above 150° Oechsle, this BA in all but name is marked by a hint of volatile at first. This gives however quickly way to a huge and beautifully complex bouquet of mirabelle, pineapple cream, coconut and some herbs. The wine proves nicely creamy on the palate with more dried fruits as well as a hint of honey and herbs coming through in the long almond-infused finish. The after-taste is all about mirabelle and almond. This is a little beauty with quite some upside as the wine firms up gains in precision. 2022-2037

2007er Vollenweider Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese 02 08 93

This offers a gorgeous nose of pear, peach, meadowsweet, herbs and spices. The wine is beautifully creamy and superbly well-balanced on the palate. This is on the big side for a Spätlese but still remains very juicy and pure. The finish is plain gorgeous as minerals, citrusy fruits, pear and aniseed herbs make for a great feeling of playful freshness. Now-2037

2007er Vollenweider Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese Portz 05 08 93

This offers a deliciously fruity nose of greengage, passion fruit, whipped cream and meadowsweet. The wine offers the presence and balance of a great pure Auslese with gorgeous elegance and complex finesse. The finish is long and ethereal. Now-2037

2007er Vollenweider Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese Reiler 06 08 93

This offers a gorgeous and elegantly flowery nose of pear, wet stone, passion fruit, dried herbs and a hint of meadowsweet. The wine is beautifully well balanced on the palate, with a hint of beeswax providing just right amount of wrapping for the gorgeously juicy and fresh flavors of citrusy fruits, spices and herbs. This is plain gorgeous in a pure and superbly juicy drinking Auslese style. Now-2037

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2007er Vollenweider

Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese Feinherb

03 08

91+

This offers a rather ripe nose of mirabelle, dried herbs and earthy spices. The wine is smooth, delicately creamy and ripe on the palate. A hint of power comes through in the still nice and elegant finish. The whole thing is enhanced by a gorgeous touch of almond, mirabelle, sage and herbs in the smooth and mouthwatering after-taste. This wine made in the old Naturrein style from a top vintage is very enjoyable and could even gain in precision with further bottle aging. 2022-2027

2007er Vollenweider

Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Kabinett

01 08

91

Harvested at a comparatively low 86° Oechsle (by the standards of the vintage and the Estate), this offers a gorgeous nose of pear, white peach, herbs and spices. The wine has the presence of a juicy Spätlese on the palate, where acidity and sweetness are gorgeously well integrated. The finish is nicely full-bodied and packed with flavors. Now-2032

### **Weingut Van Volxem**

(Wiltingen - Saar)

2007er Van Volxem

Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Alte Reben

20 08

91

This proves beautifully aromatic on the nose as scents of canned yellow peach, apricot, candied grapefruit and tangerine, all wrapped into mint and spices, emerge from the glass. The wine is juicy and light in structure and still needs to integrate its fruit-sweetness on the palate. The finish is still rather shy yet packs zesty flavors into a gorgeous smooth structure. While enjoyable now in its off-dry style, this could well develop rather nicely over the coming years as the feeling of sweetness continues to recede. Now-2027

2007er Van Volxem

Wiltinger Gottesfuss Riesling Alte Reben

23 08

90

This off-dry Riesling delivers a quite aromatic and ripe nose of apricot, tar, candied grapefruit, pineapple, honey, herbs and dried spices which are gradually joined by smoke and licorice after a few minutes. The wine is still quite comparatively sweet and creamy on the ripe and slightly exotic palate. It is only in the very long and slightly powerful finish that some tartness and dried herbs bring some freshness to the experience. This ripe expression of off-dry Riesling will please lovers of ostentatious wines. Now-2022+

2007er Van Volxem

Saar Riesling

03 08

88

The 2007er Saar Riesling confirms its early appeal (we had highlighted it as wine of the month back in 2009). It delivers a nicely perfumed and refined nose of flowers, yellow peach, vanilla, whipped cream and spices. The wine is delicate on the palate with a smooth and fruity structure leading to a spicy and grapefruit-infused feel in the medium-long finish. A hint of licorice adds depth to the after-taste. This still slightly off-dry wine is still remarkably youthful and elegantly light, which makes it now a gorgeous companion for food or to enjoy on its own. Now-2027

### Weingut Dr. F. Weins-Prüm

(Wehlen - Middle Mosel)

2007er Dr. F. Weins-Prüm

Erdener Prälat Riesling Spätlese

11 08

92

Still quite light in color, this delivers a superbly refined nose of whipped almond cream, smoke, yellow peach, mint and herbs. The wine is very refined on the palate, where it retains true Spätlese lightness and sweetness. The finish is delicately fresh and long. This beautiful Spätlese epitomizes everything to lie about Prälat elegance. Now-2032



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### Weingut Weiser-Künstler

(Traben-Trarbach - Middle Mosel)

2007er Weiser-Künstler

**Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Kabinett** 

80 80

94

This bright-colored wine offers a stunningly pure and remarkably fresh nose of pear, white peach, white flowers and aniseed herbs. It proves ethereally elegant and deliciously tart on the palate and leaves a show-stopping feel of fresh herbs, anise and citrusy fruits wrapped into flowery elements. This stunning beauty has handsomely delivered on our early expectations (we did highlight this as one of our first wines of the month back in 2008). Anyone having followed our advice has one of the finest light and elegant Mosel Riesling Kabinett from the 2007 vintage in the cellar! Now-2032

2007er Wei

Weiser-Künstler

Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Spätlese

05 08

94

This offers a gorgeous and delicately ripe Auslese-styled nose of green apple, pear, aniseed herbs, smoke and a hint of apricot blossom. A superb touch of creaminess comes through on the palate, where sage, creamy pear and wet stones drive the aromatics. The finish is beautifully long, leaving one with an ethereal sensation of complexity, silkiness and finesse in the after-taste. This is plain gorgeous! Now-2037

2007er

Weiser-Künstler

**Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Auslese** 

02 08

93+

Harvested at 120° Oechsle, this offers a gorgeously sizzled nose of peach, honey, anise, herbs and spices. The wine is still rather direct and slightly closed on the palate and rich and creamy honeyed notes drive the aromatics in the after-taste at this stage. This still needs quite some time to reveal its full potential. 2027-2047

2007er

Weiser-Künstler

**Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Beerenauslese** 

01 08

93+

A whiff of volatile acidity gives way to rather elegant scents of pineapple, coconut, pear and aniseed herbs of this BA harvested at 160° Oechsle. The wine proves richly unctuous and full of almond flavors on the comparatively playful palate and leaves a still saturating feel in the long and complex finish. The after-taste is all about frangipane and rosewater. This impressive BA full of upside potential is still a solid decade away from shedding some of its power. 2027-2057

2007er

Weiser-Künstler

Trabener Gaispfad Riesling Auslese

03 08

92+

Harvested at 115° Oechsle without any specific selection, this Auslese offers a very attractive nose of yellow peach, pineapple, mango and dried herbs. The wine is rather round and slightly rich on the palate. Dried herbs wrapped into some tart elements provide some balance to the gorgeously honeyed feel in the long and surprisingly structured finish. This wine still shows all the telltale signs of being closed and more time is needed for it to unfold its full potential. 2027-2047

2007er

Weiser-Künstler

**Enkircher Zeppwingert Riesling Auslese** 

04 08

92+

Harvested at 115° Oechsle, this offers a still rather backward but quite impressive nose of apricot, baked pineapple, mango and smoky herbs. The wine still proves slightly backward on the palate with direct notes of incense, brown sugar, apricot and date, and delivers good tartness to balance out the sweetness in the direct and intense finish. This is nicely made with some upside potential if the wine grows aromatically with further aging. 2027-2047

2007er

Weiser-Künstler

Enkircher Zeppwingert Riesling Spätlese

07 08

92

This offers a gorgeous nose of passion fruit, pear sorbet, apricot blossom, beeswax and earthy spices. The wine is superbly well balanced on the palate, with a great kick of acidity cutting through very pure and silky notes of pear, apple and peach. The smoky and spicy side comes through in the juicy and delicately sweet finish, while apricot blossom drives the after-taste. This great Auslese-styled wine marries juiciness with presence. Now-2037

2007er

Weiser-Künstler

**Trabener Gaispfad Riesling Kabinett** 

09 08

92

This wine offers a beautiful even if slightly upfront nose of pear, smoky slate, herbs, laurel and fine spices. It literally explodes on the palate with a cocktail of peach, passion fruit and herbs wrapped into a beautiful tension between sweetness and acidity. The finish has all the presence of a juicy Spätlese. What a great fresh wine to drink by the bottle! Now-2032

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2007er Weiser-Künstler Trabener Gaispfad Riesling Spätlese 06 08 92

This offers a rather big nose of juicy pear and pear, mango and earthy spices. The wine is delicately creamy but also gorgeously zesty on the palate despite a rather massive 90 g/l of residual sugar. It delivers good presence and a rather full-bodied feel in the remarkably juicy finish. A hint of apricot blossom joins riper and slightly backed apple to complete a great feeling of complexity in the after-taste. Now-2037

2007er Weiser-Künstler Trabener Gaispfad Riesling Spätlese Feinherb 11 08 91+

This bright yellow-colored wine delivers an inviting even if slightly restrained nose of white peach, cigar smoke, anise and laurel. The wine starts off on a richly fruity side on the palate (the wine has nearly 40 g/l of residual sugar) but the finish proves superbly well balanced thanks to a nice kick of acidity as gorgeous notes of redcurrant come through which mingle beautifully well with great notes of anise and minerals. This wine drinks already nicely now on its fruitier side but we would not be surprised if this gorgeous off-dry Riesling will even gain further in complexity with further aging. 2022-2037

 2007er
 Weiser-Künstler
 Riesling Feinherb
 12 08
 90

The Riesling Feinherb was made from purchased and own grapes harvested on 50-60 year-old vines in prime sectors of the Enkircher Ellergrub fermented to a comparatively high 40 g/l of residual sugar. The wine delivers a gorgeous reduced nose not unlike that of a wine by Joh. Jos. Prüm as it develops a hint of cassis, white peach and dried herbs with air. It is beautifully juicy and delivers great sweet-zesty balance on the palate and in the finish. The wine proves hugely easy to drink but, at the same time, has quite some complexity, as superb flavors of fruits and herbs linger on in the long after-taste. This cruises far above the "Estate wine" label and delivers true depth. Now-2027

### **Weingut Werner**

(Leiwen - Middle Mosel)

2007er Werner Schweicher Annaberg Riesling Auslese 16 08 92

Already deep-golden in color, this Auslese delivers a quite concentrated and rich nose of juicy raisin, toffee, honey, marzipan, apricot, quince and baked apple wrapped in a touch of volatile and mint. This feeling of richness carries over onto the palate where the wine unfolds some BA intensity and viscosity. Ripe baked fruits and honey give the wine an intensely creamy and unctuous side in the very long and slightly powerful finish. This juicy BA-styled Riesling is really impressive! Now-2037

2007er Werner Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese 07 08 91

A whiff of volatile enhances an overall ripe and aromatic bouquet driven by caramel, baked pineapple, honey, quince and licorice. The reveals plenty of honeyed and exotic fruits wrapped into almond cream, toffee and apricot on the delicate and creamy palate. The finish is intense, very long and smoky. This is a superb Auslese made in a joyfully direct style. Now-2032

2007er Werner Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Beerenauslese 15 08 91

This deep golden-colored wine proves rather restrained and smoky at first but quickly develops richer notes of acacia honey, tar, apricot cream, ginger cake, canned peach, quince and vanilla. Ripe yellow fruits wrapped into quite some honey make for a juicy and creamy feel on the palate. The finish is still very much on the sweet side but a great kick of acidity is ready to bring the required freshness at maturity, in a few years' time. 2022-2037



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## 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2007 - Tasting Notes ( Beyond the Mosel )

Besides the Mosel, we also reviewed wines from other German wine regions as well as Riesling beyond Germany (Austria and France) in a bid to offer additional reference points to our readers about the vintage 2007. These wines were all reviewed by us over the last few weeks.

We provide here tasting notes from the following Estates:

Zind-Humbrecht

**Alzinger** Wachau Dürnstein Bassermann-Jordan Deidesheim Pfalz Walluf J.B. Becker Rheingau **Georg Breuer** Rüdesheim Rheingau Dr. Crusius Traisen Nahe Dönnhoff Oberhausen Nahe **Emrich-Schönleber** Monzingen Nahe Franz Hirtzberger Wachau Spitz Alsace Hugel Riquewihr Keller Flörsheim-Dalsheim Rheinhessen Kientzler Ribeauvillé Alsace Dürnstein Wachau Knoll Koehler-Ruprecht Kallstadt Pfalz Künstler Hochheim Hochheim F.X. Pichler Dürnstein Wachau Rebholz Siebeldingen Pfalz **Horst Sauer** Escherndorf Franken Rainer Sauer Escherndorf Franken Schäfer-Fröhlich Bockenau Nahe **Trimbach** Ribeauvillé Alsace **Robert Weil** Kiedrich Rheingau **Hans Wirsching** Iphofen Franken Westhofen Rheinhessen Wittmann

Turckheim

Alsace



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## **10-Years-After Retrospective: 2007 – Detailed Tasting Notes ( Beyond the Mosel – 40 Wines )**



### **Weingut Alzinger**

(Dürnstein - Wachau)

2007er Alzinger

Loibner Steinertal Riesling Smaragd

93-

Slightly reduced and almost non-saying at first, this wine only gradually develops gorgeously complex and comparatively fresh scents of white peach, greengage and almond paste on the nose. The wine still proves rather shy and closed on the palate yet develops juicy flavors of almond, white peach and lime with some air. The wine starts off on the light-weighted side but some power eventually comes through which adds depth and intensity to the very long finish. While already very impressive, this wine is not yet fully there but the potential is immense, especially if it manages to harness the powerful side at maturity. It could then prove even more exciting than we anticipate! 2022-2037

### Weingut Geheimer Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan

(Deidesheim - Pfalz)

2007er Bassermann-Jordan

Forster Jesuitengarten Riesling Trocken GG

10 08

90

This wine exhibits a rather aromatic but also quite ripe nose blending pineapple, apricot and honey with a hint of litchi. Yellow fruits emerge on the rather powerful palate and lead to a fully dry and still quite tart feel in the ostentatious and rather big finish. This impressive effort will particularly appeal to lovers of aromatically ripe expressions of dry Riesling. Now-2022

### Weingut J.B. Becker

(Walluf - Rheingau)

2007er J.B. Becker

Eltviller Sonnenberg Riesling Spätlese

14 08

92

This Spätlese was made in the old-style with approx. 40 g/l of residual sugar. It offers a gorgeous, rather open and powerful nose of passion fruit, whipped cream, a hint of cassis and spices. The wine is nicely fruity and delicately smooth and sweet on the palate. More minerals and spices come through in the long finish. This old-style Spätlese with limited residual sugar is now singing. Now-2032

2007er J.B. Becker

Wallufer Berg Bildstock Riesling Kabinett

07 08

1+

This Kabinett develops beautiful scents of cassis, pineapple and whipped cream on the nose. The wine is gorgeously playful in an off-dry style on the palate and leaves a smooth feel of herbs and fresh fruits in the long finish. This will prove a great companion for food. Now-2032

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2007er J.B. Becker

Wallufer Walkenberg Riesling Auslese Trocken

11 08

90+

This delivers a ripe and broad nose of pear, toffee, dried mirabelle, nut and licorice. The wine is driven by a phenolic side which gives quite some intensity, power and tartness to the palate. The finish is spicy and intense. Despite boasting 14.5% of alcohol, the intrinsic power of the wine is well harnessed in the long and pleasing after-taste. This dry Riesling made for lovers of full-blown wines could possibly gain from further aging if it manages to dissolve its tartness. Now-2022+

### **Weingut Georg Breuer**

(Rüdesheim – Rheingau)

2007er Georg Breuer

Rauenthaler Nonnenberg Riesling

03 08

95

This delivers a remarkably under-cooled nose for a 2007 wine as a great floral side is wrapped into pear, hazelnut and aniseed herbs. The wine develops great presence and grip on the palate, where more minerals and spicy elements give the wine fabulous complexity. The finish focused, long, refined and very long. What a stunning dry Riesling classic! Now-2037

2007er Georg Breuer

Rüdesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling

01 08

94

This has quite a refined and minty aromatic profile of white flowers, peach, spices and minerals. It however needs a few minutes in the glass to fully show its depth and complexity. The wine is initially slightly round and even juicy in fruits yet it significantly gains in presence, focus and precision as it unfolds on the palate. This gorgeous piece of Riesling in the making is only at the start of its maturity window! Now-2032

### Weingut Dr. Crusius

(Traisen - Nahe)

2007er Dr. Crusius

Traiser Rotenfels Riesling Auslese

25 08

94

This golden-colored wine delivers a gorgeously fiery and exotic nose of pineapple, coconut, apricot, cream and fine spices. The wine has the delicately oily presence of a big Auslese GK on the palate, where more apricot and pineapple are joined by almond and passion fruit. The finish is beautifully juicy as more creamy and honeyed fruits and a gorgeous touch of acidity simply make one reach for another glass of this refined expression of dessert wine. Now-2037

### Weinaut Dönnhoff

(Oberhausen - Nahe)

2007er

Dönnhoff

Norheimer Dellchen Riesling Spätlese

20 08

Auction

94

This Spätlese sold via the Bad Kreuznach Auction in 2008 offers an absolutely show-stopping and delicately ripe nose blending candied grapefruit, pear, greengage and minty herbs with some apricot blossom and licorice. The wine is pure silk and finesse on the palate, where it develops the full creaminess of an Auslese wrapped into the zesty side of a Spätlese. The finish is deliciously playful and mouthwateringly tart (the wine does have 9% of alcohol), making one magical reach for another glass. The multi-layered presence in the delicately honeyed after-taste is truly remarkable and in line with what one would expect from a high end auction bottling. This remarkable effort proves already very enjoyable now and will continue to do so for several more decades. What a beauty! Now-2037

2007er

Dönnhoff

Kreuznacher Krötenpfuhl Riesling Spätlese

06 08

92

The wine is still rather shy on the nose as it only hints at some pear, chalky minerals and flowers. But the feel on the palate is already beautifully gorgeous as zesty acidity provides the right frame to gorgeous flavors of candied lemon, grapefruit, pear, freshly cut apple and gorgeous flowery elements. The finish is intense, juicy and packed with more white mineral and flowery flavors. Despite the ripeness of the vintage, this Spätlese remains true to the style of the Prädikat and leaves one with a great long feel in the after-taste. This first vintage of the Kreuznacher Krötenpfuhl at the hands of Dönnhoff proves a real success. What a beauty! Now-2032



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2007er Dönnhoff Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Trocken GG 30 08 92

This wine proves nicely fruity with some candied citrus, grapefruit and mirabelle as well as fresher notes of minty herbs on the nose. It is packed with flavors on the palate and offers great concentration without too much weight. Only an unusual touch of power in the finish (the wine does have 13.5% of alcohol) hampers slightly the overall pleasure of enjoying an in every other aspect outstanding fruit-driven dry Riesling. Now-2022

2007er Dönnhoff Oberhäuser Brücke Riesling Spätlese 07 08 92

This still proves rather backward and only gradually reveals a ripe and fruit-driven aromatic profile with pear and mirabelle. The wine is delicately rich and quite suave on the intense palate as pineapple and coconut join the party. This all leads to a nicely complex feel of ripe fruits, dried herbs, honey and smoky minerals in the silky and smooth finish. Now-2032

### Weinaut Emrich-Schönleber

(Monzingen – Nahe)

2007er Emrich-Schönleber Monzinger Halenberg Riesling Trocken GG 12 08 94

This delivers a dead gorgeous and comparatively fresh nose of flowers, ginger, grapefruit, bergamot, coconut and yellow peach, all wrapped into some minty elements. The wine is superbly well balanced on the palate as its fruity side is nicely integrated into a complex and intensely creamy structure. The very long finish proves intense but free of any undue power: What a splendid dry Riesling! Now-2027

### **Weingut Franz Hirtzberger**

(Spitz - Wachau)

 2007er
 Franz Hirtzberger
 Spitzer Hochrain Riesling Smaragd
 89

This wine starts off on the fruity side and exhibits quite some ripe notes of pineapple, mirabelle and quince on the nose before honey and herbs join the bouquet as the wine develops in the glass. A big, broad and delicately off-dry feel of creamy fruits comes through on the palate and leads to a rather powerful yet floral feel in the richly honeyed finish infused with almond, honey and apricot. This ripe wine will please lovers of very ripe and bold expressions of Riesling. Now-2022

### **Maison Hugel**

(Riquewihr - Alsace)

2007er Hugel Riesling Jubilee 93

The Riesling Jubilee comes exclusively from the Grand Cru Schoenenbourg in Riquewihr. This bottle of 2007 Jubilee is still largely reduced with almond and only gradually reveals gorgeous scents of grapefruit, candied lime, coconut, some sage and fine spices. The wine proves beautifully fresh and elegant on the palate and leaves a great feel in the intense but not overpowering finish. This is a great dry Riesling with only a hint of power betraying the inherent richness of the vintage. Now-2027

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### **Weinaut Keller**

(Flörsheim-Dalsheim - Rheinhessen)

2007er Keller

Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen Riesling Auslese GK Abts E®.de

36 08 Auction

96+

The "Abts E®.de" stands for Abtserde, a prime sector of the Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen vineyard, whose name can however not be written on the label for legal reasons, hence the visual subterfuge. Light yellow-golden in color, this auction Auslese is still very much primary on the nose and only hint to more than reveals a very delicate yet ripe bouquet of honey, pineapple, grapefruit, yellow peach, mint and a touch of almond cream and coconut in the background. The wine proves quite present and intense on the mid-palate with juicy fruits gorgeously lifted up by a most animating acidity, and explodes in a very long, creamy and exotic finish. Its superbly aromatic and fruity side makes the wine seemingly approachable now. But, ideally, the wine is best left alone for another decade to give it a chance to fully showcase its stunning complexity. In fact, we would not be surprised if it exceeds our very high expectations by then. This little jewel of an Auslese GK is absolutely stunning! 2027-2057

2007er Keller

Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen Riesling Trocken Abts E®.de GG

51 08

96

The "Abts E®.de" stands for Abtserde, a prime sector of the Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen vineyard, whose name can however not be written on the label for legal reasons, hence the visual subterfuge. This bottle of the 2007er Abtserde GG delivers a mind-bogglingly gorgeous and oh-so refined nose of bergamot, grapefruit, hazelnut, mint and vineyard peach. The wine shines through precision depth, freshness and complexity on the palate. The finish is all about elegance as whipped cream adds a soothing side to the overall balance and stunning finesse of this remarkably fresh wine. What a great elegant dry Riesling! Now-2037

2007er Keller

Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG

52 08

94

This offers a hugely elegant and comparatively lively nose of white flowers, bergamot, fresh ginger, pear and white pepper all wrapped into some smoky mint. Great structure and a touch of grip bring gorgeous aromatic focus and finesse to the delicately fruity palate. The finish is all about spices and a gentle and elegant touch of tartness. The underlying feeling of freshness comes through in the after-taste, adding to the overall pleasure of enjoying this outstanding dry Riesling! Now-2032

2007er

Keller

**Riesling Trocken G-Max** 

53 08

93

The Riesling Trocken G-Max is made from old vines of the Estate whose location has been a well-guarded secret since its commercial launch in 2001. The 2007er G-Max proves rather open for business as attractive and comparatively fresh scents of juicy tangerine, grapefruit, apricot, white pepper, spices and licorice emerge from the glass. The wine proves slightly creamy and driven by delicately exotic fruits on the palate. A gorgeous interplay of fruits, minerals and fine herbs in the finish adds to the overall smooth and delicate charm of the wine. Now-2027

2007er Keller

Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken GG

54 08

92

This bright hay-white colored wine delivers a gorgeous and aromatic nose of laurel, quince, candied grapefruit and smoke from reduction. A multi-layered smoothness of citrusy fruits, minerals and herbs nicely wrapped into a zesty kick of acidity, which makes for an excellent balance on the palate. The finish is powerful but quite enticing and the way this wine wraps an inherent richness into silky precision is remarkable. This is a great success even if a touch of power eventually comes through in the after-taste. Now-2027

2007er Keller

Riesling Trocken von der Fels

22 08

90

The Riesling Trocken von der Fels is made from younger vines from the Estate's top Grand Cru vineyards. The 2007er delivers a very nice and aromatic bouquet of spices, dried herbs, mint, quince, greengage and peach. A gorgeously zesty and herbal comes through on the palate which adds a superb freshness to the nicely structured and intense finish. Lime and spices complete the experience in the fully dry after-taste. This is quite a superb mature von der Fels. Now-2027



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### **Domaine Kientzler**

(Ribeauvillé - Alsace)

2007er Kientzler Riesling Geisberg NR

This bright-colored wine reveals itself as being unfortunately marked by the same notes of premature oxidation unfortunately too often found in white Burgundy, i.e. with the fresh fruits wrapped into some Madeira wine. This is a real shame as the underlying wine proves build along remarkably classic lines. What a shame! Let's hope this is only a one-off. However, given the issues of premature oxidation affecting other regions, we prefer to provide this data point to our readers. Drink up

### **Weinaut Knoll**

(Dürnstein - Wachau)

2007er Knoll Dürnsteiner Schütt Riesling Smaragd 89

This is slightly reduced at first and only gradually develops some ripe scents of mirabelle, grapefruit, dried herbs and licorice. Sweet fruits and quite some power from the alcoholic strength dominate the aromatic profile on the palate. This feeling of heat carries over in the tart and medium-long finish of this otherwise impressively complex wine. Now-2022

### Weinaut Koehler-Ruprecht

(Kallstadt - Pfalz)

2007er Koehler-Ruprecht Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken R 56 08 95

This delivers a superb nose driven by fresh and minty notes as well as flowers, white minerals, licorice and peach. The wine proves packed with minerals, ripe citrusy fruits and smoke on the structured and assertive palate. Yet, far from being austere, the wine simply remains aromatically precise, airy and pure. The bone-dry finish is all about elegance with magnificent fresh notes of zesty fruits. This is a glorious dry Riesling! Now-

### Weingut Künstler

(Hochheim - Rheingau)

2007er Künstler Hochheimer Hölle Riesling Auslese Trocken GK 25 08 91

This offers an attractive even if still slightly reduced nose of herbs, spices, nut, grapefruit and smoke. The wine develops good presence on the palate as juicy and ripe fruits are joined by intense and delicately salty flavors of spices and ginger. A more powerful and tarter side comes through in the finish which integrates with extensive airing. This wine will please lovers of ostentatious dry Riesling. Now-2022

### Weingut F.X. Pichler

(Dürnstein - Wachau)

2007er F.X. Pichler Riesling Smaragd Unendlich 89

This offers a very aromatic but also very ripe nose driven by gingery spices, apricot, cherry, nut, camphor and licorice. The wine is full-bodied and powerful on the palate as the alcoholic strength dominates the flavors. Cooked fruits and spices wrapped in saltiness come through in the big and powerful finish. This remarkable wine will please lovers of mature and bold expression of Riesling. Drink up

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### Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz

(Siebeldingen - Pfalz)

2007er Rebholz

Birkweiler Kastanienbusch Riesling Trocken GG

21 08

90

This delivers a quite rich but also rather ripe nose of nut, apricot, pineapple, mirabelle and quince wrapped into lactic elements and ginger cake. The wine is full bodied and richly fruited on the palate, yet the finish shows nice depth and freshness, with intensely exotic flavors nicely keeping the alcohol power in check. This rather full-blown expression of dry Riesling proves very nicely made in this style. Now-2022

### **Weingut Horst Sauer**

(Escherndorf - Franken)

2007er Horst Sauer

Escherndorfer Lump Silvaner Trocken GG

36 08

88

This already deep golden-colored wine starts off on the fresh side, with scents of mirabelle, gooseberry, pear puree and laurel, before it develops a riper side driven by cinnamon, apricot and quince. The wine proves soft, round and rather powerful on the palate as sweet fruits are only vaguely wrapped into a touch of "green" acidity. The finish is all about mirabelle, a surprising kick of citrusy acidity and some brown spices. The after-taste proves on the hot and powerful side. This wine, playing more on presence than finesse, proves quite satisfying in this style. Now-2022

### **Weingut Rainer Sauer**

(Escherndorf - Franken)

2007er Rainer Sauer

Escherndorfer Lump Silvaner Spätlese Trocken Alte Reben

21 08

90

This green-yellow colored wine offers a rather bright and vivid bouquet of meadowsweet, grapefruit and mint, all paired with riper elements driven by quince, laurel and peat. The wine is nicely juicy and smooth on the palate, as more peat and quince blend with a hint of almond, grapefruit zest and herbs. Only a slight touch of heat in the finish tampers the overall pleasure of enjoying this wine. Now-2022

2007er

Rainer Sauer

Escherndorfer Lump Silvaner Spätlese Trocken L

22 08

90

The Spätlese Trocken L was the precursor of the Estate's GG. This yellow-colored version from the 2007 vintage develops a rather elegant nose of quince, smoke, elderflower and meadowsweet. A juicy feel of quince and peat comes through on the palate with good grip and presence. The finish proves long and persistent. Only the slightly sweet-sour feel driven by grapefruit and quince in the surprisingly structured after-taste makes us opt to enjoy this rather sooner than later. Now-2020

### Weingut Schäfer-Fröhlich

(Bockenau - Nahe)

2007er Schäfer-Fröhlich

**Bockenauer Felseneck Riesling Trocken GG** 

31 08

93

This is still rather backward and on only gradually reveals nice juicy notes of yellow peach, spices, pineapple and almond, all wrapped into some fresh minty and smoky elements. The wine is quite intense on the palate with spicy notes of ripe and creamy fruits. These give way to some beautiful flavors of candied grapefruit and dried spices in the long and elegant finish. This gorgeous dry Riesling only starts to blossom now and should offer much pleasure for many years to come. Now-2027



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### **Maison Trimbach**

(Ribeauvillé - Alsace)

2007er Trimbach

Riesling Cuvée Frédéric Emile

95

This delicate wine is all about finesse and freshness on the nose as breathtaking fresh notes of herbs, spices and white minerals emerge from the glass. A hugely focused and yet intense feel of white minerals, ripe pear and wet stone peps up the palate and leads to a lively and zesty feel in the almost razor-sharp and focused finish. The beautiful after-taste is bone dry. This wine may prove somewhat light at first but the precision, finesse and elegance are simply remarkable. In many ways, it transcends the ripeness of the vintage and behaves more like a 2008 or 2004 than a typical 2007 Riesling. What an admirable Cuvée Frédéric Emile! Now-2037

### **Weingut Robert Weil**

(Kiedrich – Rheingau)

2007er Robert Weil

Kiedricher Gräfenberg Riesling Spätlese

14 08

**02**+

This hay-golden colored wine delivers a subtly complex nose of greengage, mirabelle, bergamot and fine spices. This feeling of slender elegance carries over onto the palate, where citrusy elements join the party and bring a touch of juicy freshness to the delicately creamy structure. The finish has the elegance and playful side of a real Spätlese as more ripe fruits, aniseed herbs and mineral elements woe for attention. This wine is already beautiful now but could even gain in precision as the feeling of sweetness recedes in the after-taste. 2022-2037

2007er Robert Weil Riesling Kabinett 55 08 91

This 2007er Estate Kabinett by Robert Weil offers beautifully lively scents of greengage, minty herbs, anise and quince on the nose. The wine is delicately creamy and comparatively full-bodied for a Kabinett on the palate but this extra slice of presence is beautifully wrapped into juicy and lively acidity. The finish is precise, more off-dry and delicately tart than fully fruity in style (the wine does have 9% of alcohol). This is a gorgeous effort with character, presence and, above all, great balance. Now-2027

### **Weingut Hans Wirsching**

(Iphofen – Franken)

2007er Hans Wirsching

Iphöfer Julius-Echter-Berg Silvaner Spätlese Trocken S

34 08

91

This green-golden colored wine delivers a rather gorgeous nose playing on a fascinating tension between fresh elderflower and mint with riper scents of mature Silvaner including quince, a hint of peat, apricot blossom and minty herbs. The wine proves nicely present and full-bodied on the palate but without any undue heat or power. The finish is a cocktail of peat, more elderflower and quite some apricot-infused fresh minerals. This is a beautiful example of Silvaner which is evolving superbly well. While fully enjoyable now, it still has plenty of life ahead. Now-2027

### Weingut Wittmann

(Westhofen - Rheinhessen)

2007er Wittmann

Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG

30 08

91

This wine delivers a rich and ripe nose of almond, yellow peach, toffee and pineapple. The wine is creamy and rather full-bodied on the palate as ripe and sweet fruits drive the aromatics. These lead to some tart and fresh mineral elements in the intense and slightly ostentatious finish. This proves a bolded expression of Morstein than usual and one which requires extensive airing to shine. Now-2027



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### **Domaine Zind-Humbrecht**

(Turckheim – Alsace)

2007er Zind Humbrecht

**Riesling Brand Vieilles Vignes** 

NR

This wine starts off with a comparatively evolved and ripe nose of nut, lactic elements, coconut, quince, caramel and licorice. It proves on the broad and creamy side on the palate and leaves one with a rather short and not very intense feel in the slightly hot and powerful finish. The disconcerting showing of this bottle makes us recommend to enjoy any bottle rather sooner than later. Drink up



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## 20-Years-After Retrospective: 1997 - The Vintage at a Glance

### The Growing Conditions

The start of the season proved difficult with uneven flowering, which led to a contrasted development between Saar-Ruwer and the Mosel. The year started on the frosty side in January and February but then turned for the better in March. This led to an early spring with moderate to no issue during bud break. The Saar and Ruwer were particularly badly hit by severe frosts at the end of April, which affected yields. May and June proved also wet throughout the Mosel region, but again particularly in the Saar and the Ruwer, which led to significant coulure during flowering, thereby also affecting the yields. As a result, yields eventually proved to be at least twice as high in the Mosel than in the Saar or Ruwer.

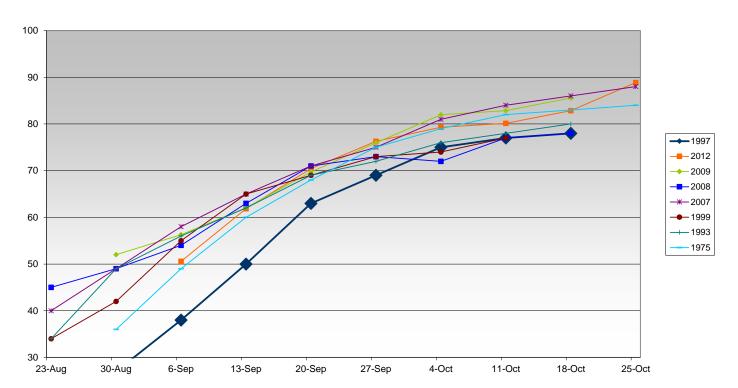
A warm summer brought ripeness forward and dried out any deceases.

Fortunately for Mosel growers, the weather turned out to be perfect during the remaining growing season. A warm July was followed by the hottest August on record at the time, which furthered ripening. If anything, worries emerged that the weather could be too good as acidities tumbled, especially after September also proved to be warm and dry.

A sunny and dry October gave the growers perfect harvest conditions with, however few possibilities for botrytis selections and Eiswein.

October proved simply glorious with cool and dry weather conditions. As Dirk Richter summarized it when we met up to taste his 1997s: "1997 was a picture book harvest like I have not seen one since, except maybe for 2015." These perfect weather conditions allowed the grapes to ripen evenly and gave growers enough time to make all the desired selections for their wines. Harvest happened rather late, from the second half of October until well into November. The lack of botrytis made that few BAs and TBAs were eventually produced. Also the vintage did not give many opportunities for Eiswein. A spell of cold weather at the end of January 1998 allowed some to produce Eiswein (Max Ferd. Richter did one, for instance) but at other Estates, such as von Schubert, the grapes were no longer up to standards and had to be discarded.

# Evolution of Sugar Levels (° Oechsle) - 1997 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages (Bereich Trier)

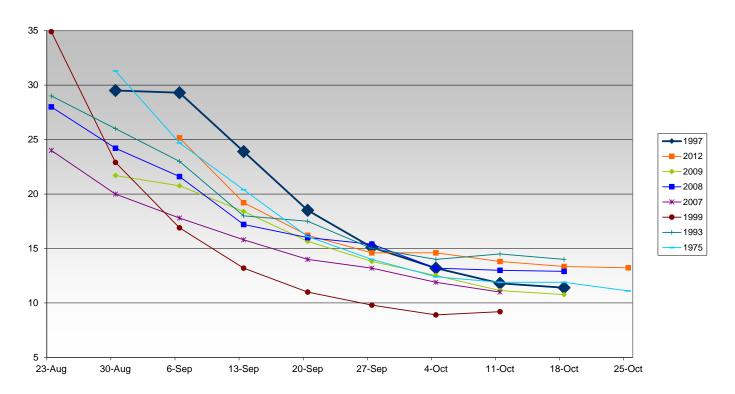




"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

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# Evolution of Total Acidity Levels (g/l) - 1997 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages (Bereich Trier)



Source: German Ministry of Agriculture - Rheinland-Pfalz

### The Vintage Style

Early worries of the wines being too soft were quickly brushed aside as their exotic qualities struck a chord with Riesling lovers.

Reports from the period all mentioned some concerns about the low acidity levels and doubts emerged in discussions of the period about the aging capacities of this vintage. The acidity was indeed lower than any other from previous vintages, and in that decade in stark contrast to the high acidity 1996, 1995 and 1994 vintages. However, the wine trade and wine lovers swiftly brushed these worries aside and embraced the early attraction of the vintage, as Erni Loosen (Weingut Dr. Loosen) recalled: "We were actually quite relieved by the low acidity of the 1997 vintage, especially after the high acidity 1996 vintage. The 1997 wines were immediate crowd pleasers." Stylistically, the vintage was seen as a more complete and refined rendition of the well-received 1993 and 1992 vintages.

The vintage catered to all needs as it delivered great dry, off-dry, fruity and noble-sweet wines.

The other great attraction of the vintage was that growers had the perfect harvest conditions to produce fine wines in all stylistic directions. Some gorgeous dry and off-dry wines were made, which proved not as acidic as usually and hence more approachable in their youth. Also fruity styled wines were clean and precise. Much of the fruity wines, even if labelled as Kabinett, were of Spätlese or Auslese presence as the vintage had just a touch more ripeness than usual. Finally, although the vintage did not yield much botrytis, nearly all growers offered some form of Auslese GK or BA, albeit in minute quantities.



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## 20-Years-After Retrospective: 1997 Wines Today - Textbook Mosel Beauty

We re-tasted over 90 wines from the 1997 vintage over the last few months. These were mostly, but not only, from the Mosel. The result is a resounding success. For lovers of lively mature Mosel, 1997 may well be THE perfect vintage.



### The 1997 wines are remarkably fresh and elegant.

With the exception of the odd bottle with a less than perfect cork (fortunately the percentage of corked bottles is slightly down on previous vintages but still well above 10%), all 1997 wines proved remarkably fresh and elegant. Many offered notes of red berry fruits and, if they did not, made up for this with lively pear and citrusy fruits. The acidity proves marvelously well integrated, without towering above the wines as it often did in the more acidic 1996, 1995 and 1994 vintages (see our 20-Years-After Retrospectives of those vintages over the last few years). This overall feeling of balance makes for extremely elegant wines.

#### The sweet spot of the 1997 vintage is ... everywhere!

Usually, at this stage, we would mention that this or that stylistic direction fared particularly well in the vintage. Not so in 1997. ALL stylistic directions did equally well. The Kabinett wines are crispy, the Spätlese fruity and the Auslese vibrantly creamy. Also the off-dry and dry Riesling, aged now 20, are still full of complexity, elegance and freshness, and continue to offer much pleasure.

#### Even the few noble-sweet wines produced prove now superb.

The lack of botrytis has made that noble-sweet wines are rare in 1997. However, those that were produced are simply superb and one literally tastes the fact that growers had the time to make the necessarily strict selections of botrytized fruit during the harvest. Leading producers such as Zilliken, Thanisch or Fritz Haag produced some stunners in a style which is slightly more oxidative, blending notes of nut and furniture wax into a cocktail of fine fruits and spices. Weingut Knebel handsomely underlines that, already back then, it was one of the finest sources for noble-sweet wines by producing a cracking (and in that vintage ultra-rare) TBA.

#### All parts of the Mosel delivered handsomely.

The universal quality of the 1997 vintage carries over onto the region. ALL areas in the Mosel (from the Terrassenmosel down to the Saar) fared well in this textbook vintage. In addition each area showcases its unique style: Mosel wines are elegantly playful, Ruwer are full of minty freshness and Saar wine show their telltale zesty tension. The early worries that the wines from the 1997 vintage would not age have not materialized. In fact, the high ripeness of the wines meant that the proportion of tartaric acidity in the finished 1997 wines was unusually high.

Leading growers produced some superb beauties but also smaller growers outdid themselves: It is hard to go wrong in 1997.

Our retrospective has shown that all leading Estates of the day, i.e. Egon Müller, Joh. Jos. Prüm, Fritz Haag, von Schubert, Karthäuserhof, Jos. Christoffel jr., Zilliken, Willi Schaefer, etc., produced some stunning wines. However, and this is again a great feature of the 1997 vintage, also smaller and less widely known growers produced outstanding Riesling in that vintage. Basically, it is hard to go wrong by back buying 1997 wines.

To make a long story short: For lovers of fresh and lively Mosel, 1997 may be a perfect vintage.

Much as 2006 and 2005 are Mosel heaven for lovers of noble-sweet Riesling, 1997 is the wet-dream-coming-through vintage for lovers of lively and playfully zesty Mosel Riesling. Every effort should be made to back buy wines from this vintage for lovers of mature Riesling!



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## 20-Years-After Retrospective: 1997 Vintage Highlights

### 1997 Vintage Highlights - Sweet and Noble-Sweet Wines \*

1997er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	09 98		97
1997er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Beerenauslese	19 98		97
1997er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese lange GK	03 98	Auction	96
1997er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	18 98		96
1997er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese	26 98		96
1997er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese	27 98		96
1997er	Dönnhoff	Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Auslese	17 98		95
1997er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 89			95
1997er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Beerenauslese	01 98	Auction	94+
1997er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese **	07 98		94
1997er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese ***	08 98		94
1997er	Dr. Loosen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Beerenauslese	09 98		94
1997er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Beerenauslese	50 98	Auction	94
1997er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese ***	03 98		93
1997er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese ***	01 98		93
1997er	S.A. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Beerenauslese	N.A.		93

<sup>\*</sup> Mainly Auslese GK and upwards but we also add those Spätlese or Auslese which are Auslese GK in all but name.

### 1997 Vintage Highlights - Fruity Wines \*\*

1997er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	17 98	Auction	95
1997er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett	03 98		95
1997er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese	05 98	Auction	94
1997er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese	07 98		94
1997er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese	12 98		94
1997er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	08 00		94
1997er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	09 00		94
1997er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese	07 98		94
1997er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese	09 98		94
1997er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese	05 98		94
1997er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	19 98		93
1997er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	20 98	Auction	93
1997er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Golden Capsule)	34 98	Auction	93
1997er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese	03 03		93
1997er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	16 98		93
1997er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	15 98		93
1997er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	16 98		93
1997er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese	06 98		93
1997er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	10 98	Auction	93

<sup>\*\*</sup> Mainly Kabinett and Spätlese but also Auslese if they are particularly light and elegant in style.



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## 1997 Vintage Highlights - Dry / Off-Dry Wines

1997er	F.X. Pichler	Loibner Klostersatz Grüner Veltliner Smaragd		93
1997er	Martin Müllen	Kinheimer Rosenberg Riesling Auslese Trocken	02 98	92
1997er	Markus Molitor	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese Halbtrocken	41 98	91
1997er	Martin Müllen	Kröver Steffensberg Riesling Spätlese Halbtrocken	05 98	91
1997er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Trocken	14 98	91
1997er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken	18 98	91
1997er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese Trocken S	11 98	90
1997er	Martin Müllen	Kröver Letterlay Riesling Auslese Halbtrocken	18 98	90
1997er	Martin Müllen	Kröver Letterlay Riesling Spätlese Trocken	06 98	90
1997er	Martin Müllen	Kröver Paradies Riesling Auslese Trocken	03 98	90
1997er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett Trocken	30 98	90
1997er	Max Ferd. Richter	Trarbacher Ungsberg Riesling Spätlese Halbtrocken	40 98	90
1997er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Trocken	16 98	90
1997er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Trocken	17 98	90



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## 20-Years-After Retrospective: 1997 - Tasting Notes

We had the opportunity to re-taste a large number of wines from the 1997 vintage over the last few weeks, including in the form of comprehensive horizontal tastings carried early 2017, with about 90 wines re-sampled in total.

Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben Ürzig

Jos. Christoffel jr. Ürzig

Clüsserath-Eifel Trittenheim

Dönnhoff Oberhausen / Nahe

Karl Erbes Ürzig

Fritz Haag Brauneberg

Geltz-Zilliken Saarburg

Karthäuserhof Eitelsbach

Knebel Winningen

Schloss Lieser Lieser

Hans-Albrecht Loersch Leiwen

Dr. Loosen Bernkastel-Kues

Merkelbach Ürzig

Markus Molitor Wehlen

Egon Müller Wiltingen

Martin MüllenTraben-TrarbachDr. Pauly-BergweilerBernkastel-Kues

F.X. Pichler Dürnstein / Wachau

Joh. Jos. Prüm Wehlen
S.A. Prüm Wehlen
Max Ferd. Richter Mülheim
Willi Schaefer Graach

von Schubert – Maximin Grünhaus Mertesdorf
Günther Steinmetz Brauneberg

Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch Bernkastel-Kues





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## **20-Years-After Retrospective: 1997 – Detailed Tasting Notes ( 90 Wines )**



### Weingut Jos. Christoffel jr.

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

1997er Jos. Christoffel jr.

Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese \*\*\*

03 98

^^

This rather backward wine only develops shy notes of grape juice and almond on the nose at first. It is only gradually that these are joined by richer scents including apricot, candied grapefruit, mirabelle and a touch of raisin. The wine proves gorgeously juicy, intense and nicely balanced on the palate. Some citrusy acidity comes through and brings freshness and delineation to the wine. This is a superb effort, full of complexity and delicate zest. Now-2047

1997er Jos. Christoffel jr.

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese \*\*\*

01 98

93

This offers a gorgeous and still reduced nose of fine spices and herbs. The wine proves elegant and nicely fruity as youthful flavors of cassis and herbs come through on the palate. The presence is that of an "Auslese lange GK" but with everything nicely framed by a playful and superbly elegant acidity in the finish. The noticeable sweetness in the after-taste makes us opt to wait for another couple of years to get the best out this beautiful Auslese in the making. 2022-2037

### Weingut Clüsserath-Eifel

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

1997er Clüsserath-Eifel

Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Spätlese \*\*

11 98 Au

Auction

04

This beautifully golden-green colored wine delivers a superb cocktail of mirabelle, mango, apricot, almond, beeswax, herbs and tea on the nose. The wine is nicely round and soft on the palate, with some licorice, caramel and more creamy fruits coming through in the still surprisingly sweet finish. This now fully mature Auslese GK-styled wine will offer much pleasure for many more years. Now-2027 (Reprint from the Mosel Fine Wines Auction Guide 2016)

### Weingut Dönnhoff

(Oberhausen - Nahe)

1997er Dönnhoff

Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Auslese

17 98

95

This offers a magnificent nose of greengage, mirabelle, pear, quince, candied grapefruit, licorice and herbs. A more opulent and delicately oily side comes through on the palate, with honey, more greengage and a good kick of zest making for a beautiful balance. The finish is simply gorgeous as succulently creamy fruits are wrapped into a superbly ripe acidity. This is a classic mature Dönnhoff Auslese! Now-2032



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### **Weingut Karl Erbes**

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

1997er Karl Erbes

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese \*\*

07 98

94

This offers a beautiful nose of cassis, elderflower, pear, white minerals and a hint of smoky slate. The wine is remarkably fresh and gorgeously fruity on the palate and leaves a superbly racy and fruity finish with whipped cream adding freshness to the after-taste. This beautiful effort, made in the great Fritz Haaq style of the 1990s, is simply irresistible. Now-2027

1997er Karl Erbes

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese \*\*\*

08 98

94

Yellow-golden in color, this delivers a rich and aromatic nose of caramel, almond cream, beeswax, quince, grapefruit and pineapple. With further airing, secondary and tertiary notes of cinnamon, smoke, tar and gingerbread, all wrapped into a nice minty touch, join the party. The wine is gorgeously playful on the palate as an initial touch of fruit richness is perfectly handled by a most animating grapefruit-driven acidity. The wine is still nicely sweet on the mid-palate yet proves gloriously refined in the long and zesty finish. One would be forgiven to suspect a touch of Eiswein here: Such is the feeling of tension and zippy acidity. This manages to combine huge drinking fun with great mature complexity. What a beautiful expression of mature Mosel! Now-2037

1997er Karl Erbes

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese

09 98

91+

This Auslese is the result of frozen fruit harvested at 112° Oechsle ... on January 28, 1998 (i.e. very late). This slightly bronze-colored wine still proves astonishingly reduced and only gradually delivers some gorgeous notes of tar, candied grapefruit, apricot, passion fruit and orange peel. It offers flavors of greengage, mirabelle and smoky slate on the palate, wrapped into some delicate acidity. The "frozen" character does not dominate the wine (which is actually the reason why it was not commercialized as Eiswein). It is only towards the after-taste that some zesty acidity comes through and brings some liveliness to the experience. As surprising as it may be, this wine still needs time to get over its reduced side and develop its full aromatic brilliance. It could then turn out simply brilliant if it develops its delicate fresh side! 2027-2047

1997er Karl Erbes

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese \*

06 98

91

Surprisingly light golden in color (this wine is 20 years old!), this offers a very delicate and smoky nose with herbal infusion (verbena and lemongrass) as well as sea breeze, tar and a touch of petrol. The wine develops more richness and presence on the palate with a touch of creamy fruits wrapped into lime, tangerine and cassis. The long finish proves pure, vivid and off-dry more than sweet in taste. This is very enjoyable in its "Ruwer upon Mosel" minty and herbal style. Now-2027

### Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

(Saarburg - Saar)

1997er Geltz-Zilliken

Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese lange GK

03 98

Auction

96

This offers a gorgeous nose of backed pineapple, a hint of ginger, some tea and gorgeously delicate creaminess on the palate. The wine is utterly enjoyable and yet there is great complexity if one cares to notice it. The finish is simply to die for. This is a stunner of a wine with depth, vibrancy and elegance. Now-2037

1997er

Geltz-Zilliken

Saarburger Rausch Riesling Beerenauslese

01 98

Auction

This offers a succulent nose of apricot, mango, melon and herbs. The wine proves stunningly playful on the palate yet a touch of sweetness is still in need of integration in the long and multi-layered finish. Consequently this needs a few more couple of years in order to get the most out of this magnificent BA in the making. We would even not be surprise if this warrants a higher rating by then. 2022-2047+

1997er Geltz-Zilliken

Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese

05 98

Auction

94

This offers a gorgeous nose of cucumber, melon, passion fruit and tea as well as some hint of cassis. The wine is superbly well balanced on the palate and leaves a glorious feel of beeswax in the ethereally long finish. This fully mature wine is a great tribute to the greatness of Mature Saar wines. Now-2027

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1997er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese 07 98

This offers a stunning nose of yellow fruits, herbs and spices, all wrapped into a superb touch of earl-grey tea. Creamy beeswax brings balance to the palate and the finish. This is plain gorgeous and incredibly fresh. Now-2027

### **Weingut Fritz Haag**

(Brauneberg - Middle Mosel)

1997er Fritz Haag Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK 09 98 97

This golden-colored beauty exhibits a simply breathtakingly refined nose blending ripe yellow peach, pineapple and honey with fresher scents of cassis, elderflower and mint. Even if one can almost smell the high level of ripeness of the grapes, what comes out of the glass is simply pure elegance. The wine is still comparatively sweet on the palate, where superb, honeyed and creamy yellow fruits are wrapped into a smooth and delicate texture. The finish is intense and incredibly long. This is an absolutely smashing Auslese GK success from the Fritz Haag Estate, and one which only slowly enters its maturity window now. Now-2047

### Weingut Karthäuserhof

(Eitelsbach - Trier-Ruwer)

1997er Karthäuserhof Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese 12 98 94

This golden-yellow wine delivers an absolutely beautiful and lively nose of cassis, minty herbs and slate. Ripe cassis, a hint of grapefruit sorbet, whipped cream and beeswax make the wine beautifully juicy on the palate. As if not enough, a stunning touch of ripe acidity cleanses the finish, bringing focus and an airy side to the gorgeous after-taste. This great Auslese should offer much pleasure for many more years. Now-2032

1997er Karthäuserhof Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese Trocken S 11 98 90

This bright yellow-colored wine delivers a ripe nose of almond, apricot, pineapple and fine herbs. The wine is nicely firm and on the full-bodied side (certainly by Mosel standards) on the palate and leaves a clean and satisfyingly long feel of delicately ripe fruits, white minerals and almond in the finish. This powerful expression of dry Mosel Riesling is now best enjoyed soon. Drink up

1997er Karthäuserhof Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Spätlese 09 98 89

This offers a beautifully mature nose of strawberry, almond and minty herbs. Minerals and ripe fruits make for a firm and structured feel on the palate and leave a rather direct and structured sensation in the focused but powerful finish (the wine does have 9.5% of alcohol). Drink up

### **Weingut Knebel**

(Winningen - Terrassenmosel)

1997er Knebel Winninger Röttgen Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 18 98 96

This offers a gorgeous nose of licorice, apricot, spice, wood patina, great finesse and elegance. The wine is super smooth and elegant and leaves a stunning feel of herbs and spices in the long and moderately acidic finish. Now-2047

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### **Weingut Schloss Lieser**

(Lieser - Middle Mosel)

1997er Schloss Lieser

Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Auslese \*\*\*

11 98

89

The Estate produced several separate bottlings of Auslese \*\*\* which only differ by the AP number. This AP11 develops a rather ripe and delicately oxidative side on the nose with good presence, a hint of honey and quite some licorice on the palate. Overall, this wine proves comparatively advanced and the finish is on the off-dry side. Now-2022

### Weingut Hans-Albrecht Loersch

(Leiwen - Middle Mosel)

The Weingut Hans-Albrecht Loersch still exists today but has been trading under Weingut Loersch since 2012.

1997er Hans-Albrecht Loersch

Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese

07 98

01

This offers a gorgeous nose of lemon peel, poached pear, strawberry and some fine minerals. The wine is remarkably zesty and focused on the palate, with just a hint of beeswax and honey coming through in the direct and now off-dry finish. The after-taste is refreshing, with herbs and more minerals lingering on. This is a gorgeous effort from this comparatively unknown Estate! Now-2022

### Weingut Dr. Loosen - Johannishof

(Bernkastel-Kues - Middle Mosel)

1997er Dr. Loosen

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Beerenauslese

กด ดล

94

Harvested at 145° Oechsle, this orange golden-colored wine delivers a gorgeous nose of dried apricot, honey, mango, a hint of almond and a touch of licorice and raisin. The wine is gorgeously playful on the palate as a superb and almost racy acidity pairs perfectly well with the richness of dried exotic fruits. This gives great refinement, elegance and precision to the beautifully long finish. While it is not a light BA, it is now at full maturity and remains elegant and ethereal. Now-2027

1997er Dr. Loosen

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese

19 98

93

This offers a gorgeous nose of cassis, orange, mint, white minerals and slate-infused herbs. Some marzipan and whipped cream join the party on the elegant, creamy and plain delicious palate. A delicate touch of liveliness is nicely integrated into a subtle and fine structure. This beautifully complex Spätlese proves superbly easy to drink! Now-2027

1997er

Dr. Loosen

Riesling Trocken

16 98

85

This dry Estate Riesling was essentially made from fruit harvested in Bernkastel, the upper part of Graach and the Wehlener Klosterberg. It offers a rather bright and vibrant nose of citrus, green apple, herbs and licorice. The wine is elegant and vibrant on the palate and in the long finish. There is a touch too much of bitterness and acidity for ideal pleasure but this "mere" Estate Riesling, now best served with food, is a nice positive surprise! Drink up



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### **Weingut Alfred Merkelbach**

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

1997er Alfred Merkelbach

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese

20 98

Auction

93

92

Harvested at 91° Oechsle, this wine starts off on the seemingly ripe side of things before gaining in complexity and finesse as develops scents of pear, some cassis, fine spices and herbs on the nose. The wine is beautifully well balanced and playful on the palate and leaves a delicious feel of herbs and spices as well as more citrusy fruits in the long finish. This is plain gorgeous. Now-2037

1997er Alfred Merkelbach

Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese

03 98

Auction

This offers a beautiful nose of white peach, cassis, pineapple, white flowers, spices and herbs. The wine is nicely creamy and delicately delineated on the palate, with more apple, white peach and a hint of mint leading to a juicy and fresh feel in the finish. This is a pure beauty made in the ethereally light and playful style of the Merkelbach Estate. Now-2027

1997er Alfred Merkelbach

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese

17 98

Auction

90

This bright-white wine exhibits scents of cassis, lemon peel and candy floss on the nose, all immersed into fine spices and herbs. The wine comes over as rather round and primary on the palate, with sweetness driving the rich and soft aromatics. It is easy to enjoy in a comparatively simple and direct, yet very fresh style. Now-2027

### **Weingut Markus Molitor**

(Wehlen - Middle Mosel)

1997er Ma

Markus Molitor

Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese

34 98

Auction

93

This bright-colored fruity-styled Spätlese proves rather shy on the nose at first before it develops gorgeous scents of candied grapefruit, pear, white flowers and herbs. The wine is nicely juicy and elegant on the palate and leaves a ravishing feel of beeswax, pear and flowers in the elegantly playful and ethereally light finish. Now-2027

1997er Markus Molitor

Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Beerenauslese

07 QQ

Auction

This beautifully golden-colored wine delivers a stunning nose of mirabelle cream, honey, sage and fine chalky minerals on the nose. The wine proves slightly powerful and structured on the palate (it does have 9.5% of alcohol) and leaves a firm and direct feel in the long and elegant finish. Now-2027

1997er

Markus Molitor

Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese Halbtrocken

41 98

91

This bright-colored wine offers a gorgeous nose of candied grapefruit, lemon, sage, white minerals and herbs. The wine is nicely crisp and light on its feet on the palate, where lemon zest and minerals add to the vibrant structure. It leaves a gorgeously tart and zesty feel in the finish, and by now bone dry in taste. This is beautifully elegant and simply gorgeously lively. Now-2022

#### Weinaut Martin Müllen

(Traben-Trarbach - Middle Mosel)

1997er

Martin Müllen

Kinheimer Rosenberg Riesling Auslese Trocken

02 98

02

This wine comes from a parcel situated in the steep part of the vineyard. It offers an attractive nose of minty herbs, pear and smoky slate. The wine is elegantly playful on the palate with great presence, vibrant fruits and flavors. All these are superbly well framed by spices and herbs in the slender but long finish. This is a beauty! Now-2022



"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

1997er Martin Müllen Kröver Letterlay Riesling Auslese 01 98 92

This offers a very elegant nose of grapefruit, pear and some citrusy fruits. The wine is nicely balanced and leaves a gorgeously vibrant and playful feel of apricot, zest and herbs on the palate. The finish is full of delicately exotic fruits pepped up by vibrant acidity and excellently well-integrated sweetness. This is plain gorgeous! Now-2027+

1997er Martin Müllen Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese 04 98 92

This bright-colored wine offers an elegant and refined nose of fresh herbs, cassis, fine spices and juicy pear. The wine is nicely playful on the palate as more fruits, a hint of smoke and some fine spices carry over right into the long finish. This textbook Spätlese epitomizes everything to be liked in mature yet fresh Mosel Riesling. Now-2027

1997er Martin Müllen Kröver Steffensberg Riesling Spätlese Halbtrocken 05 98 91

This bright-colored wine delivers a still rather reduced nose of caramel and almond, and only gradually reveals gorgeously fresh scents of cassis, grapefruit and some licorice. The wine has a surprisingly lively acidity on the palate which runs through to the finish and makes the wine taste almost dry at this stage. The feel of citrusy fruits in the after-taste is simply superb! Now-2027

1997er Martin Müllen Kröver Letterlay Riesling Auslese Halbtrocken 18 98 90

This offers an attractive nose of yellow peach, coconut and fresh herbs. The wine proves nicely juicy even if slightly sharp on the palate but the presence in the finish, cut along slender lines of a modern GG, is really remarkable. Now-2022

1997er Martin Müllen Kröver Letterlay Riesling Spätlese Trocken 06 98 90

This bright-colored wine delivers a stunning nose of candied grapefruit and whipped cream. The wine is superbly focused, elegant and light on the palate (much like a delicate and vibrant un-oaked Chablis) and leaves a stunning feeling of fresh mint, pear and spices in the medium long and elegant finish. Now-2022

1997er Martin Müllen Kröver Paradies Riesling Auslese Trocken 03 98 90

A nicely juicy nose of pear, white peach, mint and herbs gives way to a delicately creamy feel on the palate, with some gorgeously zesty but playful acidity providing the right frame to this structured wine. The finish is precise, smooth and zesty, with more airy minerals coming through in the vibrant after-taste. This has turned into a beautiful wine! Now-2027

### Weingut Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler

(Bernkastel-Kues - Middle Mosel)

1997er Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Beerenauslese 50 98 Auction 94

This offers a beautiful nose of cassis, candied pineapple, whipped cream, beeswax, bergamot tea and minty herbs. The wine proves gorgeously elegant and creamy on the palate, with a hint of backed apple, nut and spices in the long and delicately creamy finish. Far from being overpowering, this lingers on in the after-taste, bringing on more herbs and creamy fruits. This is beautifully well made and a superb mature BA. Now-2027 (Reprint from the Mosel Fine Wines Auction Guide 2016)

### **Weingut Egon Müller zu Scharzhof**

(Wiltingen - Saar)

1997er Egon Müller Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese 26 98 96

This offers a show-stopping nose of mirabelle, candied mango, guava, cassis, melon, grapefruit peel and minerals. The wine is gorgeously fruity and delicately rich on the palate and leaves a superb feel of herbs and spices in the very long and elegantly focused finish. More candied citrusy fruits wrapped into a fleeting sense of honey come through in the after-taste, adding to the pleasure and making one magically go for more: What a beauty! Now-2037

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1997er Egon Müller Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese 27 98 96

This offers a beautiful nose of candied grapefruit, lemon peel, cassis and herbs. The wine proves beautifully elegant and still remarkably fruity and smooth on the palate, with a great feel of herbs coming through in the after-taste. Although 20-year old, this still grows massively in the glass and leaves one with tons of citrusy sorbet and delicately honeyed fruits in the long and refined finish. Now-2037

1997er Egon Müller Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese 14 98 92

This offers a rather ripe nose of pineapple, licorice, honey and almond paired with fresher notes gooseberry, cassis and green herbs. The wine proves gorgeous elegant and racy on the palate and leaves a fresh off-dry feel in the long and focused finish. This slightly direct wine is nevertheless quite remarkable in its freshness. Now-2027

### Weinaut F.X. Pichler

(Dürnstein - Wachau)

1997er F.X. Pichler Loibner Klostersatz Grüner Veltliner Smaragd 93

This bright hay-yellow colored wine delivers a superb nose of succulent fresh fruits and proves simply deliciously vibrant, delicately full-bodied on the palate and, above all, devoid of any of the exotic power of the vintage and the House style. The wine is delicious, long and superbly well made. What a beauty! Now-2027

### Weinaut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

1997er Joh. Jos. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese 08 00 94

This almost white-colored wine is all about delicacy. Still almost non-saying and reduced on the nose, the wine only gradually reveals the most wonderfully juicy feel of peer, minerals and slate. The finish is subtle and hugely persistent. This very light version of an Auslese is a stunning wine for lovers of delicacy and finesse. Now-2037

1997er Joh. Jos. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese 09 00 94

This offers a gorgeous nose of white and yellow peach, pear, white flowers and smoke. The wine is superbly juicy and elegant on the palate and leaves a stunning feel of herbs and minerals in the smooth finish. This beauty is plain gorgeous, with plenty of live ahead. Now-2032

1997er Joh. Jos. Prüm Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese 03 03 93

This almost white-colored wine delivers a beautiful nose of pear, lemon, fresh and fine spices. The wine is gorgeously airy and elegant on the palate and leaves a clean and almost tart feel in the nicely fruity finish. The feeling of freshness is simply remarkable in this light-weighted fruity Auslese packed with gloriously vibrant flavors in the long and delicately smooth finish. Now-2032

1997er Joh. Jos. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese 16 98 93

This deep yellow-colored wine delivers a delicately ripe yet gorgeous nose of yellow peach, honeyed fruits, a touch of mango and quince as well as white flowers. The wine proves superbly juicy on the palate as a kick of acidity brings the right amount of pep to the nicely waxy structure. The finish is already surprisingly off-dry, making us up to enjoy this over the coming years. Now-2022+

1997er Joh. Jos. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK 31 98 92

A whiff of volatile acidity gives way to beautifully complex scents of candied grapefruit, coconut, white flowers and herbs. The wine is superbly creamy on the palate, where a hint of bergamot pairs marvelously well with beeswax. The finish is beautifully precise but also getting drier, making us opt to enjoy this rather sooner than later. Now-2022+

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### Weingut S.A Prüm

(Wehlen - Middle Mosel)

1997er S.A. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Beerenauslese

N.A.

93

This golden-bronze colored wine has not yet been released commercially (the Estate does this regularly) and hence does not yet have an AP number. It is still remarkably backward yet delivers a superb nose of apricot, tart tatin, marzipan and smoked barbeque herbs. The wine proves focused on the palate, where a hint of licorice, more apricot and peach join the party and make for a gorgeously baroque yet elegant experience in the still remarkably sweet finish. As surprising as it may sound, this wine will only reach its aromatic maturity in a few years' time. 2022-2042

### Weinaut Max Ferd. Richter

(Mülheim - Middle Mosel)

1997er Max Ferd, Richter

Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese

07 98

94

This bright-colored wine delivers a gorgeously juicy nose of cassis, lemon, tangerine, white flowers and slate. It proves beautifully racy and elegant on the palate and leaves a stunning feel of creamy zesty fruits in the long finish. And as if not enough, the wine continues to seemingly dance in the after-taste. What a superbly elegant and light-weighted expression of Auslese! Now-2032

1997er Max Ferd. Richter

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese

15 98

93

This delivers a gorgeous fresh and enticing nose of cassis, pear, apricot blossom, coconut and spices. The wine is beautifully playful and delicately light on the palate and leaves a great feel of minerals and herbs in the long finish. What a textbook beauty! Now-2032

1997er Max Ferd. Richter

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese

16 98

93

This immediately catches one's attention with its beautiful scents of white peach, mirabelle, cassis and white flowers on the nose. The wine is nicely balanced and a hint of apricot adds a touch of smoothness on the palate. A stunning feel of peach, herbs and slate emerge in the delicately smooth finish. This is plain beautiful and a tribute to the greatness of Mosel Riesling. Now-2027

1997er Max Ferd. Richter

Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese

14 98

92

This offers a great inviting nose of juicy white peach, pear, tangerine, mint, herbs and spices. The wine proves lively and elegant on the palate and reveals a gorgeously juicy feel of white peach, a hint of brown sugar and fine spices in the long and precise finish. Now-2032

1997er Max Ferd. Richter

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese

13 98

92

This offers a gorgeous nose of brown sugar, almond cream, yellow peach, laurel and herbs. The wine is beautiful firm and lively on the palate and leaves a long and ethereally elegant feel in the finish. The after-taste is juicy and tart. This is beautifully made in a delicately vigorous style. Now-2032

1997er

Max Ferd. Richter

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Beerenauslese

51 98

91

This bronze-colored wine offers a delicately rich and rather TBA-styled nose of almond, raisin, fig, honey, mango and dried herbs, all wrapped up in a whiff of volatile acidity. A hint of caramel and date comes through on the smooth and delicately oily palate and the finish is slightly oxidative with salty caramel and more herbs coming through in the assertive after-taste. Now-2022

1997er

Max Ferd. Richter

Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett Trocken

30 98

90

This offers a beautiful smoky nose of grapefruit, lime and spices. The wine is delicately light and playful on the palate and leaves a superb flowery feel of minerals and citrusy fruits in the airy finish. This vibrant "small" Kabinett proves a huge positive surprise even if it is best enjoyed sooner rather than later. Drink up



"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

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1997er Max Ferd. Richter Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett 31 98 90

This offers a gorgeously vibrant and inviting nose of cassis, yellow peach, pear and licorice. The wine is as light as feather on the palate as more minerals and water-infused pear and apple lead to a gorgeously crisp and fresh finish. This beautifully elegant and slender wine epitomizes everything a light Kabinett should stand for. Now-2022

1997er Max Ferd. Richter Trarbacher Ungsberg Riesling Spätlese Halbtrocken 40 98 90

This delivers a beautiful nose of cassis, mint, fine herbs and spices. The light-weighted wine is beautifully racy and fresh on the palate and leaves a clean and sappy feel in the long and deliciously tart finish. This is now a gorgeous dry Riesling with still a few years ahead! Now-2022

1997er Max Ferd. Richter Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Kabinett 27 98 90

This offers a dead juicy nose of white and yellow peach, white minerals and a hint of sage. The wine is beautifully vibrant and fresh as a gorgeously zesty feel of grapefruit and raspberry comes through on the slender palate and almost dry-tasting finish (it does only have 40 g/l of residual sugar). This plain gorgeous wine made in a truly crispy Kabinett style. Now-2022

1997er Max Ferd. Richter Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese 06 98 89

This exhibits a rather austere and mature nose with some scents of peach, coconut, butter cream, ginger, grapefruit and slate. The wine is smooth and elegant on the palate and leaves a tart and focused feel in the long finish. Now-2022

1997er Max Ferd. Richter Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese Halbtrocken 26 98 87

This offers a racy and focused nose of fresh herbs, grapefruit and cassis. The wine tastes fully dry now and comes over as precise and sharp on the palate, and the finish is direct and tart. This proves still quite enjoyable but is now more for lovers of backward and slightly austere wines. Drink up

### **Weingut Willi Schaefer**

(Graach - Middle Mosel)

1997er Willi Schaefer Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese 17 98 Auction 95

This offers vibrant scents of spices, cassis, white peach and yellow fruits. The wine is fresh and zesty yet also nicely balanced on the palate as a smoothing touch of cream provides for the perfect counter-weight to the tickly acidity. The finish is superbly off-dry in taste. This is gorgeous! Now-2022

### Weingut von Schubert – Maximin Grünhaus

(Mertesdorf - Trier-Ruwer)

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett 03 98 95

This beautiful wine delivers a gorgeous nose of cassis, grapefruit cream, spices and herbs. It proves utterly elegant and incredibly youthful as intense and creamy Spätlese-like fruit emerges on the palate. The finish is to die for with layers upon layers of succulently fresh and gorgeous fruit packed in white minerals. This is pure magic in the bottle. Now-2037

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 89 95

This offers a beautiful and almost austere and racy nose of spices, herbs, pear, grapefruit peel, orange peel, whipped cream and cassis. The wine proves nicely juicy and elegant on the palate and leaves a beautiful creamy texture in the long and mineral driven and incredibly fresh finish. This is classic Grünhaus racy freshness. Now-2037



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1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese 09 98 94

This offers a most beautiful nose of lemon sorbet, cassis and fine herbal spices. The wine proves gorgeously elegant and smooth on the palate, where creamy fruits and zesty acidity make for a stunning experience. The ethereal finish is nicely balanced and superbly long. What a beautiful and incredibly fresh wine! Now-2037

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese 05 98 94

This offers an inviting nose of cassis, gooseberry, creamy peach and minty herbs. The wine is beautifully well balanced and refined on the palate. Good sweetness brings a youthful side to the wine and makes for a creamy elegance and refinement in the beautiful almost Auslese-styled finish. This is only entering its maturity window and is a great Grünhaus fruity-styled Riesling. Now-2037

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese 06 98 93

This offers a gorgeous nose of creamy cassis, grapefruit, mirabelle, infused pear, honey and mint. The wine proves gorgeously smooth and elegant on the palate and the finish is long and nicely balanced, with good acidity but also the necessary soothing creaminess. This proves a superb dessert-styled Auslese to enjoy on its great warm and ripe flavors! Now-2027

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 57 93

This offers a beautiful even if still rather reduced nose of white peach, grapefruit peel, cassis, white minerals and wet stone. An initial touch of juicy and spicy freshness gives way to delicately creamy flavors on the palate yet a great kick of acidity in the finish freshens up the whole experience and gives a comparative touch of power (by Grünhaus standards) to the wine in the finish. Now-2037

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Kabinett 02 98 92

This offers a slightly ripe yet still incredibly invigorating nose of mirabelle, quince, gooseberry and minty herbs. This develops a delicately creamy and sweet presence on the palate and reveals itself as being more of a Spätlese than a Kabinett as riper fruits including apricot, mango and pineapple emerge. The wine is full of life and extremely long and elegant, with more spices and herbs on the palate. The finish is racy but also nicely smooth and elegant. What a beautiful and still remarkably youthful expression of Grünhaus! Now-2032

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese 04 98 92

This delivers a quite spicy nose with ripe exotic fruits including mango, pineapple and passion fruit, all enhanced by a fresh touch of mint. The wine also develops incense, smoke and some bakery notes with more airing. The wine is superbly fruity and creamy on the palate with ripe fruits well balanced out by some zesty acidity. The finish is very intense and the acidity is really superb and adds great tension to the whole experience. Now-2032

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Trocken 14 98 91

This offers a very subtle and elegant nose of pear, grapefruit, mint and fresh herbs. The wine proves quite racy on the palate, with however a nice smooth side soothing the way to the long and juicy finish. The after-taste underlines the freshness and elegance of this beautifully racy expression of dry Ruwer Riesling. Now-2027

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken 18 98 91

This offers a rather complex nose driven by pear, mint, dried herbs and spices. This is enhanced by a great touch of cassis running through the nose and the delicately creamy yet firm and racy palate. The finish is beautifully elegant and long as white minerals and candied grapefruit bring a racy and vibrant touch to the wine. This is incredibly fresh for a 20 year-old dry Riesling! Now-2027

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Trocken 16 98 90

This offers a delicately ripe nose of pear, gooseberry, grapefruit and white minerals. This proves superbly juicy and fresh, with a hint of cream providing the right balance on the palate. Smoky slate and citrusy fruits make for a wonderfully austere and racy feel in the focused and restrained finish. This is beautifully made in a very racy style. Now

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1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Beerenauslese 31 98 90

This golden orange-colored wine exhibits a baroque nose initially marked by a touch of volatile acidity before delivering a full-blown TBA-like bouquet including wood patina, acacia honey, candied apricot, mango, date papaya and juicy raisin. A smooth and flavors of salty caramel, nut are wrapped into an oily structure on the palate. These give way to a vibrant, focused and almost sharp finish. This will please lovers of fully mature, oxidative and structured expression of BA. Now-2027

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Trocken 17 98 90

This yellow-colored wine offers a rather ripe yet enticing nose of mirabelle, smoke, minty herbs and spices. The wine is nicely racy and elegant on the palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of spices in the long and refined finish. Minerals and citrusy fruits add to the vibrant and fresh side in the after-taste. Now-2022

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken 23 98 89

This offers a gorgeous nose of peach, quince, mirabelle, beeswax and minty herbs. The wine proves light and delicately racy on the palate and leaves a nice and elegant feel in the long and spicy finish. This will prove a very nice and elegant food wine. Now-2022

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Trocken 25 98 89

This offers a reductive and almost Burgundian nose of nut, brown butter, flint stone, white truffle, citrus and greengage. This wine proves already slightly advanced on the palate but should still prove very enjoyable with some fine food! Now

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Kabinett Trocken 19 98 88

This golden-colored wine offers an evolved nose of caramel, white mushroom, pear and smoke. The wine is nicely balanced and complex on the palate and leaves a lightly complex feel on the finish. This cries for refined winter dishes. Now

1997er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Trocken 22 98 85

This half-bottle offers a delicately ample and lively nose of ripe fruits (greengage and mirabelle) and caramel. The wine is ripe and structured on the palate and leaves a slightly sharp, herbal and tart finish. Drink up

### **Weinaut Günther Steinmetz**

(Brauneberg - Middle Mosel)

1997er Günther Steinmetz Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese 17 98 89

This light expression of an Auslese offers a rather shy nose of elderflower, cream, white chalk and minty herbs. The wine proves nicely delineated and direct on the palate, with some subtle flavors of cassis, herbs and spices coming through on the palate and in the medium-long and rather straight finish. This very nice wine is now best served with food as it proves almost off-dry in taste. Now-2027

### Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch

(Bernkastel-Kues - Middle Mosel)

1997er Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Beerenauslese 19 98 97

Still light yellow-golden in color, this delivers an outstanding and very complex nose with gorgeous notes of yellow peach, pineapple, candied orange peel, almond, melon and orange blossom enhanced by some refined floral nuances. The wine is very impressive on the palate as it has quite some grip and intensity yet, at the same time, develops a superb honeyed and delicate texture as it glides towards a very long and subtle finish. An extra layer of freshness comes through in the after-taste which makes one want to go for more. This magnificent juicy BA is just so incredibly youthful for a 20-year old wine! Now-2047



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1997er

Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch

Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese

10 98

Auction

93

This bright-colored wine offers a stunningly fresh and precise nose of cassis, incense, dried herbs and minerals. The wine is lively and zesty on the palate, where more cassis, grapefruit and lemon peel bring an irresistible racy and vibrant side to this gorgeous wine. This is plain delicious in a light and ethereal way. Now-2027



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## Notes from the Cellar: Highlights from Past Decades

Mature Riesling is one of the great glories in the wine world and yet it still remains comparatively unknown. Over the last year, we had the chance to experience again the magic of mature Riesling, including many classics (see the list here below) and even wine perfection.

Of course, rare and elusive noble-sweet Riesling from the finest growers confirm that this is style where Riesling almost rules alone. But next to that, the list of classics also includes one of the finest dry German Riesling ever made (by Weingut Künstler), fine Auslese by such masters at this art as von Schubert – Maximin Grünhaus as well as a stunning Kabinett by Egon Müller.

The list underlines also the incredible quality of the Jos. Christoffel jr. Estate, which has experienced a huge increase in interest since we first featured it back in 2010 but whose full talent and greatness of older bottles has not yet reached the auction market.

Lastly, world renowned growers are of course dominating this list (almost by definition one would think), but also great even if less celebrated growers such as the fine Karl Erbes Estate show the greatness that it regularly achieves with its fruity wines.

1959er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Ürziger Würzgarten feinste Auslese			100
2005er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	01 06	Auction	100
1937er	Schmitt-Wagner	Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Auslese			100
1983er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein	04 84	Auction	99
1975er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *****	03 76		98
1991er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein	02 92	Auction	98
2001er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doktorberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	62 02	Auction	98
2004er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Bernkasteler Johannisbrünnchen Riesling Eiswein	21 16		98
1949er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor und Graben Beerenauslese			98
2005er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Beerenauslese	03 06	Auction	97
1993er	Franz Künstler	Hochheimer Hölle Riesling Auslese Trocken	14 94		97
1966er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger feinste Auslese Eiswein			97
1983er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 190			97
1976er	Dr. F. Weins-Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	12 77		97
1971er	Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Beerenauslese	12 72		96
1990er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein	01 91	Auction	96
1983er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese GK	32 84	Auction	96
1993er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Eiswein GK	25 96	Auction	96
1998er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Eiswein	22 16		96
1993er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	23 94		96
1959er	Max Ferd. Richter	Mülheimer Sonnenlay, Graacher und Brauneberger Trockenbeerenauslese			96
1971er	Sanitätsrat Dr. Ronde	Neumagener Rosengärtchen Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	02 73		96
1971er	Schmitt-Wagner	Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Trockenbeerenauslese	02 78		96
1993er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Eiswein Nr. 190			96
1990er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese ***	09 91		95
2006er	Karl Erbes	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese	15 07		95
1971er	Friedrich-Wilhelm-Gymnasium	Ockfener Geisberg Riesling Auslese	08 72		95
1994er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Beerenauslese	01 95	Auction	95
2003er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	01 04	Auction	95
1983er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese lange GK	17 84	Auction	95
1991er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Batterieberg Riesling Auslese	06 92		95
1966er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger feinste Auslese			95
1994er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese GK	20 95	Auction	95
1990er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett	13 91	Auction	95
1989er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 93			95



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## **Notes from the Cellar: Tasting Notes**

We had the chance to taste wines from the following Estates:

J.B. Becker Walluf / Rheingau

Wwe Hugo Berres, Winfried Berres

Dr. Peter Berres

Bischöfliches Priesterseminar

Trier

Blees-Ferber

Dirzig

Trier

Leiwen

Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben Ürzig
Jos. Christoffel jr. Ürzig
E. Christoffel-Berres Ürzig

Dönnhoff Niederhausen / Nahe
Schloss Eltz Eltville / Rheingau

Karl Erbes Ürzig
Friedrich-Wilhelm-Gymnasium Trier

H. Jos. Fries Maring-Noviand
Nicola Geller Bernkastel-Kues
Geltz-Zilliken Saarburg
Fritz Haag Brauneberg
Dr. Hermann Erden
von Hövel Oberemmel
Immich-Batterieberg Enkirch

Karthäuserhof Eitelsbach
von Kesselstatt Morscheid
Knebel Winningen

Franz Künstler Hochheim / Rheingau

 Lehnert-Veit
 Piesport

 Schloss Lieser
 Lieser

 Lubentiushof
 Niederfell

 Alfred Merkelbach
 Ürzig

 Markus Molitor
 Wehlen

 Egon Müller
 Wiltingen

 Christoph von Nell
 Kasel

Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler Bernkastel-Kues

Johann Pfeiffer Ürzig Joh. Jos. Prüm Wehlen S.A. Prüm Wehlen Johann Peter Reinert Kanzem **Adolf Rheinart Erben** Saarburg Max Ferd. Richter Mülheim Sanitätsrat Dr. Ronde Neumagen C. Schmitt-Wagner Longuich

Clemens Freiherr von Schorlemer

Schloss Schönborn

Eltville / Rheingau

Von Schubert Maximin Grünbaus

von Schubert – Maximin GrünhausMertesdorfBert Simon – Weingut HerrenbergSerrigGünther SteffenTrittenheimGünther SteinmetzBraunebergWwe Dr. H. ThanischBernkastel-Kues

Vereinigte HospitienTrierDr. F. Weins-PrümWehlenWernerTrittenheimWeyer-HauthWehlen



"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## Notes from the Cellar: Detailed Tasting Notes ( 120 Wines )



All wines reviewed here were tasted by us, at private or public occasions, in the course of last year.

### Weingut J.B. Becker

(Walluf - Rheingau)

1994er J.B. Becker

Wallufer Walkenberg Riesling Kabinett Trocken

06 95

04

Two Kabinett Trocken were made in 1994, this AP 06 95 was fermented to almost fully dry levels. It offers a stunning nose of peach, pineapple, beeswax, aniseed herbs and spices. The wine is beautifully racy, precise and refined on the palate. The finish is gorgeous, ethereal, long and still driven by an extraordinarily precise feel of minerals, electrifying fruits and fine aniseed herbs. This dry Riesling is a brilliant effort which will offer superb pleasure for many years to come! Now-2024

2006er J.B. Becker

Wallufer Oberberg Riesling Auslese

19 07

93

This golden-colored Auslese was made in the old-style with higher alcohol and lower residual sugar. It offers a superb nose of apricot, pineapple, herbs and spices. The wine is delicately present on the palate, with a hint of candy floss still adding sweetness to an off-dry structured wine. The after-taste is beautifully elegant and well-integrated, leaving one with a great fragrance of delicately baroque fruits in the after-taste. This is beautiful! Now-2026

### Weingut Wwe Hugo Berres, Winfried Berres ( Geschw. Berres Erben )

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

Weingut Wwe Hugo Berres, Winfried Berres was a member of the VDP Mosel. It had emerged as one of the seven heirs to the historic Geschwister Berres Estate, owner of the original Erdener Prälat and founding member of the VDP Mosel, but was given up in the 1970s.

1976er Wwe Huge Berres, Winfried Berres

Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese GK

06 77

89

This golden colored wine delivers a ripe nose of candied exotic fruits, apricot, almond and incense. It proves still delicately sweet and playful on the palate. The finish is nicely fruity even if not hugely long. Overall, this Prälat from a rather ripe vintage proves a very nice wine to enjoy on a cold winter night. Now-2021



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## Weingut Peter Berres ( Geschw. Berres Erben )

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

Weingut Dr. Peter Berres was a member of the VDP Mosel. It had emerged as one of the seven heirs to the historic Geschwister Berres Estate, owner of the original Erdener Prälat and founding member of the VDP Mosel, but was given up in the 1970s.

1966er Peter Berres Erdener Prälat feine Spätlese 92

This proves gorgeously refined and comparatively youthful, at least for such a mature wine, as yellow fruits, a touch of honey, mango and smoke emerge from the glass. The wine is delightfully creamy on the palate and delivers the typical Prälat impact with the delicate elegant lightness of a Spätlese. The finish is smooth and full of charm. This is simply great to drink by the glass and a very fine 50-year-old Spätlese. Now-2021

## Weingut Bischöfliches Priesterseminar Trier

(Trier - Trier-Ruwer)

1976er Bischöfliches Priesterseminar Trier Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese GK 28 77 93

This still bright-yellow colored wine delivers an almost shy nose of almond, apricot, mango and coconut, all pepped up by some aniseed herbs. It transcends the usual canons of 1976 as gorgeously focused flavors of delicately candied exotic fruits are framed by a lemony zest in the palate. The finish is almost off-dry now, making us opt to enjoy this rather sooner than later. But what freshness for such a ripe vintage! Now-2021

### **Weingut Blees-Ferber**

(Leiwen – Middle-Mosel)

2005er Blees-Ferber Piesporter Gärtchen Riesling Auslese 15 06 94

Hay-yellow in color, this beautiful Auslese immediately captures one's attention with ripe and slightly bold scents of almond, date and licorice packed into gorgeously juicy and freshly cut pear, passion fruit and aniseed herbs. The wine develops the presence of an "Auslese lange GK" on the palate as zesty yet creamy flavors of almond, pear, passion fruit, apricot, pineapple and herbs make for a superbly playful and intensely complex feel. The finish is animating, rich, deep and elegant. This is a hugely successful Auslese which has much to offer over many more years to come. Now-2035

## Weingut Jos. Jos. Christoffel Erben

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

1971er Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Beerenauslese 12 72 96

This golden-colored beauty delivers a stunningly pure and elegant nose of apricot blossom, delicate candied fruits and marzipan. The wine proves gorgeously filigreed and refined on the palate, where complex flavors of fruits and spices mingle with perfectly integrated acidity. Despite the focus and precision, the wine is fully there, with great presence and a superb touch of vibrancy in the finish. Not the most intense of BA, this beautiful effort oozes everything Mature Mosel from great vintages stands for. What a wine! Now-2021



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## Weingut Jos. Christoffel jr.

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

1959er Jos. Christoffel jr.

Ürziger Würzgarten feinste Auslese

100

This bright golden-colored wine proves absolutely magical as stunning scents of almond, banana flambé, acacia honey, canned yellow peach and mango wrapped into fine spices emerge from the glass. The wine is pure heaven as silkiness and purity drive the perfectly balanced feel on the palate. The wine is smooth, deep and delicately zesty as a hint of citrusy fruits puts the finishing touch to an experience from heaven. The incredibly long finish is all about complexity and finesse. Rarely does the sentence "wine cannot get better than this, only different" so apt to describe this monument to the greatness of Riesling. What a stunning bottle! Now+

1975er Jos. Christoffel jr.

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese \*\*\*\*\*

03 76

98

This bright-yellow colored wine proves simply remarkable. Vibrant scents of delicately exotic fruits wrapped into coconut and candied lemon play with fine almond and white flowers on the nose. The wine proves still vibrantly fresh with good sweetness on the palate (it actually acts more as a refined BA than an Auslese for such a mature wine) and the finish is long, playful and elegant. The energy and youthful presence are simply astonishing. What a great effort! Now-2035

1990er Jos. Christoffel jr.

Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese \*\*\*

09 91

95

This stunning bottle delivers a great nose of cassis, pineapple, coconut, candied lemon and white minerals. The wine seems to dance on the palate and leaves a glorious feel of fresh herbs, citrusy fruits and fine spices in the long and remarkably vibrant and fresh finish. This is pure magic and the best bottle of this wine tasted so far. Now-2040

1999er Jos. Christoffel jr.

Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese \*\*\*

03 00

91

This proves gorgeously fresh and easy with direct scents of herbs, spices and fruits on the nose. This leads to a nice feeling of elegance and finesse on the light-bodied palate. The finish is nicely playful, medium intense and hugely appealing. Now-2024

## Weingut E. Christoffel-Berres

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

1983er E. Christoffel-Berres

Erdener Prälat Riesling Spätlese

07 84

92

This beautifully bright-colored wine delivers a remarkably fresh nose of quince, passion fruit, spices and minerals. The wine proves nicely fresh and spicy on the palate, with just a smooth feel of herbs and fine spices coming through in the long and remarkably playful finish. This is plain gorgeous! Now-2023

1984er E. Christoffel-Berres

Erdener Prälat Riesling Kabinett

03 85

Auction

89

This remarkable wine delivers a very enjoyable nose of apricot, ripe minerals and some smoke. It proves nicely playful and elegant on the palate and leaves a comparatively long feel of herbs and juicy fruits. While clearly beyond its ideal maturity phase, this remains easily the best Riesling from the awful 1984 vintage and another tribute to the incredible quality of the Prälat vineyard. Drink up

### Weinaut Helmut Dönnhoff

(Niederhausen - Nahe)

2002er Dönnhoff

Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Spätlese

11 03

93

This delivers a gorgeous feel of fresh fruits driven by passion fruit, pineapple and grapefruit, which are all wrapped up in fine spices. The wine proves superbly vibrant and yet smooth with a perfect sweet-sour balance on the palate. The long finish is playful, enticing and attention grabbing. What a beautiful effort! Now-2032

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## **Weingut Schloss Eltz**

(Eltville - Rheingau)

Schloss Eltz is one of the very old and famous Estates in Germany. The Eltz family's history goes back to the middle ages and its family home is still the picturesque castle in a side valley near Koblenz. The Eltz family also owned a large Estate in the Rheingau which produced some of the finest wines of the region until the Estate was essentially given up at the end of the 1970s. Anyone lucky enough to find some bottles is almost guaranteed of a great moment of Rheingau Riesling.

1962er Schloss Eltz Rauenthaler Gehrn Riesling Auslese 92

This offers a beautiful nose of fresh herbs and spices, with a superb touch of almond running through the bouquet. The wine proves gorgeously elegant and refined and it is only in the finish that the slightly more earthy side of the Rheingau comes through. What a beautiful wine and a tribute to the greatness of old Rheingau Riesling! Now-2030

## **Weingut Karl Erbes**

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2006er Karl Erbes Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese 15 07 95

This yellow-colored wine delivers a show-stopping nose of cassis, pear, yellow peach, candied orange, honey and coconut. The wine proves nicely intense yet at the same time playfully elegant and fresh on the palate and leaves a beautiful and comparatively airy feel of ripe baked pineapple, coconut and more pear in the juicy and creamy finish. This is a must-buy for lovers of more elegant and subtle expressions of creamy Auslese. What a delicious and gorgeously complex wine with plenty of life ahead! Now-2046

1994er Karl Erbes Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese \* 07 95 93

This surprisingly bright-colored wine offers a ravishingly beautiful and quite juicy nose of mirabelle, elderflower, yellow peach, apricot, spices and herbs. The wine proves deliciously juicy, remarkably vibrant and almost primary on the palate and leaves a playful feel of fresh ripe fruits, minerals and a touch of slate in the long finish. This beautiful wine is a textbook example of a superbly well-matured Mosel Auslese. Now-2034

2002er Karl Erbes Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese \*\* 09 03 91

This offers a succulent yet ripe feel of quince, pineapple, mirabelle and greengage. A touch of acidity provides a great framework to the rich and engaging flavors of almond cream, nut paste and candied exotic fruits on the palate. The finish lightens up as a playful touch of acidity brings freshness to this outstanding botrytized Auslese. Now-2027

2003er Karl Erbes Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese 20 04 91

This offers a gorgeous and remarkably fresh and juicy nose (for a 2003 Auslese) as greengage, melon and grapefruit emerge from the glass. After a while, some slate and smoke come through which carry over onto the delicately rich yet nicely playful palate. This wine transcends the weight and ripeness of 2003 to deliver a simply beautiful feel of juiciness in the long finish. Now-2033

### Weinaut Friedrich-Wilhelm-Gymnasium

(Trier - Trier-Ruwer)

1971er Friedrich-Wilhelm-Gymnasium Ockfener Geisberg Riesling Auslese 08 72 95

Bright yellow-hay in color, this stunner of a bottle offers a gorgeous nose of almond, ginger, aniseed fruits and fine spices. The wine is packed with flavors and proves beautifully well balanced on the palate and the finish. This is a simply stunning wine with ethereal length and finesse. Now-2026



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## Weingut H. Jos. Fries

(Maring-Noviand - Middle Mosel)

The H. Jos. Fries Estate still exists today but trades under the name Weingut Markus Fries since 2002.

1994er H. Jos. Fries

Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Auslese GK

07 95

93

This offers a gorgeous yellow-golden color and a nice nose of pineapple, mango, apricot and smoky herbs, all wrapped into a delicious blanket of beeswax. The wine is creamy and zesty on the palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of fresh herbs in the long finish. This is yet another classic effort from a less well-known Estate which owns great parcels in Bernkastel tough. Now-2024

## **Weingut Nicola Geller**

(Bernkastel-Kues - Middle Mosel)

The Nicola Geller Estate based in Kues was a founding member of the Bernkasteler Ring in 1899 and one of the leading Estates around Bernkastel for much of the 20th century.

1961er Nicola Geller

Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Spätlese

92

This bright-colored wine comes from a cask distributed by the Max Ferd. Richter winery (whose name hence appears on the neck label). It proves gorgeously scented as yellow peach, a hint of almond and fine spices emerge from the glass. The wine is beautifully racy and elegant on the palate and leaves a fresh lemony feel in the dry-tasting yet smooth finish. This is a gorgeous beauty! Now-2021

## Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

(Saarburg – Saar)

2005er Geltz-Zilliken

Saarburger Rausch Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese

01 06

Auction

100

This proves as stunning as at the Auction in September 2015: One is immediately under the spell of this gorgeous wine driven by apricot, herbs, spices and even minerals. The wine is stunningly sweet, yet also breathtakingly zesty, making for an overall sublime balance. The precision in the finish, the depth, the persistence: Everything is there in this brilliant effort! Now-2025+

1983er

Geltz-Zilliken

Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein

04 84

Auction

This already amber-colored Eiswein delivers a superbly complex nose of smoke, apricot, fig, tea and date. The wine is hugely complex and elegant on the palate, where a stunning tension between TBA aromatics and Eiswein liveliness make for an almost surreal experience. The finish is playful, long, smooth and vibrant. What a stunning effort and a great tribute to the greatness of the best Eiswein made in 1983! Now

1991er

Geltz-Zilliken

Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein

02 92

Auction

This show-stopper of a wine delivers a hugely complex nose of mirabelle, backed pineapple and canned yellow peach. Freshness and creaminess woe for attention on the palate as the juicy fruits are superbly balanced by a most beautiful acidity. The finish is airy, multi-layered and, quite frankly, mind-bogglingly lively and fresh. What a stunning effort! Now-2031

2005er

Geltz-Zilliken

Saarburger Rausch Riesling Beerenauslese

03 06

Auction

97

This stunner delivers superb tension between ripe apricot puree and grapefruit zest on the nose. An explosion of smoky fruits and almond comes through on the palate, which are wrapped in a vibrant feel of acidity in the stunningly precise finish. This is plain gorgeous! Now-2035+

1990er Gel

Geltz-Zilliken

Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein

01 91

Auction

96

This rather light expression of Eiswein delivers a delicately complex feel of mirabelle, fig and grapefruit peel. The wine is rather vibrant and structured on the palate but retains stunning lightness and airiness. This is plain gorgeous in a more elegant than forceful style. Now-2030

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1994er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Beerenauslese 01 95 Auction 95

A whiff of volatile rapidly gives way to succulent scents of canned pineapple, licorice and almond. The wine is superbly fine and racy on the palate and lives from zesty minerals and creamy exotic fruits in the long and vibrant finish. This is sharp but also superbly complex. Now-2024

2003er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 01 04 Auction 95

This offers a huge nose of raisin, fig, almond, herbs and spices. The wine is still saturating and almost overly sweet on the palate at this stage of its development as it leaves a creamy and delicately broad feel of zesty complex flavors of nut, raisin and honeyed fig in the long and lingering finish. This needs much more bottle age to fully shine but will offer a great TBA experience at maturity. 2023-2063

1983er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese lange GK 17 84 Auction 95

This offers a stunning nose of peach, herbs, chamomile and mint. The wine is still youthful and vibrant on the palate and leaves a gorgeously silky feel in the long finish. This is a huge success! Now-2028

1983er Geltz-Zilliken Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese 16 84 94

Harvested at a rather full 88° Oechsle (by the standards of the period), this rather slender wine delivers a gorgeously airy and elegant feel of grapefruit, pear, orange peel and slate-infused herbs. A superb touch of acidity livens up the palate and brings vibrancy to the long and almost off-dry finish. This is plain gorgeous. Now-2023

1961er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch feine Auslese 94

This bright colored wine delivers a gorgeous nose of melon, apricot, licorice and pineapple. The wine is superbly playful and elegant on the palate and leaves a gorgeously clean feel in the incredibly long finish. As always, the remarkable freshness is what strikes one with such a mature Saar wines. This is pure magic in the bottle. Now

1998er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese 04 99 Auction 94

This was made from partially frozen fruit harvested during a series of cold nights in 1998. This bright-colored wine delivers a gorgeous nose of cassis and pineapple as well as some smoky herbs. It proves vibrant on the palate and the finish is simply elegant and full of playful finesse. Now-2028

1989er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein 10 90 Auction 94

This compact expression of wine delivers fresh scents of mirabelle, gooseberry, apricot and fine spices. A lemony acidity lifts up the aromatics on the palate and leaves a great vibrant feel in the finish. This is a gorgeous Eiswein made in a slightly ripe and deliciously forceful style. Now-2029

2003er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Beerenauslese 02 04 Auction 94

This offers a rather strong touch of volatile acidity which wraps some smooth and ripe scents of quince, pear, tea and dried fruits. Searing acidity comes through on the palate, giving the wine focus but also a slightly austere side. This is nicely made in a rather pungent and focused style. 2018-2033

1976er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Bergschlösschen Riesling Beerenauslese 12 77 Auction 93

This offers a gorgeous nose of apricot, raisin and almond. An herbier and tea-infusion side comes through on the rather slender palate, giving the wine precision and tension. The finish is superbly elegant and airy, as beeswax provides the ideal wrapping to the complex and slightly exotic flavors. This gorgeous treat is fully mature now. Now

1989er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese lange GK 09 90 Auction 93

This wine is the result of a declassification of both BA and Eiswein fruit. It offers an absolutely gorgeous feel of apricot, pineapple, tea and herbs on the nose. Grapefruit zest comes through on the palate and brings the ideal freshness and elegance to the experience. The finish is elegant and delicately smooth despite the vibrant kick of acidity. This is plain gorgeous and fully mature. Now

1991er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese 01 92 Auction 93

This offers gorgeous herbal scents of fresh fruits and minerals on the nose. A great minty side comes through on the palate. This is enhanced by some beeswax which also brings a touch of smoothness to the sharp and vibrant finish. This is plain gorgeous! Now www.moselfinewines.com

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1993er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese 07 94 93

This Spätlese offers a stunning nose of smoke, tea and herbs as well as delicate notes of pear and ripe apple. The wine is gloriously light on the palate, with a delicate touch of beeswax making for a soothing feel right through the long finish. This is a superb fresh and mature Spätlese. Now-2028

1976er Geltz-Zilliken Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Auslese 17 77 90

This offers a rather evolved nose of smoke, marjoram, beeswax and herbs. The wine is rather slender on the palate and leaves a great easy feel of herbs in the almost off-dry finish. This is very easy to enjoy in a direct and mature way. Now

## Weingut Fritz Haag

(Brauneberg - Middle Mosel)

1973er Fritz Haag Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Spätlese 09 74 89

This wine, actually made from grapes exclusively harvested in the Bernkasteler Matheisbildchen, delivers a rather ripe yet elegant feel of quince, apricot, laurel, barbeque herbs and fine spices. It is nicely balanced on the palate and juicy acidity lifts up the flavors in the now off-dry finish. This is beautifully made. Drink up

### Weingut Dr. Hermann

(Erden - Middle Mosel)

In the course of its history, the Estate traded under different names, first under Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben Dr. Hermann-Christoffel, then under Sanitätsrat Dr. Hermann and finally under Dr. Hermann since 2003.

1985er Sanitätsrat Dr. Hermann Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 15 86 94

Harvested at 158° Oechsle, this rare TBA from the rather cold 1985 vintage proves a great winner. The wine delivers a beautiful bouquet made of nut, dried fruits and herbs. It is still nicely smooth and delicately sweet on the palate as the kick of acidity proves comparatively mild for 1985 (a vintage usually characterized by firm acidity). The finish is superbly complex and direct, leaving one with a rather stylish feel of nut and raisin in the after-taste. Now-2020

1975er Dr. Hermann-Christoffel Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese 08 76 88

Made from grapes harvested at 78° Oechsle, this delivers a rather elegant and nice nose of almond, fruit cocktail and herbs. The wine is nicely balanced and leaves a nice and smooth feel in the delicately zesty finish. This is a very nice showing of this bottling of Spätlese. Now-2020

#### **Weinaut von Hövel**

(Oberemmel - Saar)

1969er von Hövel Oberemmeler Hütte Beerenauslese 94

This amber-colored wine needs some air to reveal rather intense scents of apricot, candied quince and barbeque herbs. An almost Eiswein-styled acidity lifts up and brings focus to the rich and slightly powerful flavors on the palate and guides one seamlessly to a gorgeously complex finish with nut, herbs and more candied fruits. This is a beautiful wine for lovers of well-matured BA. Now-2019

1976er von Hövel Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese 05 77 92

This fully mature bottle of Saar Riesling delivers a gorgeous nose of dried fruits, some tea, a hint of beeswax and plenty of fresh herbs. The wine is gorgeously long and beautifully elegant, with more herbs and a hint of smoky slate adding a superb airy side to the off-dry finish. This timeless beauty has still plenty of life ahead. Now-2026

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## **Weingut Immich-Batterieberg**

(Enkirch - Middle Mosel)

1991er Immich-Batterieberg

**Enkircher Batterieberg Riesling Auslese** 

06 92

95

This "old-style" Auslese made with only 40 g/l of residual sugar offers a superb nose marrying riper elements of tangerine with gorgeous passion fruit liveliness. The wine is vibrant but incredibly well balanced on the palate and leaves a stunning feel of fresh minty herbs and more orangey fruits in the playful finish. This is a classic and admirable old-styled Auslese. Now-2031

## Weingut Karthäuserhof

(Eitelsbach - Trier-Ruwer)

1989er Karthäuserhof

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese

27 90

93

This gorgeously vibrant wine delivers a beautiful and so typical nose of Ruwer Riesling driven by cassis, minty herbs and white minerals, all pepped up by a touch of coconut-strawberry shake. The wine is still incredibly fresh and lively and leaves a beautifully animating feel in the smooth yet sharply focused finish. This is a great wine with plenty of life ahead. Now-2029

## Weingut Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt

(Morscheid - Trier-Ruwer)

1994er von Kesselstatt

Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese GK

45 95

93

This offers a stunning nose of camphor, pear and marzipan, in which herbs and other elements come and join the party. This classy effort is both ripe and elegant, as beeswax comes through in the elegant and medium long finish. Now-2029

### **Weinaut Knebel**

(Winningen - Terrassenmosel)

1999er Knebel

Winninger Röttgen Riesling Beerenauslese

14 00

93

This offers a beautiful nose of mango, pear and candied citrusy fruits. This proves delicately ripe and soft on the palate, and leaves a gorgeous touch of sweetness in the elegant and refined finish. Now-2024

2003er Knebe

Winninger Röttgen Riesling Auslese

17 04

Auction

This offers a gorgeously elegant and rich feel of quince, mango, backed apple, cinnamon and other fine spices as well as fresh herbs. The wine is gorgeously pure and elegant on the palate, with creamy fruits nicely framed into a good structure. The finish is juicy and oozes more elegance. This is beautifully made in a superbly clean and elegant style. Now-2033



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## Weingut Franz Künstler

(Hochheim - Rheingau)

1993er Franz Künstler

Hochheimer Hölle Riesling Auslese Trocken

14 94

97

This offers an absolutely stunning nose of freshly cut apple, pear, white minerals and flowers. The wine is incredibly airy and yet so intensively packed with fresh and delicate flavors. The wine has great presence on the palate but manages to remain all the time airy and very elegant. Packed with fresh and mineral flavors, the finish is almost endless and superbly pure. What a beautiful wine made in a light almost Trimbach style. This fully deserves its mythical status! Now-2028

## **Weinaut Le Gallais**

(Wiltingen - Saar)

1990er Le Gallais

Wiltinger braune Kupp Riesling Auslese

26 91

aз

This delivers a gorgeous elegant nose of apricot, bergamot, almond and fine herbs. The wine delivers these flavors with the typical 1990 vibrancy on the palate and leaves a racy and lemon-infused feel of waxy almond and apricot in the beautifully long and focused finish. There is still plenty of life in this gorgeous Auslese! Now-2025

## Weinaut Lehnert-Veit

(Piesport - Middle Mosel)

1998er Lehnert-Veit

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese

13 99

Auction

94

This auction wine refers to a batch of this Auslese which the Estate only released via the Bernkasteler Ring Auction in 2016. The wine offers a beautifully mature nose of grapefruit, elderflower, herbs, beeswax and spices. The wine proves elegantly zesty on the palate, with a touch of cream wrapped by stunning flavors of pear, starfruit and passion fruit. The finish is superbly long and gorgeously elegant, with the sweetness having given way to a gorgeous feel of smooth silkiness. What a stunningly great expression of mature Mosel! Now-2028 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 32 – October 2016)

## **Weinaut Schloss Lieser**

(Lieser - Middle Mosel)

2004er Schloss

Schloss Lieser

Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Auslese \*\*

08 05

92+

This gorgeous Auslese delivers a terrific even if still slightly reduced nose of smoky slate, elderflower, ripe pear, grapefruit and fine spices. It is still remarkably youthful and delicately sweet on the palate, with a gorgeously elegant and refined feel of smoke, herbs and more pear-infused fruits coming through in the long and elegant finish. What a gorgeous wine in the making! 2019-2034



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## **Weingut Lubentiushof**

(Wiltingen - Saar)

2003er Lubentiushof

**Gondorfer Schlossberg Riesling Auslese** 

09 04

93

This offers a gorgeous nose of melon, honey, spices and caramel. The wine proves superbly elegant and delicately creamy on the palate as a slight touch of zesty acidity brings a nice fresh side to the long and smooth finish. This is a great success in this hot vintage! Now-2023 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 32 – October 2016)

## **Weingut Alfred Merkelbach**

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

1992er Alfred Merkelbach

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese

24 93

Auction

93

This beautifully fresh wine proves a superb and vibrant expression of Ruwer upon Mosel wine as cassis, mint and creamy strawberry with some floral nuances emerge from the glass. It is playful and elegant on the palate and leaves a simply stunning feel of smoky and slate-infused herbs in the juicy finish. It would be hard to guess that this wine is already 25 years old. What a brilliant tribute to the greatness of mature Mosel Riesling! Now-2022

## **Weingut Markus Molitor**

(Wehlen - Middle Mosel)

NB: The Estate only indicates the style of its wines (dry, off-dry or fruity) via the capsule color: white for dry, green for off-dry and gold for fruity-styled. In addition there is some wording on the back label but no formal indication such as Trocken or Feinherb. In order to avoid any confusion as for style, we indicate the color of the capsule in parenthesis in the description of each wine. Readers should be aware that this is not found on the label nor referred to as such by the Estate internally.

2003er Markus Molitor

Wehlener Klosterberg Riesling Spätlese (Green Capsule)

20 04

89

This off-dry Riesling offers a gorgeous nose of melon, herbs and spices. There is good freshness and a delicate touch of creaminess on the palate and the wine is beautifully long and elegant. This is very nicely made in a beautiful and almost dry-tasting style which somehow transcends the typical 2003 ripeness. What a nice wine! Now-2023 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 32 – October 2016)

## Weingut Martin Müllen

(Traben-Trarbach - Middle Mosel)

1993er Martin Müllen

Kröver Steffensberg Riesling Auslese

05 94

93

This offers a most classic nose of beeswax, greengage, mirabelle, candied grapefruit and a hint of pineapple. The wine has the freshness and vibrant presence of a Saar or Ruwer Riesling on the palate and leaves a gloriously elegant and flowery feel in the mineral and beautifully fruity finish. What a gorgeous effort made in the timeless classic Mosel style! Now-2033

1993er Martin Müllen

Riesling Auslese 3037

03 94

92

This Auslese 3037 (the numbers are written in full on the label) was made from fruit selected in the Kröver Kirchlay and the Kröver Letterlay. Golden-yellow in color, the wine offers a rather ripe nose of pear, mint, Provence herbs and fine spices. This leads to a nicely ripe and delicately creamy feel with good presence and nice finesse on the palate. The finish is long and delicately ripe yet with good fresh acidity and quite moderate sweetness. This will pair beautifully well with hearty winter stews. Now-2028



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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## Weingut Egon Müller zu Scharzhof

(Wiltingen - Saar)

1966er Egon Müller

Scharzhofberger feinste Auslese Eiswein

97

96

Yellow-orange in color, this feinste Auslese Eiswein delivers exquisite notes of candied orange and grapefruit, acacia honey, dried herbs, nut cream and smoke. The wine proves even more captivating on the palate as it combines richly creamy and mature flavors of fruits with a most beautiful zesty acidity which cuts through the richness and brings precision to the overtly fruity side in the extremely long and refined finish. This superb mature Eiswein is quite a head turner. Now-2021+

1983er Egon Müller

Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese GK

32 84

Auction

Auction

This golden-colored wine delivers stunning nose of deep yellow fruits, herbs and camphor. The wine is rich and elegant on the palate and leaves a stunning feel of herbs and spices in the long finish. This is plain gorgeous and a huge tribute to the timeless beauty of great Saar wines. Now-2028

1993er Egon Müller

Scharzhofberger Riesling Eiswein GK

25 96

9

This golden yellow-colored Eiswein auctioned off in 1996 delivers beautiful scents of almond, minty herbs, canned peach, grapefruit sorbet and spices. The wine is still quite sweet yet lively and zesty on the palate and leaves a clean and fruit-infused feel in the long and vibrant finish. This fruit-infused expression of Eiswein proves superb now but should also age effortlessly over many decades to come. Now-2043

1966er Egon Müller

Scharzhofberger feinste Auslese

95

This offers a most beautiful and captivating nose blending ripe scents of toffee cream, apricot jelly, honey, exotic wood, nut and smoke. Complex and gorgeously refined flavors of Oolong tea, tar and cinnamon are wrapped into a seemingly soft and creamy texture on the palate. Grapefruit and smoke pep up the finish and add a fresh and slightly bitter side to this beautiful and fully mature wine which should still drink well for a few more years. Now-2021

1994er

Egon Müller

Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese GK

20 95

Auction

This bright golden-colored wine delivers a stunning cocktail of ripe yellow fruits, apricot, almond and spices. The wine is hugely complex and elegant on the palate and delivers a superbly zesty feel in the very long, vibrant and yet nicely smooth finish. What a little beauty! Now-2034

1990er

Egon Müller

Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett

13 91

Auction

95

This wine made from fruit harvested at 88° Oechsle offers a stunning nose of cassis, herbs and white flowers. The wine dances on the palate and leaves just fresh herbs, minerals and vibrantly lively fruits in the superbly long and engaging finish. This is a triumph! Now-2025

1989er

Egon Müller

Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett

32 90

92

This offers a gorgeous nose of fresh pear, a hint of almond and spices. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate and leaves a gorgeously smooth feel in the long and dry-tasting finish. Now-2029

### **Weingut Christoph von Nell**

(Kasel – Trier-Ruwer)

1976er C

Christoph von Nell

Kaseler Dominikanerberg Riesling Auslese

09 77

94

This golden-colored wine offers a stunningly vibrant and elegant nose of backed pineapple, a hint of cassis, grapefruit, a touch almond, aniseed herbs and fine smoky slate. Far from being big, this wine proves gorgeously airy and playful on the palate, with just the right touch of beeswax, fresh apricot, herbs and a hint licorice to smoothen everything out without any undue feel of sweetness. A gorgeous touch of ripe acidity as well as a faint touch of more earthy spices puts the finishing touch to this light and absolutely beautiful expression of mature Ruwer Riesling. This is just textbook stuff made in a light and classic style! Now-2026



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1994er Christoph von Nell

Kaseler Dominikanerberg Riesling Auslese

11 95

93

This offers a rather backward yet stylish Ruwer nose of grapefruit, candied lemon, a hint of coconut, wet stone and minty herbs, all enhanced by a gorgeous touch of beeswax. The wine is nicely racy and juicy on the palate, with more grapefruit and cassis mingling with seemingly chalky minerals on the palate. The finish is deliciously zesty and gorgeously creamy. This benefits hugely from airing and is really best opened half a day in advance. It then proves a telltale and lively expression of Ruwer Auslese. This is a hugely satisfying wine! 2019-2029

## Weingut Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler

(Bernkastel-Kues - Middle Mosel)

2001er Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler

Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doktorberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese

ະວຸດວ

Auction

Q:

Harvested at 230° Oechsle, this offers a rather subtle yet sumptuous nose of date, dried apricot, beeswax, raisin, orange peel and nutty honey. The wine is gorgeously complex and elegant on the palate and leaves a superbly intense feel of spices and herbs and more refreshing feel of dried fruits on the palate. The finish is seemingly endless and hugely complex and subtle. This is a little stunner of a wine and a huge success! The finish is still sweet so that this may even become more complex and refined with further bottle age: What a wine! Now-2041+ (Reprint from the Mosel Fine Wines Auction Guide 2016)

2001er Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler

Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doktorberg Riesling Auslese

21 02

Auction

92

This offers a rather rich nose of creamy yellow fruits, pear, marzipan, dried herbs and honey. The wine is nicely elegant but also quite forceful on the palate and long finish which shows nut and dried fruits. This gorgeous delicately full-bodied wine is now fully mature and has many more exciting years ahead. Now-2026 (Reprint from the Mosel Fine Wines Auction Guide 2016)

## **Weingut Johann Pfeiffer**

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

1966er Johann Pfeiffer

Wehlener Sonnenuhr feine Auslese

93

This offers a gorgeous nose of orange zest, apricot, beeswax, cherry, almond cream, a touch of smoke and tar all wrapped into quite some minty freshness. The aromatics turn to honey, acacia and resin and the minty part of the wine slides to reveal spruce as the wine breathes and warms up in the glass. A surprisingly sweet and creamy core of ripe fruits including apricot and pineapple bring presence and even a hint of power to the palate. This gives way to zestier and more herbal flavors in the very long, minty and spicy finish and the now off-dry after-taste. The freshness of this 50-year old wine is simply remarkable: What a superb feine Auslese! Now-2026

1969er Johann Pfeiffer

**Erdener Treppchen feine Auslese** 

91

This bright-colored wine delivers a gorgeous nose of ripe fruits, candied grapefruit, smoke, incense and fine spices. The wine is quite racy and nicely present on the palate. There are intense notes of smoke coming through and the finish is very long and elegant. Now-2019

1967er Joha

Johann Pfeiffer

Ürziger Würzgarten feine Auslese

88

Quite golden in color, this offers a fully mature and expressive nose driven by nutmeg, smoke, wax, apple jelly, sage and mint. The wine is quite racy on the palate and its mineral and smoky side lead to a straight and long finish, with a touch of baked apple emerging in the after-taste. Only a light touch of sourness in the background means betrays the fact that this wine is past its optimum drinking window. Nevertheless, it still proves quite enjoyable, especially on a cold evening next to the fireplace. Drink up



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## Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen - Middle Mosel)

2004er Joh. Jos. Prüm

Bernkasteler Johannisbrünnchen Riesling Eiswein

21 16

98

Harvested at just over 130° Oechsle, this beautiful Eiswein only released by the Estate in 2016 offers a gorgeous nose of fresh pear, candied lemon, herbs, smoke and spices, with some apricot coming through with further airing. The wine is stunningly beautiful and vibrant on the palate and leaves the most vibrant and deeply fruity feel in the superbly long finish, with more apricot emerging in the after-taste. This deliciously light expression of Eiswein is simply stunning. Now-2034 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 32 – October 2016)

1998er Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Eiswein

22 16

96

The Estate produced two Eiswein from the Wehlener Sonnenuhr in 1998, of which the "bigger" one was sold via the Auction in 2000. The "smaller" Eiswein was harvested at well over 130° Oechsle and only released by the Estate in 2016. It offers a hugely complex, multi-layered and mature nose of camphor, quince, baked pineapple, mango, starfruit and beeswax with a touch of licorice. This gives way to a gorgeous creamy feel, with complex scents of fruits, nut and herbs on the palate and a stunning feel of freshness. This retains great finesse and complexity despite the intrinsic ripeness and understated baroque side of the wine. This will particularly please lovers of mature BA-Eiswein styled Riesling. What a beauty! Now-2028 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 32 – October 2016)

1993er Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK

23 94

96

This golden-amber colored wine delivers a hugely attractive nose of herbs, almond, backed pineapple and spices. The wine is nicely focused yet intense on the palate and leaves a massively almond-infused feel in the long and ethereal finish. How this Estate manages time over time again to pack so much flavors into such a seemingly slender little body remains one of the key of its huge success and reputation. What a great wine! Now-2033+

1990er

Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK

11 92

94

This offers a beautiful nose of white peach, melon and spices. These scents are carried over onto the nicely zesty palate. A more almond infused side comes through, a sign of great botrytized fruit, which runs right into the long and surprisingly zesty finish. This combination of almond-pear ripeness and zesty freshness is quite frankly irresistible. Now-2020

2004er

Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese

25 05

94

This offers a beautiful nose of spices, herbs and fresh fruits. The wine is stunningly well balanced and leaves a gloriously pure and elegant feel on the palate. This is simply remarkable with its intense lightness. Now-2034

1983er Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK

20 85

93

This offers a rather botrytis-infused nose of herbs, spices and apricot. A hint of freshness and apricot puree comes through on the palate and leaves a very elegant scent of fresh herbs in the long and refined finish. Now-2028

2004er

Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese

20 14

93

This gorgeous lot of 2004er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese was only released by the Estate in 2015. It offers a gorgeous nose of yellow peach, smoke and a hint of reduction. The wine is ripe and elegant on the palate with a hint of beeswax. The finish proves superbly well balanced and refined, with an airy sense of minerals and delicate fresh fruits emerging in the zesty finish. This is plain gorgeous in a light and airy style. Now-2029 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 32 – October 2016)

1986er

Joh. Jos. Prüm

Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Spätlese Halbtrocken

02 91

89

This bright-colored Spätlese Halbtrocken (NB: Remarkably, the word Halbtrocken only appears in very small characters on the side of the label) delivers a hugely satisfying nose of cassis immersed into some chalky minerals and fern. The wine is fully dry-tasting now (it only has 16.8 g/l of residual sugar) and leaves a beautiful even if slightly tart feel of lime and smoke in the crisp finish. This is beautifully made. Drink up



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## Weingut S.A Prüm

(Wehlen - Middle Mosel)

1988er S.A. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Halbtrocken

12 89

91

This bright yellow-hay colored wine was made from fruit harvested at a low 80° Oechsle, i.e. sugar levels deemed too low even for Kabinett at many Estates today. This wine proves that sugar levels is not everything as it delivers a gorgeous nose of cassis, grapefruit, a hint of slate and superb finesse and elegance on the palate. Creamy peach and pear join the party and give way to a great dry-tasting and nicely tart finish. This is a beautiful wine made for lovers of stylistically structured and elegant wines. Now-2023

1987er S.A. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett Halbtrocken

10 88

89

This hay-colored wine was made from fruit harvested at a remarkably low 74° Oechsle by modern standards. Well, this wine proves that sugar levels are not everything. This offers a gorgeous nose of cassis, mirabelle, dried herbs, all wrapped into lots of smoke. It is only on the palate that the style of the vintage comes out but in a good way with restraint and finesse, and only a slight touch of fern in the finish betrays its age. What a beautiful wine to enjoy over the coming few years! Now-2019

## **Weingut Johann Peter Reinert**

(Kanzem - Saar)

2005er Johann Peter Reinert

Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Auslese

17 06

Auction

90

This wine proves still marked by sulfur and only gradually develops some simple and direct scents of almond, mint, passion fruit and smoke. The wine is nicely playful on the palate and leaves a light Spätlese feel in the zesty and caramel-infused finish. Now-2025 (Reprint from the Mosel Fine Wines Auction Guide 2016)

## **Weingut Adolf Rheinart Erben**

(Saarburg - Saar)

1964er Adolf Rheinart Erben

Ockfener Bockstein Herrenberg Riesling feine Auslese

93

This golden-orange colored wine delivers gorgeously fresh and elegant scents of orange peel, candied mango, tar, mint and earl grey tea as well as some flowery elements on the nose. The wine delivers nice flavors of candied fruits wrapped into a smooth texture on the still lightly sweet palate. A hint of acidity makes for a mouthwateringly fresh feel in the finish. This great mature Riesling offers plenty of finesse and refinement. Now-2019

## Weingut Max Ferd. Richter

(Mülheim - Middle Mosel)

1959er Max Ferd. Richter

Mülheimer Sonnenlay, Graacher und Brauneberger Trockenbeerenauslese

96

This iconic wine was harvested at a massive 288° Oechsle from the Estates holdings in the Mülheimer Sonnenlay, Brauneberg and Graach (this type of "blend" was fully allowed at the time) and took a full two years to finish its fermentation. Already dark brown in color, this "Coca-Cola" TBA, as they are known due to their dark color, delivers a stunning nose of date, nut, licorice, brown sugar, dried date and apricot. The wine is full-bodied and still quite sweet on the palate and delivers more complex scents of nut and dried fruits wrapped in fine spices and licorice in the ethereally long and powerful finish. This fully lives up to its legendary status. What a beautiful wine! Now-2029



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1989er Max Ferd. Richter Mülheimer Helenenkloster Riesling Eiswein 28 90 93

This Eiswein was harvested at 140° Oechsle on November 26, 1989. Golden-bronze in color, it offers a gorgeously baroque nose of apricot, candied date, licorice and fine spices. The wine is beautifully zesty and filigreed on the palate and leaves a vibrant and superbly precise feel of fruits and spices in the ethereally long and animating finish. This is a gorgeous Eiswein to sip on a cold winter evening. Now-2024

2002er Max Ferd. Richter Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese 03 03 92

This wine develops a rather attractive and juicy nose of white peach and some dried herbs. It shows the ripeness of an Auslese on the palate and delivers a gorgeous feel of juicy and spicy acidity in the long and precise finish. This is a very nice Spätlese to enjoy over many more years to come. Now-2032

1973er Max Ferd. Richter Trarbacher Ungsberg Riesling Auslese 34 74 92

This Auslese delivers a very animating nose made of almond, honey and lime curd. The wine is vibrant and delicately zesty on the palate and leaves flavors of almond, apricot and coconut sorbet in the finish. This is plain gorgeous! Drink up

### Weingut Sanitätsrat Dr. Ronde

(Neumagen - Middle Mosel)

The Sanitätsrat Dr. Ronde Estate was a high profile member of the Grosser Ring (VDP Mosel) from the 1920s until the 1980s, producing stunning wines from its holdings in the Dhron, Neumagen and Trittenheim. One does not find these often on the secondary markets but, since it is not well known, prices often remain very reasonable. Yet quality is incredibly high: We have yet to hit one bottle which was not simply outstanding.

1971er Sanitätsrat Dr. Ronde Neumagener Rosengärtchen Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 02 73 96

This amber-colored wine offers a stunning nose of raisin, nut and spices. The wine is now fully smooth (rather than sweet) on the palate and leaves a hugely impressive feel of Christmas cake spices in the long, focused and elegant finish. This is yet another great tribute to the greatness of the wines from this legendary Estate. Now-2021

1971er Sanitätsrat Dr. Ronde Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Beerenauslese 23 72 92

This dark-colored wine offers an opulent nose of licorice, apricot, dried date and fig, all wrapped into some barbeque herbs. It is on the powerful and assertive side on the palate (no doubt due to a slightly higher level of alcohol than usually for this kind of dessert wine) and leaves an almost Rheingau impression in the highly enjoyable and opulent finish. This full-blown expression of BA is now fully in its mystic phase. Drink up

1976er Sanitätsrat Dr. Ronde Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese 15 77 90

This offers a rather rich and ripe nose of cooked pear, marzipan, herbs and spices. The wine comes over as rather powerful on the palate (it was probably made with a higher percentage of alcohol) and leaves an off-dry feel in the long, intense and already slightly tart finish. Drink up

## Weingut C. Schmitt-Wagner

(Longuich - Middle Mosel)

1937er Schmitt-Wagner Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Auslese 100

This amber-bronze colored beauty fully lives up to its mythical status. A gorgeous and almost too easy feel of date, nut, herbs and spices is pepped up by gorgeous acidity and wrapped into the natural elegance conveyed by the vineyard. The wine is lively, animating and yet remains completely subtle and refined. The finish is endlessly long and vibrating. What a great privilege to be able to taste this bottled Mosel legend. Now-2037

1971er Schmitt-Wagner Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Trockenbeerenauslese 02 78 96

This gorgeous wine delivers a stunning feel of pineapple, dried apricot, caramel, herbs and spices. It remains gorgeously filigreed on the palate, with a baroque side only coming through in the after-taste. This is a gorgeous and nicely refined effort! Now-2026

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2006er Schmitt-Wagner Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Beerenauslese 03 07 93

Harvested at a modest 131° Oechsle, this little jewel of a BA offers a stunningly subtle fieriness, gorgeously soothing scents of exotic fruits and a superbly well-balanced feel on the palate. The finish has an underlying touch of fire (it does have 9% of alcohol) but makes for a stunning dessert wine. Now-2026

1971er Schmitt-Wagner Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Beerenauslese 01 72 93

Somewhat closed at first, this rapidly sheds an initial touch of fern to deliver a gorgeously complex feel of pear, apricot, dried fruits, caramel and Provence herbs. Some citrusy fruits delicately cut through the smooth and complex palate and bring vibrancy to the gorgeous and long finish. Now-

2006er Schmitt-Wagner Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese 02 07 87

This offers a delicately mature nose of apricot, melon and herbs. The wine is nicely balanced and leaves a satisfying but somewhat direct feel of fruits and minerals in the comparatively elegant even if somewhat direct finish. Now-2026

### **Weinaut Clemens Freiherr von Schorlemer**

(Bernkastel-Kues - Middle Mosel)

1971er Clemens Freiherr von Schorlemer Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 50 72 94

Orange-brown in color, this offers a gorgeously ripe nose of nutty dried fruits, caramel, toffee, candied mango, banana flambé, coffee bean and fine spices. The wine is nicely oily and sweet on the palate with impeccable acidity giving it the right balance in the very long and comparatively airy finish. It is still quite sweet on the palate and will live at least more than another decade. This juicy TBA is very nice to drink. Now-2031

### **Weingut Schloss Schönborn**

(Eltville - Rheingau)

1962er Schloss Schönborn Erbacher Marcobrunn Riesling Spätlese Cabinet 91

This dark-colored wine delivers a fascinating nose of licorice, candied fruits, spices and herbs. The wine is nicely balanced on the palate with a delicately earthy touch of marzipan and cold barbeque coming through in the long and satisfying finish. This is a beautifully mature Rheingau Riesling. Now-2022

#### Weingut von Schubert – Maximin Grünhaus

(Mertesdorf - Trier-Ruwer)

1983er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 190 97

This offers a gorgeous nose of whipped cream, cassis and minty herbs. It leaves a stunning touch of creamy and well-integrated acidity on the palate and in the superbly long and gorgeous finish. What a beautiful wine! Now-2023

1993er von Schubert Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Eiswein Nr. 190 96

This amber-golden colored wine delivers a hugely satisfying nose with some marzipan, orange peel and a hint of exotic fruits wooing for attention. The wine is rich yet aromatically focused on the palate and the Eiswein side of this beautiful wine only comes through in the long and ethereally elegant finish. The after-taste is all about fine spices and more marzipan. What a beautifully elegant Eiswein! Now-2028

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1989er von Schubert

Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 93

95

This offers a stunning nose of gooseberry, mineral, herbs and spices. The wine is vibrantly zesty on the palate yet a touch of whipped cream brings the right amount of soothing to the palate and in the incredibly long and persistent finish. This proves a stunner of a wine and a huge tribute to the timeless greatness of mature Maximin Grünhaus wines. Now-2029

1988er von Schubert

Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 153

94

This bottle of the mythical Auslese Nr. 153 (made from virgin vines) is singing again! It offers an open nose of minty herbs, a hint of almond and spices. A delicately ripe feel of fruits comes through on the palate with a hint of ripeness in the ethereally long and focused finish. The "1988" raciness then fully takes over in the aftertaste, adding to delight of drinking this wine. Now-2028

1971er von Schubert

Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese

34 72

94

Golden yellow in color, this offers a delicious and refined nose of candied fruits, beeswax and white truffle. The wine retains quite some freshness despite its age and reveals great complexity and finesse as it develops in the glass. There is still a touch of smooth sweetness on the mid-palate yet the finish is focused, smoky and airy. This is a great mature Grünhaus Spätlese. Now-2021

1995er von Schubert

Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken

11 96

90

This proves a beautiful bottle of dry Riesling driven by cassis, herbs and mint, and much fresher than a bottle tasted a few years ago. The finish is elegant and well-made. There is even a touch of soothing silk in the long finish. What a beautiful timeless dry wine! Now-2018

1994er von Schubert

Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese

27 95

RQ

Already golden-orange in color, this delivers a captivating bouquet of honeyed candied fruits, orange marmalade, gooseberry and acacia honey. Blood orange, cinnamon and honey make for sweet and supple feel on the palate. These give way to a quite herbal and off-dry side in the finish (this Spätlese exhibits 9% of alcohol). Lime and zesty fruits drive the smoky after-taste. As we already suggested in our 20-years-after retrospective in 2014, this Spätlese is now in its mystic phase. Drink up

1979er

von Schubert

Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett

05 81

88

This proves a great juicy wine with pungent freshness, some tart minerals as well as a hint of green herbs on the nose. It is only on the palate that the wine reveals its age somewhat, not because of some oxidation, but because of the touch of fern typical of very mature Mosel wines, and especially those of the 1979 vintage. Still, the finish is stunningly fresh and elegant. What a beautifully lively even if by now slightly austere expression of Ruwer *Joie de Vivre!* Drink up

#### Bert Simon - Weinaut Herrenbera

(Serrig - Saar)

1990er Bert Simon

Serriger Würtzberg Riesling Auslese

02 91

01

This offers a vibrant nose of fresh sorbet citrusy fruits, slate, herbal tea and fine spices on the nose. The wine proves impeccably well balanced on the palate and leaves a nice feel of spices and zesty acidity wrapped into a hint of beeswax in the finish. This beautifully mature Saar Riesling will age well for many more years. Now-2025

### Weinaut Günther Steffen

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

Weingut Günther Steffen was a small Estate in Trittenheim, which was eventually given up.

1959er Günther Steffen

**Trittenheimer Apotheke Auslese** 

88

This delivers a very attractive even if evolved nose of apricot, dried mango, herbs, spices and minty herbs. The wine proves easy and direct on the palate and leaves a satisfyingly precise smooth feel in the long finish. Drink up



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## Weingut Günther Steinmetz

(Brauneberg - Middle Mosel)

1966er Günther Steinmetz

Brauneberger Juffer Spätlese

01

This golden-colored wine delivers a gorgeous nose of almond, candied mango, pear and caraway. The wine is nicely playful on the palate and does not show any of the typical "bite" of the 1966 wines. On the contrary, it is zesty and gorgeously well balanced in the long and focused finish. Now-2021

1971er Günther Steinmetz

Brauneberger Mandelgraben Riesling Spätlese

04 72

89

This wine from the original part of the Mandelgraben is made in an off-dry style, a style preferred by Günther Steinmetz (his son Stefan reckons that the wine did not have much above 30 g/l of residual sugar when bottled). This wine driven by almond, herbs and spices delivers its goods with a well-integrated touch of power on the palate and in the finish. This is beautifully made in the old-fashioned style of the Mosel. Drink up

1975er Günther Steinmetz

Brauneberger Hasenläufer Riesling Auslese

13 76

88

This wine comes from a vineyard which was eventually integrated into the Brauneberger Juffer and was made in the traditional style, with a bit more alcoholic strength (9%) and almost Feinherb levels of residual sugar. Already golden in color, it delivers a ripe and fully mature nose of apricot blossom, candied apricot, eucalyptus and black tea on the nose. It proves nicely present and delicately powerful on the palate and leaves an almost tart feel in the finish. This very nice effort cries for hearty winter food! Drink up

### Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch

(Bernkastel-Kues - Middle Mosel)

1949er Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch

Berncasteler Doctor und Graben Beerenauslese

98

This mahogany-colored wine delivers a stunning nose of incense, dried apricot, candied pineapple, licorice, nut and herbs. Far from being over-the-top, the wine retains a fabulous sense of balance and precision on the palate as well as great freshness and aromatic precision in the nut-infused spicy finish. The after-taste is precise, airy, and does not seem to end. What a glorious wine which shows this incredible sizzled precision that truly great Doctor wines can achieve at maturity. Now-2019

1987er Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch

Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Kabinett

11 88

90

This is one of the two Doctor Kabinett produced by the Estate in the 1987 vintage. Golden in color, it delivers a gorgeous nose of marzipan, quince and a hint of candied grapefruit which turn to citrusy lemon. It proves nicely sharp and slightly green on the palate but leaves a gorgeously focused and tart feel of fern, fruits and herbs in the finish. This attractive wine proves remarkably easy to drink. It is quite a remarkable success for such a difficult vintage as 1987. Now-2020

## **Weingut Vereinigte Hospitien**

(Trier – Trier-Ruwer)

1992er Vereinigte Hospitien

Wiltinger Hölle Riesling Eiswein

14 93

Auction

This Eiswein was harvested at 167° Oechsle on December 31, 1992 and auctioned off in 1996. Golden in color, it oozes gorgeous scents of apricot, almond and some dried fruits as well as herbs. A superb touch of acidity brings the right touch of precision to the palate, and the finish is airy and reveals more succulent scents of herbs and apricot. This is a beautifully elegant and complex expression of a BA-styled Eiswein. Now-2027

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## Weingut Dr. F. Weins-Prüm

(Wehlen - Middle Mosel)

Bert Selbach, who had been at the helm of the Weingut Dr. F. Weins-Prüm since the 1970s, retired after the 2015 vintage. These tasting notes come from an article published in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 33 (Jan 2017) looking back with him at his career.

1976er Dr. F. Weins-Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 12 77 97

Harvested 160° Oechsle, this dark colored wine starts off with gorgeous scents of mahogany patina, nuts, dates and spices. The wine is rich and oxidative on the palate, yet offers stunning freshness and balance. This masterpiece of a TBA is packed with intense flavors, yet remains gorgeously refined and almost weightless on the palate. This is a little beauty! Now-2037 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 33 – January 2017)

2004er Dr. F. Weins-Prüm Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese 13 05 93+

This was made from grapes earmarked for Eiswein but brought in at -°3C with 138° Oechsle in December. The wine delivers a gorgeous nose of grapefruit, herbs, spices and a gentle touch of white truffles. The Eiswein-styled sense of freshness provides balance and finesse to the intense richness on palate. This is still quite reduced in the finish, where a touch of candy floss is still in need of integration. However, the finesse of the aromatics is hugely promising! 2024-2044 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 33 – January 2017)

2005er Dr. F. Weins-Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Beerenauslese 14 06 93

Harvested at a full 150° Oechsle, this BA offers a delicately complex and refined nose of melon, coconut and white flowers on the nose. The wine is still on the sweet side on the palate, with quite some candy floss still floating around, yet the overall feeling is one of subtlety and refinement. The finish is rich and powerful, with a little power coming from the alcohol. This is a great BA which will peak in a few years' time and offer much pleasure for several decades thereafter. 2020-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 33 – January 2017)

1992er Dr. F. Weins-Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese lange GK 16 93 Auction 94

This wine was harvested with 148° Oechsle on January 6, 1993. The wine offers a beautiful nose almonds, apricot, and herbs. The wine is rich and hearty on the palate (with 9.5% of alcohol) yet it leaves a smooth and clean feel in the Sauternes-styled finish. This powerful but complex wine will offer much pleasure for many years to come! Now-2027 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 33 – January 2017)

### **Weingut Werner**

(Leiwen - Middle Mosel)

2003er Werner Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese 05 04 Auction 91

This offers a superb nose of melon, pineapple, laurel and pear. The wine is beautifully rich and elegant on the palate and leaves a clean and elegant feel of caramel, almond and ripe fruits in the long finish. This is a beautiful and fully mature Auslese to enjoy on a cold winter day. Now-2023 (Reprint from the Mosel Fine Wines Auction Guide 2016)

### **Weingut Wever-Hauth**

(Wehlen - Middle Mosel)

1959er Weyer-Hauth Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese 94

This wine starts off by showing its age before gradually firming up and offering a stunning nose of pear, licorice, chamomile, caramel and even some citrusy fruits. The wine proves beautiful with great presence and finesse on the palate as well as a vibrant feel in the elegant and stylishly smooth finish. The after-taste is fresh thanks to some herbal and smoky persistence. It continues to gain in the glass as the wine breathes. What a superb effort! Now-2019



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# Hallo Zilliken: 40 Years of Saar Zesty Greatness

Hans-Joachim (known locally to everyone as Hanno) Zilliken celebrated its 40th vintage in 2015 and formally passed on its Estate to the next generation represented by his daughter Dorothee and son-in-law Philipp Zilliken. The Estate celebrated this through a major tasting spanning over six decades and including many of its iconic wines. This proves the ideal occasion to have a closer look at this grand Estate and a great career by one of the kindest and most thoughtful growers we have ever met.



### **GELTZ-ZILLIKEN | A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE VDP**

The history of the Geltz-Zilliken Estate is firmly rooted in Saarburg and goes back for centuries. Documents show that the Geltz family had been active in wine here since at least the 18th century. It essentially started its ascent to fame when Forstmeister Geltz started to sell his casks of Saarburger, Bocksteiner and Geisberger at the annual Auction as of the 1880s. Naturally, it was to be a founding member of the Grosser Ring / VDP Mosel when this organization was set up in 1908.

After the death of the Forstmeister, the Estate was first managed, as a whole, by the Krick family (into which one of the daughters had married) and was further split up between heirs after World War II. This led to the brief existence of three separate Geltz Estates, much in the style of the Prüm Estate in Wehlen (which had split up into many "S.A. Prüm Erben" Estates). The three Estates were Forstmeister Geltz-Bieroth, Forstmeister Geltz-Welsch and Forstmeister Geltz-Haring. You may wonder when the magical word Zilliken will eventually appear. It does now: Fritz Zilliken (actually still going strong despite being almost 100!), originally from Cochem, had married Marianne Haring. The couple did not have it easy. The family Estate had been destroyed by a bomb in 1944 and Marianne Haring had to literally restart from scratch after the war. However, together with her husband Fritz, she was able to regain lost ground and gradually brought the Estate back on the map (... and into the VDP by the 1950s).

Hanno Zilliken took over the management of the Estate in 1976. In his tenure, he transformed what was a fine Saar operation into one of the greatest Estates in Germany, whose wines are revered by Riesling lovers the world over. In parallel, he also consolidated his holdings in the Grand Cru Saarburger Rausch, a great vineyard with a unique soil of slate including some volcanic elements (Diabas), by acquiring, among others, the holdings of the related Geltz-Welsch family. Today the Estate owns a massive 11 ha (more than half of the vineyards tended on this hill) in the Saarburger Rausch, and 1 ha in the Ockfener Bockstein, totaling 12 ha only in Grand Cru vineyards, all exclusively planted with Riesling.

In 2016, Hanno turned 65 and decided to hand over formally the family Estate to his daughter Dorothee Zilliken and her husband Philipp (who took on the Zilliken name). This hand-over is a rather smooth affair: Dorothee had already been active on the Estate since the mid-2000s and Hanno will continue to support her. It was however an ideal occasion to look back at a remarkable career.



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### HANNO ZILLIKEN | THE LOOK-BACK INTERVIEW







**Mosel Fine Wines** 

Hanno Zilliken

Why did you choose to become a winemaker?

I always wanted to do something with "green", such as forestry (like my ancestor), wine, etc. Eventually, I chose for wine and joined the winemaking school of Geisenheim in 1969. The fact that I took over the family Estate was not a foregone affair. My older brother Stephan had also signaled his interest, and we actually studied together. By tradition, he would have eventually taken over the family Estate ... had he not married into a wine growing family in the Obermosel and chose to follow his wife [Note: Weingut Hellershof-Zilliken in Nittel]. That's how I, rather unexpectedly really, ended up being in charge of the Estate as of 1976.

What are your career highlights?

Clearly the 1976 vintage must be up there. It was my first vintage and I was immediately blessed with one of the finest vintages ever. However, the vintage closest to my heart must be 1983. After the enormous yields of 1982, I had decided to stop with fertilizers, back then a bold and unheard-off move, and this immediately paid off in 1983. I almost only harvested Auslese quality. My 1983 vintage got noted and this launched me internationally, in particular in the US through Rudi Wiest. Still today, these wines are simply stunning, [Note: as some examples showed in the large tasting – see report at the end of the article]. From the vintages of the 1990s, 1997 stands out as one of the finest ever at our Estate, even if 1993 is also superb and got a little bit overlooked because of the flurry of BAs and TBAs harvested in 1994. In the 2000s, there is of course 2005, which is probably my most complete vintage ever, and 2003 and 2009 are not far behind. Finally 2015 is right up there as one of the greatest vintages for us.

What is your approach?

Do not be afraid of acidity. Mosel wines live from their incredible fruit, and Saar wines from their acidity. You can say that Mosel wines are built on fruit wrapped into acidity. For Saar wines, it is the opposite: They build on acidity wrapped into fruit. I want my wines to show tension and be animating without ever being powerful. Acidity is central for this, but it needs to be a ripe acidity, one which makes your mouth water. With the exception of some Kabinett, I always ferment my fruity and sweet wines to 8% of alcohol, a magical number which I know will eventually generate perfectly mature wines, even if the sweetness may be on the high side when young. I also believe in aging the wines in traditional wooden casks. This slightly rounds off any rough edge. By the way, this also reduces the alcohol level: I am pretty sure that we lose 0.5% of alcohol through evaporation, which helps to keep my wines on the light side.

Anything you would have done differently with hindsight?

There is one thing I would surely had done differently had I known: Our parcel in the Ockfener Geisberg got badly damaged by frost on new year's eve of 1978/1979. I replanted it the following spring ... for it to be devastated by frost again barely two years later! On a different note, in 1997, Egon Müller offered me a large parcel in the Saarburger Rausch which he had just acquired as part of a package of vineyards including a prime 1 ha of Scharzhofberger. I had to decline because I was in no position to make him a decent financial offer but I always wondered what if I could have done so: 1997 was such a great vintage for us! The fact that I could not take it over also had a positive side. Egon retained the vineyard and started to experiment with mechanization (i.e. working with vineyard caterpillars), something which we all benefit from now.

What's next? Run a beach hut on Hawaii?

[Laughter] I am not much of a beach man myself, give me mountains, lakes and the great outdoors! Actually, I would like to visit places like the northwest of the USA, Oregon and Alaska, or Yosemite Park. But I will also continue to work at the Estate if Dorothee is happy with my performance [Laughter from Dorothee]. We were just able to acquire from the city a prime parcel in the heart of the Saarburger Rausch which had laid fallow for years. We complemented this by buying other parcels which had laid fallow and are about to replant and hence revive over a full ha in this Grand Cru vineyard in the coming weeks! We also have plans to expand the facilities and equipment. There is still so much to do: Life never stops at a winemaking Estate.

We have an inkling that Hanno's grand plan to visit some of the great sceneries of the US may not materialize in the very short term ...



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### GELTZ-ZILLIKEN | SAAR BEAUTY FROM SIX DECADES

In June 2016, the Estate celebrated the handover of the Estate from Hanno and his wife Ruth to Dorothee and Philipp Zilliken by opening some of the finest wines it had ever produced, spanning over six decades. This tasting epitomized everything the Geltz-Zilliken Estate stands for: Saar zesty greatness.



The great vintages mentioned by Hanno Zilliken in our interview came roaring through. The aging abilities of Geltz-Zilliken wines are almost second to none. The Estate's 1983 are still as fresh and vivid as if they were only 20 years old. What makes them so remarkable is that they blend mature elements such as tea with vibrant ones!

Overall, the 1997 vintage is "a Mosel-Saar-Ruwer dream coming through", as we reported from our extensive 1997 retrospective published in this Issue. Also the Geltz-Zilliken Estate produced some of the finest wines in this vintage. As Hanno alluded to in his interview, the 1993 vintage is a great success here as well and the Estate produced some beautifully airy Saar wines which are still remarkably fresh today as well.

The Zilliken wines from the 2000s are only starting to show their huge potential. The wines from the 2005 vintage are currently singing. What also remarkable proved when tasting a cross-section of Zilliken wines from the 2000s is that the Estate remains true to its philosophy to embrace acidity. The raciness packed into its wines from these warmer vintages of the 2000 decade (certainly when compared to the 1990s), including in the on-paper riper 2007, is simply remarkable.

Finally, the tasting also underlined the particular hand that the Geltz-Zilliken has with Eiswein. Some of the Eiswein produced by Hanno Zilliken are the finest ever. But then the reason for this particular success with Eiswein became so clear in the light of Hanno's mantra: Do not be afraid of acidity. He surely applied with great success this over the four decades at the helm of the Estate.



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### **GELTZ-ZILLIKEN | DETAILED TASTING NOTES**

2005er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 01 06 Auction 100

This proves as stunning as at the Auction in September 2015: One is immediately under the spell of this gorgeous wine driven by apricot, herbs, spices and even minerals. The wine is stunningly sweet, yet also breathtakingly zesty, making for an overall sublime balance. The precision in the finish, the depth, the persistence: Everything is there in this brilliant effort! Now-2025+

1983er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein 04 84 Auction 99

This already amber-colored Eiswein delivers a superbly complex nose of smoke, apricot, fig, tea and date. The wine is hugely complex and elegant on the palate, where a stunning tension between TBA aromatics and Eiswein liveliness make for an almost surreal experience. The finish is playful, long, smooth and vibrant. What a stunning effort and a great tribute to the greatness of the best Eiswein made in 1983! Now

1991er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein 02 92 Auction 98

This show-stopper of a wine delivers a hugely complex nose of mirabelle, backed pineapple and canned yellow peach. Freshness and creaminess woe for attention on the palate as the juicy fruits are superbly balanced by a most beautiful acidity. The finish is airy, multi-layered and, quite frankly, mind-bogglingly lively and fresh. What a stunning effort! Now-2031

2009er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 01 10 Auction 98

A hint of volatile acidity gives way to an explosion of vibrant and richly baroque fruits including pineapple, tea, fine spices and honeyed fig. The wine is hugely powerful and full of volume on the palate and the finish, while sweet, offers great tension and finesse. This is set to turn into a magnificent wine at maturity. 2024-2059

2005er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Beerenauslese 03 06 Auction 97

This stunner delivers superb tension between ripe apricot puree and grapefruit zest on the nose. An explosion of smoky fruits and almond comes through on the palate, which are wrapped in a vibrant feel of acidity in the stunningly precise finish. This is plain gorgeous! Now-2035+

1997er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese lange GK 03 98 Auction 96

This offers a gorgeous nose of backed pineapple, a hint of ginger, some tea and gorgeously delicate creaminess on the palate. The wine is utterly enjoyable and yet there is great complexity if one cares to notice it. The finish is simply to die for. This is a stunner of a wine with depth, vibrancy and elegance. Now-2037

1990er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein 01 91 Auction 96

This rather light expression of Eiswein delivers a delicately complex feel of mirabelle, fig and grapefruit peel. The wine is rather vibrant and structured on the palate but retains stunning lightness and airiness. This is plain gorgeous in a more elegant than forceful style. Now-2030

2007er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese GK 02 08 Auction 95

This proves hugely attractive with great notes of pear, lime, mirabelle and herbs all immersed into almost TBA-styled raisin and date (no doubt from highly shriveled fruit). What lifts this wine apart is the gorgeously, dare we say unexpectedly, lively kick of acidity which brings an almost Eiswein character to the whole wine. The finish is all about vibrancy and tension. What a beautiful "BA Eiswein"! Now-2037

1983er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese lange GK 17 84 Auction 95

This offers a stunning nose of peach, herbs, chamomile and mint. The wine is still youthful and vibrant on the palate and leaves a gorgeously silky feel in the long finish. This is a huge success! Now-2028

1994er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Beerenauslese 01 95 Auction 95

A whiff of volatile rapidly gives way to succulent scents of canned pineapple, licorice and almond. The wine is superbly fine and racy on the palate and lives from zesty minerals and creamy exotic fruits in the long and vibrant finish. This is sharp but also superbly complex. Now-2024



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2003er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese 01 04 Auction 95

This offers a huge nose of raisin, fig, almond, herbs and spices. The wine is still saturating and almost overly sweet on the palate at this stage of its development as it leaves a creamy and delicately broad feel of zesty complex flavors of nut, raisin and honeyed fig in the long and lingering finish. This needs much more bottle age to fully shine but will offer a great TBA experience at maturity. 2023-2063

1997er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Beerenauslese 01 98 Auction 94+

This offers a succulent nose of apricot, mango, melon and herbs. The wine proves stunningly playful on the palate yet a touch of sweetness is still in need of integration in the long and multi-layered finish. Consequently this needs a few more couple of years in order to get the most out of this magnificent BA in the making. We would even not be surprise if this warrants a higher rating by then. 2022-2047+

1983er Geltz-Zilliken Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese 16 84 94

Harvested at a rather full 88° Oechsle (by the standards of the period), this rather slender wine delivers a gorgeously airy and elegant feel of grapefruit, pear, orange peel and slate-infused herbs. A superb touch of acidity livens up the palate and brings vibrancy to the long and almost off-dry finish. This is plain gorgeous. Now-2023

2003er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Beerenauslese 02 04 Auction 94

This offers a rather strong touch of volatile acidity which wraps some smooth and ripe scents of quince, pear, tea and dried fruits. Searing acidity comes through on the palate, giving the wine focus but also a slightly austere side. This is nicely made in a rather pungent and focused style. 2018-2033

1989er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein 10 90 Auction 94

This compact expression of wine delivers fresh scents of mirabelle, gooseberry, apricot and fine spices. A lemony acidity lifts up the aromatics on the palate and leaves a great vibrant feel in the finish. This is a gorgeous Eiswein made in a slightly ripe and deliciously forceful style. Now-2029

1961er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch feine Auslese 94

This bright colored wine delivers a gorgeous nose of melon, apricot, licorice and pineapple. The wine is superbly playful and elegant on the palate and leaves a gorgeously clean feel in the incredibly long finish. As always, the remarkable freshness is what strikes one with such a mature Saar wines. This is pure magic in the bottle. Now

1997er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese 05 98 Auction 94

This offers a gorgeous nose of cucumber, melon, passion fruit and tea as well as some hint of cassis. The wine is superbly well balanced on the palate and leaves a glorious feel of beeswax in the ethereally long finish. This fully mature wine is a great tribute to the greatness of Mature Saar wines. Now-2027

1997er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese 07 98 94

This offers a stunning nose of yellow fruits, herbs and spices, all wrapped into a superb touch of earl-grey tea. Creamy beeswax brings balance to the palate and the finish. This is plain gorgeous and incredibly fresh. Now-2027

1998er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese 04 99 Auction 94

This was made from partially frozen fruit harvested during a series of cold nights in 1998. This bright-colored wine delivers a gorgeous nose of cassis and pineapple as well as some smoky herbs. It proves vibrant on the palate and the finish is simply elegant and full of playful finesse. Now-2028

1976er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Bergschlösschen Riesling Beerenauslese 12 77 93

This offers a gorgeous nose of apricot, raisin and almond. An herbier and tea-infusion side comes through on the rather slender palate, giving the wine precision and tension. The finish is superbly elegant and airy, as beeswax provides the ideal wrapping to the complex and slightly exotic flavors. This gorgeous treat is fully mature now. Now

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1989er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese lange GK 09 90 Auction 93

This wine is the result of a declassification of both BA and Eiswein fruit. It offers an absolutely gorgeous feel of apricot, pineapple, tea and herbs on the nose. Grapefruit zest comes through on the palate and brings the ideal freshness and elegance to the experience. The finish is elegant and delicately smooth despite the vibrant kick of acidity. This is plain gorgeous and fully mature. Now

1993er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese 07 94 93

This Spätlese offers a stunning nose of smoke, tea and herbs as well as delicate notes of pear and ripe apple. The wine is gloriously light on the palate, with a delicate touch of beeswax making for a soothing feel right through the long finish. This is a superb fresh and mature Spätlese. Now-

1991er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese 01 92 Auction 93

This offers gorgeous herbal scents of fresh fruits and minerals on the nose. A great minty side comes through on the palate. This is enhanced by some beeswax which also brings a touch of smoothness to the sharp and vibrant finish. This is plain gorgeous! Now

1976er Geltz-Zilliken Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Auslese 17 77 90

This offers a rather evolved nose of smoke, marjoram, beeswax and herbs. The wine is rather slender on the palate and leaves a great easy feel of herbs in the almost off-dry finish. This is very easy to enjoy in a direct and mature way. Now



"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

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# **Deciphering the Modern German Wine Label**

Although German wine label is one of the most complete, understanding what is in the bottle and ultimately in your glass may be frustrating as all relevant information does not always appear in writing. Worry not: Here is your guide to decipher the modern German wine label.

















# Key Elements to Understand

The **German wine labelling law** is one of the most complete in the world: It requires or allows to provide a whole set of information which goes beyond what is usually found in other countries. However, German wine is also one of the most diverse, mainly due to the universal qualities of Riesling, which is both transparent to terroir and excels at all levels of sweetness.

It is therefore not unnatural that a wine labelling law that applies to a whole country and encompasses the diversity of German wine is quite a tall order and requires a little bit of "learning" in order to **decipher the label**:

- Determining the <u>vintage</u>, the <u>producer</u> and the <u>grape variety</u> are pretty straightforward affairs.
- Understanding the <u>terroir</u>, i.e. the origin of the wine, is also pretty straightforward once one grasps (1) the few German ways to communicate villages and single vineyards, and (2) the few tricks and approaches that growers use to communicate the fact that a vineyard is classified (this happens indirectly as the law does unfortunately not allow to write this explicitly on the label). Although less to hardly used by quality growers, one needs to be wary of a possible Grosslage, a regional area which is written exactly as if it is a single vineyard.
- German wine has a long history of specifying <u>cask qualities</u>, in particular but not only for sweet Riesling. As using words such as "feine" or "feinste" was prohibited after 1971, the main ways to communicate this information have crystalized via a golden capsule (some separate between golden and long golden capsule), a cask number or stars or, sometimes a combination of these. We explain the different ways at hand of examples and highlight some major exceptions.
- Style (sweetness) can be the trickiest to assess, as the words Trocken (dry), Halbtrocken (medium-dry) or Feinherb (off-dry), not to speak of sweetness indicators, are not always mentioned on the label. In such a case, a look at the alcohol level will provide a rough indication. We share a simple deductive system which we have developed over time and which allows you to pretty much determine the style of your Riesling.

We provide a summary overview table with the usual meaning and explain how this translates into the description of wines in our tasting notes.

In two separate annexes, we provide (A) a **few examples** of labels (and their meaning) and (B) a **glossary** explaining the main words found on a label round.



"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## Decipher the German Wine Label: The Principles behind the Labelling Law

The principles governing what appears on German wine labels were laid out in the wine law of 1971. This law requires to provide a flurry of information on the label of a "quality wine" (first called Prädikatswein, later changed to Qualitätswein in the law) and allows some other in addition.

Before delving into deciphering the label, let's run quickly through the typical information that a wine lover will find on a German wine label:



- Region [mandatory]: Any wine must indicate its region (e.g. Mosel).
- 1 Vintage [optional].
- Producer [mandatory]: Name and contact information are mandatory. Wines made from own tended grapes can be called Estate-bottled (here Gutsabfüllung).
- Terroir [optional]: One may indicate the sub-region (Bereich, e.g. Bernkasteler Kurfürstlay), village (say Niedermennig) or single vineyard (say Niedermenniger Herrenberg) if the wine comes from it.
- 4 Grape variety [optional].
- Ripeness [optional]: The use of a Prädikat (Kabinett, Spätlese, Auslese, etc.) is allowed for non-chaptalized wines if the fruit met some minimum levels of ripeness at picking.
- **Style** [optional]: A series of denominations are allowed to indicate the style (sweetness) of the wine if they are within certain brackets of residual sugar:
  - Trocken ("dry"): 0-9 g/l.
  - Halbtrocken ("medium-dry"): 9-18 g/l.
  - Lieblich (untranslatable "medium-sweet"): 18-45 g/l.
  - Süss ("sweet"): above 45 g/l.

In addition, the word *Feinherb* is also allowed on the label. Even though not legally specified, it typically refers to off-dry wines.

- AP Number [mandatory]: A unique code for each lot of wine which includes the "testing station" (3), the village (525), the Estate (672) and lot number (4 16).
- 8 Alcohol level [mandatory].
- <u>Countenance</u> [mandatory].

Other words are also allowed on the label. Some have an official meaning specified by law, others are simply "fantasy names." We focus in this core of this article on the main terms highlighted in the picture here above but we have added these other terms sometimes found on a label in a glossary at the end of this article.

NB: Besides "quality wines" (Qualitätswein) explained here above, the German wine law also introduced categories of simpler wines (such as Landwein, etc.). For simplicity, we will not cover them in this article as they hardly ever appear on the international market or even beyond the confines of the concerned wine region.



"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## Decipher the German Wine Label: Structured Approach

DECIPHER THE LABEL: 1. VINTAGE - 2. PRODUCER - 3. TERROIR - 4. GRAPE VARIETY - 5. CASK QUALITY - 6. STYLE

Let us start with something easy: The vintage. This is a rather standard affair, as most wines have vintage indications. In such an instance, any still wine is going to be, for all practical matters, solely made from that vintage (even if, legally, up to 15% can come from other vintages).

Vintage	Type of Wine	Usual Meaning	Attention Points
• Yes		<ul> <li>Wine from a single vintage</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Technically minimum 85% from that vintage / in practice usually 100%.</li> </ul>
• No	<ul><li>Sekt</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Sekt from a single vintage</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Sekt from smaller growers, i.e. Winzersekt, usually come from a single vintage.</li> </ul>
• No	<ul><li>Still Wine</li></ul>	Multi-vintage wine	<ul> <li>Rarely seen on wines, more common for Sekt from large wineries.</li> </ul>

For Sekt, there is often no indication of vintage on the label. This does however not necessarily mean that this Sekt is made from several vintages, in particular if it is the Sekt from a small grower, also known as Winzersekt (see our detailed article on Sekt published in Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 30 in March 2016 for more information). These small growers usually make their Sekt from the wine of a single vintage but refrain from adding the vintage on the label in order "not to confuse consumers."

At larger Sekt wineries (be them quality-minded or price-point operations), no vintage usually means multi-vintage Sekt, pretty much as in Champagne.

## DECIPHER THE LABEL: 1. VINTAGE - 2. PRODUCER - 3. TERROIR - 4. GRAPE VARIETY - 5. CASK QUALITY - 6. STYLE

The name of the producer needs to appear on the label if it is an Estate-bottled wine, i.e. a wine made from vineyards under own management.

Recently, the German wine law allowed a subtle differentiation in Estate-bottled denominations and introduced "Gutsabfüllung" (Estate-bottled) next to "Erzeugerabfüllung" (bottled by the producer). For all practical matters, both denominations mean that the wine is made from grapes under own management. The denomination Erzeugerabfüllung was designed in such a way that grower associations (Winzerverein, Winzergenossenschaft) can commercialize any wine only made from the fruit of their members as "bottled by the producer."

	Label	Usual Meaning	Attention Points
Producer	<ul><li>Gutsabfüllung ZZZ</li><li>Erzeugerabfüllung ZZZ</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Bottled by the Estate ZZZ (from own grapes)</li> <li>Bottled by the grower ZZZ (from own grapes)</li> </ul>	This is often used by grower associations for indicating that the wine is made from grapes from its members.
	<ul> <li>Abfüller Weinhaus ZZZ / Weinmanufaktur ZZZ</li> <li>Abfüller TTT für ZZZ</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Bottled by ZZZ (from purchased grapes / wines)</li> <li>Bottled by bottler TTT for ZZZ</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The wine may also include own grapes.</li> <li>Such wines are usually of low quality, especially if the name of the bottler TTT and or client ZZZ are only given in the form of a code made of digits and letters.</li> </ul>

Wines made from purchased fruit (or wines) cannot be called Estate-bottled. In the old days, such wines would have been bottled under the name "Kellerei ZZZ". However, the word Kellerei lacks cachet and quality-minded growers have opted to the more stylish denomination "Weinhaus" or "Weinmanufaktur." If you see the words Weinhaus or Weinmanufaktur, these are modern ways of expressing the fact that this is a winery.

A "winery wine" does not necessarily mean that it is going to be a "bad wine." Many Estates, including leading ones, offer a wine made from purchased grapes or wines at the entry end of their portfolio. This also concerns VDP Estates. In such an instance however, the internal rules of the VDP demands that these wines are commercialized without the VDP logo appearing anywhere on the label (since these are not "Estate wines" and hence not formally VDP wines).



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## Decipher the German Wine Label: Structured Approach ( Continued )

DECIPHER THE LABEL: 1. VINTAGE - 2. PRODUCER - 3. TERROIR - 4. GRAPE VARIETY - 5. CASK QUALITY - 6. STYLE



Identifying if a wine comes from a particular sub-region, village or single vineyard is pretty much straightforward if one keeps a few things in mind.

#### 1. The Different Ways to Refer to a Village or a Single Vineyard

A single vineyard is usually indicated in the form of [Name of the Village] er [Name of the single vineyard] (e.g. Ürziger Würzgarten in the example above on the left). Literally translated, Ürziger Würzgarten means "Ürzig's Spice Garden" (Ürzig is a village). There are a few exceptions to this rule:

- For some villages, the "-er" termination is not added but replaces the termination in the village's name (a wine from Wiltingen is a "Wiltinger").
- A few single vineyards do not have any village reference: Scharzhofberg (Saar), Josephshof (Mosel) and Schloss Johannisberg (Rheingau).
- Some Estates, notably VDP Estates, put the name of the single vineyard only, without reference to the village, on their show label (e.g. the Grand Cru single vineyard Saarburger Rausch have been simply labelled "Rausch" at Weingut Geltz-Zilliken see the label above).

#### 2. The Indications of Terroir Quality (Erste Lage and Grosse Lage)

The Rheingau introduced a classification of growths in the 1990s and these wines carry the words "Erstes Gewächs" on the label. The VDP introduced a classification of its members' vineyards in "Premier Cru" (VDP.Erste Lage) or "Grand Cru" (VDP.Grosse Lage). As the words "VDP.Erste Lage" or VDP.Grosse Lage" are not allowed on the label, VDP members use one or several of the three subterfuges here below:

- Put the words VDP.Erste Lage or VDP.Grosse Lage on the bottom part of the capsule (see the example at Maximin Grünhaus above).
- Emboss "GG" into the bottle for "VDP.Grosses Gewächs" bottlings, i.e. the dry wine from a VDP.Grosse Lage.
- Introduce a "consumer label" in addition to a legal one, where it can write VDP.Erste Lage or VDP.Grosse Lage (see example of Rainer Sauer above)

Why do not all growers use this last subterfuge? This approach is still very much a legal grey zone and hence not without risks.

#### 3. The Pitfalls of the Grosslage

The wine law introduced a nasty little trick regarding sub-regional wines: It subdivided any region (Mosel, Rheingau, etc.) into "Grosslage" (literally translated "Large Vineyards") whose wording mimics that of a single vineyard. Take for instance the Ürziger Schwarzlay: What looks like a single vineyard stands in fact for over 1,200 ha of vineyards spread over a 20 km (12 miles) stretch of the Mosel!

Thankfully, Grosslage are hardly used by leading growers anymore. In 10 years of vintage reviews, we have not reviewed a single Grosslage wine from a current vintage other than from the Badstube (actually of single-vineyard quality as this 50 ha Grosslage only includes a homogeneous set of top vineyards in Bernkastel). So for all practical matters, you can forget about this complication if your wine world is centered on quality growers.

However, large German bottlers still regularly rely on Grosslage for cheaper entry-level bottlings. In particular Wiltinger Scharzberg, Piesporter Michelsberg and Zeller Schwarze Katz are still quite popular at this end of the price scale. For such wines, there is no other way but to remember the names of the Grosslage as warning for low quality wines. Here the full list for the Mosel (19 in total). These are combined with village names:

			List	of Grosslage (M	osel)			
Badstube	-	Königsberg		Nacktarsch	-	Sankt Michael		Schwarzlay
Gipfel		Kurfürstlay		Probstberg	•	Scharzberg		Vom Heissen Stein
Goldbäumchen	-	Michelsberg		Römerlay		Schloss Bübinger	-	Weinhex
Grafschaft		Münzlay		Rosenhang		Schwarze Katz		

### 4. The Flurry of Fantasy Names

Fantasy names exist in all countries but German wine growers seem to have a particular long-lasting passion for them. More often than not, German growers do not rely on the sole marketing power of their villages, single vineyards or Estates brands, but have the urge to add a fantasy name for their basic or even high-end quality wines. Some of these fantasy names are easy to recognize and do add some information to consumers (albeit without legal guarantee). Schiefer, Terrassen and Alte Reben all carry a meaning to the wine's style or intensity. But this is not always the case. We explain the meaning to a few of the most useful "Fantasy Names" in the glossary at the end of this article.



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## Decipher the German Wine Label: Structured Approach ( Continued )

DECIPHER THE LABEL: 1. VINTAGE - 2. PRODUCER - 3. TERROIR - 4. GRAPE VARIETY - 5. CASK QUALITY - 6. STYLE

Grape variety indicated?	Vintage	Wine	Attention Points		
• Yes		<ul> <li>Wine made from that variety</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Technically minimum 85% from that grape / in practice usually 100%.</li> </ul>		
• No	Pre-1971	<ul><li>Riesling</li></ul>	Default before 1971 was Riesling.		
• No	Post-1971	<ul> <li>Multi-varietal wine</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A very few growers do not indicate Riesling even if 100% made from Riesling (e.g. Egon Müller).</li> </ul>		

If no grape variety is on the label of a modern (post-1971) wine, the wine is almost certainly multi-varietal. This was particularly common in the 1970s, when new crossings (Kerner, Müller-Thurgau, Optima, etc.) were the rage. A few growers (we actually only know of Egon Müller) do not indicate the grape variety on the label despite the fact that its wines are 100% Riesling. They reach out to the traditional ways from before 1971, when no grape variety on the label meant that the wine was made from Riesling.

## DECIPHER THE LABEL: 1. VINTAGE - 2. PRODUCER - 3. TERROIR - 4. GRAPE VARIETY - 5. CASK QUALITY - 6. STYLE



After 1971, using words like "Feine" (fine) or "Feinste" (finest) on the label was forbidden. Growers were therefore forced to use subterfuges to communicate the quality of their finest bottlings. Essentially four indirect ways for communicating finer levels of quality of Spätlese, Auslese, Eiswein, BA or TBA have crystallized over the years (not that some growers rely on a combination of them):

- Golden Capsule: Most growers use a golden-colored capsule (Goldkapsel or "GK" for short) to indicate a particularly fine bottling of fruity or sweet wine (typically but not only Auslese). Some growers further differentiate between "fine" and "finest" and have their "finest" casks carry a longer golden capsule (lange Goldkapsel or "lange GK" for short) or, at Joh. Jos. Prüm, two stripes at the bottom of their golden capsule.
- Stars (\*): Some growers add one or several \* (stars), some up to \*\*\*\*\*, to indicate different levels of finesse of their bottlings.
- <u>Cask Number</u>: Some growers indicate better bottlings by adding a cask number, i.e. "Auslese Fass 65" or "Auslese Nr. 55." The main backers
  of this approach are the three major Ruwer Estates (von Schubert, Karthäuserhof and von Kesselstatt) as well as S.A. Prüm in Wehlen.
- AP Number: A few growers differentiate between cask qualities on the basis solely of the AP number (we refer to our detailed article published in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 27 in March 2015 for those interested in "Understanding the AP numbering system"). This practice was widely used up to the 2000s but has found less favor lately. The major exceptions still relying on this approach are Willi Schaefer and, to a lesser extent, Fritz Haag (the latter to differentiate between different stylistic renditions of its Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese and Auslese GK).

The above codes are well-established but they are not universal. At some Estates, ALL capsules are golden, usually for historic reasons. This is the case at Willi Schaefer and for the Berncasteler Doctor wines at Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch. At one Estate (Markus Molitor), the golden color of the capsule simply indicates that the wine is fruity or sweet to the taste. Florian Lauer (Weingut Peter Lauer) adds a cask number on almost all his bottlings, not to convey an additional "quality indication" but rather to indicate that the wine comes from a single cask.



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## Decipher the German Wine Label: Structured Approach ( Continued )

DECIPHER THE LABEL: 1. VINTAGE - 2. PRODUCER - 3. TERROIR - 4. GRAPE VARIETY - 5. CASK QUALITY - 6. STYLE

The wine law has provided growers with words (Trocken, Halbtrocken, Lieblich and Süss) with prescriptive levels of sweetness. In practice, these words are actually not systematically used ("Lieblich" and "Süss" are hardly ever seen at all), which can create some confusion with consumers.

Over time, we have devised a 4-step approach to determine almost (but alas not fully) univocally the level of sweetness of a Riesling:

Sweetness Indicator	Prädikat	GG / EG	Single Vineyard		Other Criterion	Taste	Sweetness (g/l)
Trocken						Dry	0-9
Halbtrocken						Dry-Tasting	10-18
Feinherb						Off-Dry	20-35
No	Kabinett				Alcohol = 10-9%	Off-Dry	25-40
					Alcohol = 8.5-7.5%	Fruity	40-60
No	Spätlese				Alcohol = 12-10%	Off-Dry to Fruity	20-40
					Alcohol = 9.5-7.5%	Fruity to Sweet	45-85
No	Auslese				w/o cask quality indicator	Likely Sweet	80-120
					with cask quality indicator	Likely Noble-Sweet	90-160
No	BA / TBA / Eiswein					Noble-Sweet	>130
No	No	Yes		•	GG	Dry	0-9
				•	EG (Rheingau)	Dry (to Dry-Tasting)	0-13
No	No	No	Yes		If VDP	Dry-Tasting	9-18
					If not VDP	Dry to Dry-Tasting	0-18
No	No	No	No		Alcohol = 11-10%	Likely Off-Dry	10-25
				•	Alcohol = 9.5-8%	Likely Fruity	30-50
	NB: Figures in bol	d are legal r	equirements, the	others	s indicative based on Mosel Fin	e Wines experience.	

The approach is based on a deduction system (i.e. "if the answer to the question is no > go to the next question"):

- Is there a sweetness indicator? The words Trocken, Halbtrocken or Feinherb on the label will provide with the level of sweetness of the wine.
- Is there a Prädikat? If there is a Prädikat and no sweetness indicator (since you answered the previous question with "no"), the wine will be somewhere between off-dry and fully sweet. You can fine-tune this by checking the alcohol level and if there is any quality indicator (golden capsule, etc.) on the bottle.
- GG / EG bottling? If the indication "Grosses Gewächs" or "Erstes Gewächs" can be found somewhere on the label or bottle, you will know that
  you have a dry wine (legally Erstes Gewächs allows up to 13 g/l of residual sugar).
- <u>Single-vineyard bottling</u>? You are most likely faced by a dry-tasting wine as they are often produced by some leading dry wine growers in the Mosel. The VDP further specifies the sweetness corridor to medium-sweet levels. For non-VDP Estates, one cannot deduce more from the label.
- None of the above? It is going to be a regional varietal wine. As a rule of thumb, such wines are likely to be fruity-styled in North America and Asia and off-dry in style in Europe. Here also, the alcohol level will help you zoom in on the style.

You may need to have a sharp look at both the "front label" and back label (or sometimes the side label or neck label) to make sure that the answer is "no" before going to the next question: We provide with standard examples of labels and how to decipher them in Annex.

Some Estates provide additional information to help consumers assess the sweetness of their wines. Markus Molitor uses the color of his capsule for this, Peter Lauer adds the letter T encircled (Trocken) or F encircled (Feinherb) in very small at the bottom of the label to guide his customers. Some growers use the official IRF (International Riesling Foundation) scale on the back label which then provides univocally the level of sweetness.

All in all, it is a combination of the huge variety of style that Riesling excels at (from dry to sweet) and the shortcomings in codifying this in wine law that has led to this currently rather complex situation for understanding the sweetness of a German wine (Mosel wine in particular) from the label.

NB: The notion of off-dry, fruity and sweet also depends on the age of the wine as the feeling of sweetness recedes as the wine matures. A 20 year-old off-dry wine will most likely taste dry. This is particularly true for vintages with particularly high acidity such as 2010, 2008, 2004 or 1996. Here even Kabinett or Spätlese wines may taste fully dry after 20 years.



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# Decipher the German Wine Label: Simple "80-20" Rules of Thumb

By now, your head could well be buzzing and you may wonder if you will ever dare to touch a bottle of German Riesling again. Worry not because we provide here a summary to be able to quickly assess a wine which covers the most common situations for quality wines as reviewed in our Issues.

	Label	Usual Meaning	Attention Points
Vintage	No vintage indication	Multi-vintage wine	Non-vintage Winzersekt is often from single vintage.
Producer	<ul> <li>Gutsabfüllung / Erzeugerabfüllung ZZZ</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Bottled by ZZZ from own grapes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Most other wordings do not guarantee that bottling is from own grapes.</li> </ul>
Terroir	<ul><li>"XXXer YYY"</li><li>"XXXer"</li></ul>	<ul><li>Wine from vineyard "YYY" in the village "XXX"</li><li>Wine from village "XXX"</li></ul>	<ul> <li>It could also be a regional wine (Grosslage).</li> <li>VDP Estates usually indicate single vineyards as "YYY" only or as "XXX YYY".</li> <li>It could be a single vineyard (there are a few exceptions).</li> </ul>
	<ul><li>Region (with possibly "fantasy name")</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Wine from the whole or part of the region</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>VDP Estates usually write villages as "XXX".</li> <li>Some fantasy names may actually be of help to capture terroir / some others not.</li> </ul>
Grape Variety	No mention of grape variety	Multi-varietal wine	<ul> <li>Can still be 100% Riesling in some cases.</li> </ul>
Cask Quality	<ul> <li>Golden capsule / Long golden capsule</li> </ul>	Fine / finest cask	<ul> <li>Color of the capsule does not always mean convey cask quality.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Nr. / Fuder Nr. / Fass Nr. / # together with digit(s)</li> <li>* / ** / *** / ****</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Fine or finest cask</li><li>Fine / finer / finest cask</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Sometimes, the AP number is used for finesse indicator.</li> <li>The cask quality coding systems may be combined.</li> </ul>
Sweetness	<ul> <li>Trocken (T)</li> <li>Halbtrocken (H)</li> <li>Feinherb (F)</li> <li>Kabinett w/o T, H or F</li> <li>Spätlese w/o T, H or F</li> <li>Auslese w/o T, H or F</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Dry wine</li> <li>Dry-tasting wine</li> <li>Off-dry wine</li> <li>Off-dry to fruity wine</li> <li>Fruity to sweet wine</li> <li>Sweet to noble-sweet wine</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Wine with less than 9 g/l of residual sugar.</li> <li>Wine with 9-18 g/l of residual sugar.</li> <li>Typically 15-35 g/l of residual sugar (not legally defined).</li> <li>Check alcohol: 9-10%=off-dry / 7.5-8.5%=fruity.</li> <li>Check alcohol (&gt;10%) if not off-dry.</li> <li>Check alcohol (&gt;10%) if not off-dry.</li> <li>Likely to be noble-sweet if cask quality indicator on the label.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Eiswein / BA / TBA</li> <li>Grosses Gewächs (GG) / Erstes Gewächs (EG)</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Noble-sweet wine</li><li>Dry wine from a prime vineyard</li></ul>	<ul> <li>GG indication can be on label, embossed on bottle (VDP) or on a sticker (Bernkasteler Ring).</li> <li>EG used in Rheingau.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Single vineyard w/o any of the above indicators</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Dry to dry-tasting wine</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Widely used at leading Mosel Estates for their dry-tasting wines.</li> </ul>
	None of the above	<ul> <li>Dry-tasting to fruity wine</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Check alcohol: 8-9%=fruity / 10-11%=Off-dry / Dry-tasting.</li> </ul>

We added some examples at the end of this article to help understand these principles.



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## Decipher the German Wine Label: Implications for Mosel Fine Wines Tasting Notes

The uncertainties and confusion created by the German wine law also has implications in the way we describe German wines in our reviews. We have chosen to follow the following principles for the header of a tasting note:

Vintage Estate / Producer

Terroir + Grape variety + Style + Cask Quality + Fantasy Name

AP#

Auction

Rating

- Vintage: We chose the old-fashioned German way to indicate a year, i.e. the year with "-er" at the end. As an alert to reader, we underline the vintage of any wine in a list of tasting notes in our Vintage Reports if it is not from the current vintage (either because it was presented to us later or bottled later).
- <u>Estate / Producer</u>: We provide the name of the Estate or the bottler as it appears on the label but without the superfluous words such as "Weingut" or "Weinmanufaktur."
- Terroir origin: We always indicate the full terroir origin using the official denomination from the German wine law, even in the case of VDP Estates as it is otherwise far too confusing for any reader. Also, we add any fantasy name at the end of a wine name in order to avoid any confusion with a single vineyard.
- Terroir Quality: We never add the terroir quality (i.e. Grosse Lage or Erste Lage of the VDP or other systems used internally at some Estates) because (a) these are not easy to find on the label and would induce readers to believe that it is a different wine (b) sometimes the quality is not given, e.g. Egon Müller and Joh. Jos. Prüm do not bother to add the logo "VDP.Grosse Lage" somewhere on their label (c) the name of the terroir is univocal: there is never a "non-classified" Wehlener Sonnenuhr bottling next to a "classified" bottling of Wehlener Sonnenuhr at any Estate.
- <u>Grape variety</u>: If the wine was made from grapes other than Riesling, we provide the grape variety as it appears on the label (Weissburgunder or Pinot Blanc, Spätburgunder or Pinot Noir, etc.).
- <u>Style</u>: We restrict ourselves to what is officially written on the label as this is the only viable way to ensure that a reader can make sure he or she has the same wine. The only exception we make is for the Markus Molitor Estate, where we add in parenthesis the color of the capsule as this is THE indicator for the stylistic direction of the Estate's wines (white for dry, green for off-dry, golden for fruity and sweet), except for the noble-sweet BA, TBA and Eiswein.
- <u>Cask Quality</u>: We add the description GK or Lange GK (when relevant) even when these words do not appear on the label, as they are
  important differentiators of quality. We of course provide any "stars" or "cask numbers" in the name of a wine as these are indicated in writing
  on the main or neck label.
- <u>AP Number</u>: We systematically provide the serial number (typically 4-5) last digits of the AP number because it may still prove critical in some instances (see our article on "Understanding the AP numbering system" published in Issue No 27 March 2015 to understand why) and because it is a univocal way for any reader to make sure that a wine he purchased is the same as the one we reviewed.
- <u>Auction</u>: The mention "Auction" is added only if the bottle or bottling was sold at one of the annual German Auctions (Bernkasteler Ring or VDP), which take place every September.
- Rating: We rely on the 100-point scale (more details available in the "Principles" section at the beginning of each Issue).

As we explained in this article, despite the best efforts, some information could well not be read from the label, in particular:

- Terroir origin (for regional wines, wines with a fantasy name or wines from a Grosslage).
- The precise level of sweetness (in particular the dryness of a Kabinett or a wine without any indication of Prädikat or dryness).
- The oak treatment in case of red wines.
- The relevance of the AP number.

Whenever possible, we <u>clarify any remaining uncertainty from labelling at the beginning of the body of our tasting notes</u>. In addition, should a wine not really reflect the style declared on the label (say a wine bottled as Spätlese turns out to be a big sweet Auslese with botrytis), we will also highlight this in the tasting note.



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## Decipher the German Wine Label: Illustrative Examples

#### Example 1 - Estate using the traditional system



No Back label

- Vintage: 2015
- <u>Producer</u>: Hofgut Falkenstein (Erich Weber) from own grapes (Gutsabfüllung)
- <u>Origin</u>: From the single vineyard Niedermenniger Herrenberg (village Niedermennig, site Herrenberg)
- <u>Terroir quality</u>: No indication provided (but great vineyard according to us!)
- Grape Variety: Riesling
- Quality: Medium-bodied (because Spätlese)
- <u>Style</u>: Off-dry (because Feinherb on the label), i.e. somewhere between 15-35 g/l.

2015er

Hofgut Falkenstein

Niedermenniger Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese Feinherb

04 16

Rating

### Example 2 - GG by a VDP Estate





- Vintage: 2015
- <u>Producer</u>: Emrich-Schönleber from own grape (Gutsabfüllung on the side of the label)
- Origin: From the single vineyard Monzinger Halenberg (Halenberg on the label AND VDP.Grosse Lage at the bottom of the label + confirmed on the side of the label)
- Terroir quality: "Grand Cru" according to the VDP
- Grape Variety: Riesling
- Quality: None specified but full-bodied (implicit from GG, which indicates high quality fruit)
- Style: Dry (because GG mentioned on the label)

2015er

Emrich-Schönleber

Monzinger Halenberg Riesling GG

11 16

Rating

## Example 3 - Erste Lage by VDP Estate





- Vintage: 2012
- <u>Producer</u>: Rainer Sauer from own grapes (Gutsabfüllung)
- Origin: From the single vineyard Escherndorfer Lump
- Terroir quality: classified as "Premier Cru" according to the VDP
- Grape Variety: Silvaner
- Quality: No indication (except indirectly because Erste Lage on label, the wine must have Spätlese quality)
- <u>Style</u>: Dry (Erste Lage wines are usually dry and it is here clearly written on the back label with the mention "Trocken")
- MFW Description: None beyond legal

2012er Rai

Rainer Sauer

Escherndorfer Lump Silvaner Trocken

20 13

Rating



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## Decipher the German Wine Label: Illustrative Examples ( Continued )

#### Example 4 - Erstes Gewächs in Rheingau





- Vintage: 2009
- <u>Producer</u>: Schloss Johannisberg (from own grapes since Gutsabfüllung)
- Origin: From the Schloss Johannisberger vineyard (no mention of the village, Geisenheim, as this is one of the rare exceptions where this is legally foreseen)
- Terroir quality: A top site / wine is an Erstes Gewächs
- Grape Variety: Riesling
- Quality: None specified (implicit from EG, which indicates high quality fruit)
- Style: Dry (Erstes Gewächs may have up to 13 g/l of residual sugar but Trocken written on label)
- MFW description: Use of the acronym EG (short of Erstes Gewächs) and mention Trocken

2009er

Schloss Johannisberg

Schloss Johannisberger Riesling Trocken EG

10 10

Rating

### Example 5 - Dry-tasting Riesling by Mosel grower





Vintage: 2009

- <u>Producer</u>: Immich-Batterieberg (from own grapes because Erzeugerabfüllung)
- Origin: From the single vineyard Enkircher Ellergrub
- <u>Terroir quality</u>: None explicit / high implicit (Estate only uses single vineyard denomination for its Grand Cru)
- Grape Variety: Riesling
- Quality: None explicit
- <u>Style</u>: Dry-tasting (can be deduced from our four question approach)
- MFW Description: Additional description of actual level of dryness at the beginning of tasting note

2009er

Immich-Batterieberg

**Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling** 

05 10

Rating

#### Example 6 - Goldkapsel and Stars





- <u>Vintage</u>: 2015
- <u>Producer</u>: Jos. Christoffel Jr. (from own grapes since Erzeugerabfüllung)
- Origin: From the single vineyard Erdener Prälat
- Terroir quality: No indication
- Grape Variety: Riesling
- Quality: Highly fine Auslese (because of \*\*\* and golden capsule)
- <u>Style</u>: Noble-sweet (can be deduced using our four question approach)
- MFW Description: Additional mention of GK (for Goldkapsel)

2015er

Jos. Christoffel jr.

Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese \*\*\* GK

06 16

Rating



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## Decipher the German Wine Label: Illustrative Examples ( Continued )

## Example 7 - Auction Wine





Vintage: 2007

Producer: Egon Müller

- Origin: From the single vineyard Scharzhofberger
- <u>Terroir quality</u>: One of the very few vineyards where there is no mention of the village (here Wiltingen), by deduction a top site
- Grape Variety: Not written as matter of principle by the Estate, but Riesling
- Quality: Spätlese (and high quality one because auction sticker attached to the label)
- <u>Style</u>: sweet (can be deduced using our four question approach)
- MFW Description: Additional mention of Auction in the labelling of the wine

2007er

Egon Müller

Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese

10 08

Auction

Rating

#### Example 8 - Fantasy Name





- Vintage: 2013
- <u>Producer</u>: Weingut Keller (from own grapes because Erzeugerabfüllung on the side)
- Origin: Not specified beyond region ("von der Fels" is a bottling from young vines in top vineyards)
- Terroir quality: None indicated
- Grape Variety: Riesling
- Quality: None indicated
- Style: Dry (Trocken written on the side)
- <u>MFW Description</u>: Mention of von der Fels (fantasy name) AFTER the legal descriptions

2013er

Keller

Riesling Trocken von der Fels

08 14

Rating

### Example 9 - Beyond Riesling





- Vintage: 2013
- Producer: Weingut Günther Steinmetz from own grapes (Gutsabfüllung on the side of the label)
- Origin: From the single vineyard Kestener Paulinsberg
- <u>Terroir quality</u>: None explicit / Implicit high quality (Estate only uses single vineyards for its better sites)
- Grape Variety: Pinot Noir (Spätburgunder in German)
- Quality: No indication provided
- Style: Dry (no wording on the label indicated but a red wine with 13% will be dry)
- MFW Description: Mention of "Unfiltriert" (unfiltered)
  AFTER the legal descriptions in the title and the oak
  treatment (important for Pinot Noir style) at the
  beginning of tasting note

2013er

Günther Steinmetz

Kestener Herrenberg Pinot Noir Unfiltriert

24 14

Rating



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# Decipher the German Wine Label: Illustrative Examples ( Continued )

## Example 10 - Grosslage bottling





- Vintage: 2016
- <u>Producer</u>: RP 907-009 (only shipper, Burg Kellerei, is given)
- Origin: Regional wine from the Grosslage Schwarze Katz (i.e. encompasses vineyards around Zell)
- <u>Terroir quality</u>: None explicit / low implicit (Grosslage beyond Badstube are rarely used for quality wines)
- Grape Variety: None indicated so likely a blend including Riesling and other varieties
- Quality: No indication but of course retail price (€2.59 in Europe) tells you all you need to know
- Style: 8.5% alcohol means probably a wine with approx.
   40 g/l of residual sugar (cf. our four-step deduction logic)
- MFW Description: Mention of Grosslage nature of Zeller Schwarze Katz at beginning of tasting note

2016er Burg Kellerei Zeller Schwarze Katz C31 16 Rating



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# Decipher the German Wine Label: Glossary of Terms Found on German Wine Labels

Abfüller	This legally-defined term (meaning "bottler") must be used when a bottling is made from own and third-party wines. Without any other clue on the label, it is safe to assume that it is made from purchased wines only.
Alte Reben	This term (meaning "old vines") is not legally defined. Public authorities consider it not misleading the public if vines are over 25 years old. In the Mosel, this term usually implies vines with 40-50 years of age (if not over 70 year-old vines at most leading Estates: Mosel has some of the oldest, often un-grafted vines in the world). Besides this, some German Estates (in particular at the VDP) use "Alte Reben" generically to refer to its middle-of-the-range dry Riesling (i.e. independently on the particularly old age of the vines).
Auslese	This legally-defined term (meaning "selection") refers to a non-chaptalized wine made from grapes picked with at least 83-100° Oechsle (the minimum level depends on region and grape variety) and which has passed a sensorial test by the authorities. Auslese does not specify the sweetness: An Auslese can by dry to noble-sweet (the latter especially if used in combination with a bottling quality indicator such as a Golden Capsule or stars).
Beerenauslese	This legally-defined term (meaning "Berry Selection") refers to a non-chaptalized wine made from grapes picked with at least 110-128° Oechsle (the minimum level depends on region and grape variety) and which has passed a sensorial test by the authorities. A BA (as it is often known for short), denotes a noble-sweet wine.
Classic	This legally-defined term was introduced wine in the heydays of new crossing varieties in a bid to push the traditional grapes varieties. A classic wine must solely be made from a single (classic) grape variety and does not have more 15 g/l of residual sugar. One rarely sees this term today as the use of new crossings has receded.
Eiswein	This legally-defined term refers to a non-chaptalized wine made from grapes picked with at least 110-128° Oechsle (the minimum level depends on the region and the grape variety) at a temperature below -7°C and which has passed a sensorial test by the authorities. Eiswein is a sweet to noble-sweet wine.
Erstes Gewächs (EG)	This legally-defined term meaning First Growth in German refers to a dry-tasting Rheingau wine with max. 13 g/l of residual sugar from a vineyard classified by the regional authorities (learn more about vineyard classification in the article "The Bumpy Road to Vineyard Classification" published in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 26 – October 2014)
Erzeugerabfüllung	The legally-defined term (meaning "bottled by the producer") indicates that the wine comes from own grapes or, in the case of a grower association, only from grapes of its members.
Feinherb	This untranslatable term (literally meaning "finely tart") without any legal basis refers in practice to an off-dry wine with approx. 20-35 g/l of residual sugar (i.e. typically above the limits for Halbtrocken).
Grosses Gewächs (GG)	This term (meaning "Great Growth") without legal basis indicates a dry wine from a "Grand Cru" vineyard. Many simply refer to these growths as "GGs." Members of the VDP and the Bernkasteler Ring are its main users. However, given its success, also producers outside of these organizations often refer to this, formally or informally. To differentiate itself from the others, the VDP uses the denomination VDP.GROSSES GEWÄCHS which it had trademarked and which refers to the dry wine made from a classified VDP.GROSSE LAGE (learn more about vineyard classification in the article "The Bumpy Road to Vineyard Classification" published in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 26 – October 2014).
Gutsabfüllung	This legally-defined term (meaning "Estate-Bottled") means a wine made from own grapes harvested and vinified by the Estate from vineyards under own management.
Halbtrocken	This legally-defined term (meaning medium-dry) indicates a wine with 9-18 g/l of residual sugar (legally, the definition is that the levels of residual sugar must be too high for qualifying for Trocken as per definition here below, but do not exceed by 10 g/l that of total acidity, up to a maximum of 18 g/l of residual sugar).
Hochgewächs	This legally-defined term (meaning "High Growth") came from an initiative to improve Estate wines. A Hochgewächs must be made from fruit with 10° Oechsle more than the minimum required for QbA and achieve a slightly higher rating than normal at the sensorial test by the authorities. This term is hardly ever used by leading Estates.
Kabinett	The legally-defined term (derived from cabinet as in "cabinet furniture") refers to a non-chaptalized wine made from grapes harvested at 70-82° Oechsle (depending on the region and the grape variety) and which passes a sensorial test by the authorities. Kabinett wines are usually light in structure and can be dry, off-dry or fruity in style.
Liebfraumilch	This legally-defined term (derived from a famous vineyard near Worms) stands for a fruity wine made from grapes grown in Nahe, Pfalz, Rheingau and Rheinhessen and which contains a minimum of 70% of Riesling, Silvaner, Müller-Thurgau or Kerner. Historically highly valued, this has unfortunately stood for a cheap and sweet wine since the 1980s.
Lieblich	This legally-defined term refers to a wine with 18-45 g/l of residual sugar (technically, sugar levels must be above those for qualifying for Halbtrocken and below 45 g/l). The term is hardly ever used because its meaning (literally translated "sweetish" in German) was quickly associated to sweet cheap plonk.



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# Decipher the German Wine Label: Glossary of Terms Found on German Wine Labels ( Continued )

Naturrein	This term (meaning "naturally pure" and legally allowed until 1971) referred to a un-chaptalized wine made from grapes not harvested late (otherwise it would have been called Spätlese) or from particular selections (otherwise it would have been called Auslese). In practice, this meant a wine which had somewhere between 5-30 g/l of residual sugar, also in function of vintage quality (higher if the vintage was good and lower if it was less so). Any bottle from that period is bound to taste smoothly dry if not bone-dry today.
Qualitätswein	This legally-defined term (meaning "Quality Wine") refers to a wine made from grapes picked with at least 51-72° Oechsle (the minimum level depends on region and grape variety) and which has passed a technical and sensorial test by the wine control authorities. The wine can be chaptalized (but is not necessarily) and be dry to fully sweet.
Prädikat / Prädikatswein	This legally defined term (meaning "Predicate") is used when a wine qualifies for any of six levels of predicates specified in the German wine law, i.e. Kabinett, Spätlese, Auslese, Beerenauslese, Trockenbeerenauslese and Eiswein. A wine with a predicate is then called Prädikatswein.
Schiefer	This term (meaning "Slate") is often seen on Estate bottles in the Mosel and the Nahe to underline that the wine comes from a slate-infused terroir (there is no legal definition as to the minimal percentage of slate in the soil). The words "Blau" (blue), "Rot" (red) "Grau" (grey) or "Quarzit" (quartzite) may complement the terroir indication.
Schlossabfüllung	This legally-defined term (meaning "Castle-Bottled") indicates a wine bottled by the owner of a listed castle "at the castle facilities." This additional information seems to strike a chord with the German romantic heart.
Selection	This legally-defined term indicates a dry-tasting wine (with not more than 12 g/l of residual sugar for Riesling) made with Auslese-grade grapes from yields not exceeding 60 hl/ha and not commercialized before September 1 after the vintage (it was the public authorities' answer to the Grosses Gewächs and is hence hardly used anymore).
Spätlese	This legally-defined term (meaning "Late Harvested") which refers to a non-chaptalized wine made from grapes picked with at least 76-90° Oechsle (the minimum level depends on region and grape variety) and which passed a sensorial test by the authorities. A Spätlese can be dry, off-dry or fully sweet.
Steillage	This legally-defined term (meaning "Steep vineyard") indicates a wine made from grapes grown on steep hills (with more than 30% inclination).
Süss	This legally-defined term (meaning "Sweet") refers to a wine with more than 45 g/l of residual sugar. This term is rarely seen (except at some smaller operations) because growers rapidly adopted a default principle: Any Prädikat wine (say a Riesling Spätlese) is sweet unless it carry the words "Trocken" or "Halbtrocken" or today "Feinherb."
Terrassen	This term (meaning "Terraces") is often found on labels from the Mosel and the Rheingau and indicates that the wine comes from vines grown on terraces (there is however no legal definition behind this).
Trocken	This legally defined term (meaning "Dry") indicates a wine with less than 9 g/l of residual sugar (legally, a Trocken wine must EITHER have less than 4g/l of residual sugar OR have residual sugar levels which do not exceed by 2 g/l that of total acidity, up to a maximum of 9 g/l of residual sugar. A tolerance of 1 g/l makes that, exceptionally, a Trocken wine may have 10 g/l of residual sugar).
Trockenbeerenauslese	This legally-defined term ("dry berry selections) refers to a non-chaptalized wine made from grapes picked with at least 150-154° Oechsle (the minimum level depends on the region and the grape variety) and which has passed a sensorial test by the wine control authorities. A TBA (as it is often known in short) is always noble-sweet.
VDP.Erste Lage	This trademarked term (meaning "VDP First Vineyard") indicates that the wine comes from a site classified as "Premier Cru" by the VDP (learn more about vineyard classification in the article "The Bumpy Road to Vineyard Classification" published in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 26 – October 2014).
VDP.Grosses Gewächs	This trademarked term (meaning "VDP Great Growth") refers to the dry wine made from a site classified as VDP.GROSSE LAGE by the VDP (learn more about vineyard classification in the article "The Bumpy Road to Vineyard Classification" published in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 26 – October 2014).
VDP.Grosse Lage	This trademarked term (meaning "VDP Great Vineyard") indicates that the wine comes from a site classified as "Grand Cru" by the VDP (learn more about vineyard classification in the article "The Bumpy Road to Vineyard Classification" published in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 26 – October 2014).
VDP.Gutswein	This trademarked term (meaning "VDP Great Vineyard") indicates a wine from 100% Estate-grown grapes with stricter limitations on yields than those foreseen by law. These wines can be dry, off-dry or fruity in style.
VDP.Ortswein	This trademarked term (meaning "VDP Great Vineyard") indicates a wine from 100% Estate-grown grapes from said village with stricter limitations on maximal yields than those foreseen by law. These wines can be dry, off-dry or fruity or even noble-sweet as the internal VDP regulations allow for village Auslese, Eiswein, BA or even TBA.



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# Mature Riesling Commercially Available at the Estates and Featured in this Issue

Mature Riesling is one of the greatest pleasures in the world of fine wines and we have been on air to encourage readers to enjoy more mature Riesling. One of the common issues faced by wine lovers or importers is access to such mature bottles. The great thing is that many Estates regularly release mature Riesling from their cellars.



This Issue No 34 features 40 mature Riesling still commercially available ex-cellar from the following Estates:

J.B. Becker	Walluf	Rheingau
Karl Erbes	Ürzig	Mosel
Dr. Fischer	Ockfen	Saar
von Hövel	Oberemmel	Saar
Dr. Loosen	Bernkastel-Kues	Mosel
Markus Molitor	Wehlen	Mosel
Martin Müllen	Traben-Trarbach	Mosel
Christoph von Nell	Kasel	Trier-Ruwer
S.A. Prüm	Wehlen	Mosel
Trimbach	Ribeauvillé	Alsace
Vollenweider	Traben-Trarbach	Mosel

We encourage you to contact the Estates, their agents or importers in your country should you be interested.



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# Mature Riesling Commercially Available at Estates: Detailed Tasting Notes ( 40 Wines )

We provide here the tasting notes of wines still commercially available at the Estates and which we published in this Issue.

NB: Riesling needs time. Some of the mature Riesling featured here may still benefit from further aging. This will be reflected in the tasting note and the estimated drinking window.

### Weingut J.B. Becker

(Walluf - Rheingau)

1994er J.B. Becker Wallufer Walkenberg Riesling Kabinett Trocken 06 95 94

Two Kabinett Trocken were made in 1994, this AP 06 95 was fermented to almost fully dry levels. It offers a stunning nose of peach, pineapple, beeswax, aniseed herbs and spices. The wine is beautifully racy, precise and refined on the palate. The finish is gorgeous, ethereal, long and still driven by an extraordinarily precise feel of minerals, electrifying fruits and fine aniseed herbs. This dry Riesling is a brilliant effort which will offer superb pleasure for many years to come! Now-2024

2006er J.B. Becker Wallufer Oberberg Riesling Auslese 19 07 93

This golden-colored Auslese was made in the old-style with higher alcohol and lower residual sugar. It offers a superb nose of apricot, pineapple, herbs and spices. The wine is delicately present on the palate, with a hint of candy floss still adding sweetness to an off-dry structured wine. The after-taste is beautifully elegant and well-integrated, leaving one with a great fragrance of delicately baroque fruits in the after-taste. This is beautiful! Now-2026

2007er J.B. Becker Eltviller Sonnenberg Riesling Spätlese 14 08 92

This Spätlese was made in the old-style with approx. 40 g/l of residual sugar. It offers a gorgeous, rather open and powerful nose of passion fruit, whipped cream, a hint of cassis and spices. The wine is nicely fruity and delicately smooth and sweet on the palate. More minerals and spices come through in the long finish. This old-style Spätlese with limited residual sugar is now singing. Now-2032

2007er J.B. Becker Wallufer Berg Bildstock Riesling Kabinett 07 08 91+

This Kabinett develops beautiful scents of cassis, pineapple and whipped cream on the nose. The wine is gorgeously playful in an off-dry style on the palate and leaves a smooth feel of herbs and fresh fruits in the long finish. This will prove a great companion for food. Now-2032

2007er J.B. Becker Wallufer Walkenberg Riesling Auslese Trocken 11 08 90+

This delivers a ripe and broad nose of pear, toffee, dried mirabelle, nut and licorice. The wine is driven by a phenolic side which gives quite some intensity, power and tartness to the palate. The finish is spicy and intense. Despite boasting 14.5% of alcohol, the intrinsic power of the wine is well harnessed in the long and pleasing after-taste. This dry Riesling made for lovers of full-blown wines could possibly gain from further aging if it manages to dissolve its tartness. Now-2022+

## **Weingut Karl Erbes**

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2006er Karl Erbes Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese 15 07 95

This yellow-colored wine delivers a show-stopping nose of cassis, pear, yellow peach, candied orange, honey and coconut. The wine proves nicely intense yet at the same time playfully elegant and fresh on the palate and leaves a beautiful and comparatively airy feel of ripe baked pineapple, coconut and more pear in the juicy and creamy finish. This is a must-buy for lovers of more elegant and subtle expressions of creamy Auslese. What a delicious and gorgeously complex wine with plenty of life ahead! Now-2046

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1994er Karl Erbes Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese \* 07 95 93

This surprisingly bright-colored wine offers a ravishingly beautiful and quite juicy nose of mirabelle, elderflower, yellow peach, apricot, spices and herbs. The wine proves deliciously juicy, remarkably vibrant and almost primary on the palate and leaves a playful feel of fresh ripe fruits, minerals and a touch of slate in the long finish. This beautiful wine is a textbook example of a superbly well-matured Mosel Auslese. Now-2034

2002er Karl Erbes Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese \*\* 09 03 91

This offers a succulent yet ripe feel of quince, pineapple, mirabelle and greengage. A touch of acidity provides a great framework to the rich and engaging flavors of almond cream, nut paste and candied exotic fruits on the palate. The finish lightens up as a playful touch of acidity brings freshness to this outstanding botrytized Auslese. Now-2027

2003er Karl Erbes Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese 20 04 91

This offers a gorgeous and remarkably fresh and juicy nose (for a 2003 Auslese) as greengage, melon and grapefruit emerge from the glass. After a while, some slate and smoke come through which carry over onto the delicately rich yet nicely playful palate. This wine transcends the weight and ripeness of 2003 to deliver a simply beautiful feel of juiciness in the long finish. Now-2033

## Weingut Dr. Fischer

(Ockfen - Saar)

2007er Dr. Fischer Riesling Steinbock 09 08 87

The Riesling Steinbock is made from fruit exclusively harvested in the Ockfener Bockstein. The 2007er version offers a gorgeously direct and satisfying nose of pear and peach. The wine is elegant and refined with grapefruit and herbs bringing a great enjoyable side on the palate. The finish is nicely made and long. This Estate Riesling should prove ideal with food now. Now-2022

## Weingut von Hövel

(Oberemmel - Saar)

2007er von Hövel Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Auslese \*\* lange GK 15 08 Auction 94

This wine proved already utterly impressive when tasted at the Auction almost a decade ago and the early signs of greatness are beautifully confirmed here. Magnificent scents of passion fruit sorbet, pear, mint and a hint of truffle give way to a beautifully vibrant and silky feel of fresher fruits mingling with apricot and whipped cream on the palate. The finish is lively, creamy and hugely playful. What a gorgeous success to sip and reflect or to drink heartily! Now-2037

### Weingut Dr. Loosen – Johannishof

(Bernkastel-Kues - Middle Mosel)

2007er Dr. Loosen Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese GK 52 08 95

This still bright golden colored wine was made from 100% botrytized fruit harvested at over 110° Oechsle. It delivers a great nose of frangipane, mango, honey, beeswax, pear, tart tatin and fine spices. The wine has the creamy and oily richness of a BA on the palate and delivers a gorgeously pure and multi-layered feel in the long and refined finish. The after-taste manages to retain quite some freshness and playfulness. This is a great BA-styled expression of Prälat! Now-2037

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2007er Dr. Loosen Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese GK 55 08 94

This surprisingly bright-colored wine delivers an enticing nose of William's pear, mirabelle, coconut cream and fine minerals. A creamy side driven by mirabelle, pear and whipped coconut cream comes through on the palate. This leads to a gorgeous feel to the vibrant and surprisingly fresh finish. This is a superbly playful Auslese GK which delivers incredibly juicy fruits as well as superb freshness. Now-2037

2007er Dr. Loosen Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese 49 08 93

This offers a gorgeous nose of mango, brown sugar and dried herbs with in addition more exotic fruits and whipped cream as it evolves in the glass. The wine is beautifully well balanced and leaves a delicately ripe a gorgeous feel of pear, mirabelle, spices and herbs, all underlined by a pretty good kick of acidity and minerals in the surprisingly juicy and fruity finish. Now-2032

2007er Dr. Loosen Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese 42 09 93

This Auslese was bottled late (hence the AP number from 2009). It offers a slightly rich yet appealing nose of almond, yellow peach, orange blossom, ripe pear and spices. The wine proves nicely creamy, delightfully pure and well balanced on the palate. This beautifully playful fruity Auslese leaves a persistent and hugely playful feel in the finish. This is plain gorgeous and a huge success. Now-2037

2007er Dr. Loosen Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese 47 08 91

This offers a gorgeous and still somewhat reduced nose of quince, grapefruit, pineapple, spices and herbs. The wine is nicely playful and elegant on the palate and leaves a beautiful feel of minty herbs and nice fruits. The finish is smooth, light and delicate, and delivers notes of candied orange and licorice. Now-2032

## Weingut Markus Molitor - Haus Klosterberg

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

NB: The Estate only indicates the style of its wines (dry, off-dry or fruity) via the capsule color: white for dry, green for off-dry and gold for fruity-styled. In addition there is some wording on the back label but no formal indication such as Trocken or Feinherb. In order to avoid any confusion as for style, we indicate the color of the capsule in parenthesis in the description of each wine. Readers should be aware that this is not found on the label nor referred to as such by the Estate internally.

2007er Markus Molitor Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese \*\* (White Capsule) 61 08 92+

This yellow-colored wine delivers a hugely reduced nose still slightly marked by sulfur and needs quite some time to reveal gorgeous scents of candied grapefruit, white flowers and a hint licorice. The wine offers great grip on the palate, with a sage-infused spiciness and delicately zesty elegance coming through towards the hugely long and delicately ample finish. This successful effort is not yet fully ready but the potential is huge. 2022-2037

2007er Markus Molitor Wehlener Klosterberg Riesling Spätlese (Green Capsule) 20 08 91

This offers a rather backward and somewhat shy nose of pear, dried herbs and fine spices. The wine proves nicely balanced with a well-integrated acidity on the palate. Attractive flavors of pear, aniseed herbs and chamomile lead to a gorgeously smooth and elegant finish. The after-taste is nicely off-dry and delicately tart. This should prove very nice with food now. Now-2032

## Weingut Martin Müllen

(Traben-Trarbach - Middle Mosel)

2007er Martin Müllen Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Auslese 08 08 96

This was made from a prime sector of the Hühnerberg where grapes had partially shriveled and block harvested at 115-120° Oechsle. This Auslese delivers an absolutely stunning nose of pear, candied lemon, strawberry, vine blossom, pear and fine herbs. The wine proves stunningly elegant and smooth on the palate with a superbly refined touch of acidity bringing the right creaminess and silky finesse to the finish. This Auslese easily cruises at the level of a fine auction "Auslese lange GK" from the best producers, it is that impressive! Now-2037

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2007er Martin Müllen Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese \*\* Deare 12 08 94

This wine is made from a parcel in the north-west facing and steep sector of the vineyard which was previously owned by Andreas Deare (hence the name of the wine). It offers a rather reduced nose of pear, cassis and fine spices. The wine is beautifully elegant and zesty on the palate and the delicate creaminess in the finish is to die for. This is an absolute beauty: What a gorgeous wine made in an elegant and still playful style! Now-2032

2007er Martin Müllen Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Spätlese 09 08 94

This offers a beautiful nose of grapefruit puree, pear, fine spices and minerals. The wine proves superbly elegant and complex on the palate as zesty acidity provides the right frame to gorgeously fresh and ripe fruits and herbs. The finish is long and delicately racy. A nice fruit sorbet and flowery side akin to that of a Saar wine comes through in the after taste of this beautiful airy wine. Now-2032

2006er Martin Müllen Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Auslese \*\* 08 07 94

Golden in color, this BA in all but name delivers a hugely complex nose of honeyed quince, date and marzipan. The wine is rich and oily on the palate but remains nicely elegant and well balanced as the sweetness, while present, has started to mellow away into the aromatics. This is however only at the beginning of its maturity plateau. Now-2036+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 30 – March 2016)

1993er Martin Müllen Kröver Steffensberg Riesling Auslese 05 94 93

This offers a most classic nose of beeswax, greengage, mirabelle, candied grapefruit and a hint of pineapple. The wine has the freshness and vibrant presence of a Saar or Ruwer Riesling on the palate and leaves a gloriously elegant and flowery feel in the mineral and beautifully fruity finish. What a gorgeous effort made in the timeless classic Mosel style! Now-2033

2007er Martin Müllen Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Auslese \*\* 06 08 93

This bronze-golden colored wine delivers a rich and inviting nose of pear, marzipan, pineapple, grapefruit zest, tea, sage and smoke. The wine is delicately creamy and rather complex on the palate as a multi-layered feel of almond, delicately candied fruits and fine spices emerges and drives the long and still sweet feel in the finish. This classy and surprisingly playful effort (for such a high end wine) will be quite a treat in a few years' time. 2022-2037

1997er Martin Müllen Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese 04 98 92

This bright-colored wine offers an elegant and refined nose of fresh herbs, cassis, fine spices and juicy pear. The wine is nicely playful on the palate as more fruits, a hint of smoke and some fine spices carry over right into the long finish. This textbook Spätlese epitomizes everything to be liked in mature yet fresh Mosel Riesling. Now-2027

2007er Martin Müllen Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese \*\* Alte Reben 11 08 92

This wine was made from vines in the north-west facing and steep part of the vineyard believed to be planted in 1928. It offers a gorgeous nose of pineapple, apricot and almond, and proves nicely rich yet elegantly zesty on the palate. A beautifully exotic feel of fruits and minerals emerge in the in the vibrant finish of this overall gorgeously creamy Auslese. Now-2037

 1993er
 Martin Müllen
 Riesling Auslese 3037
 03 94
 92

This Auslese 3037 (the numbers are written in full on the label) was made from fruit selected in the Kröver Kirchlay and the Kröver Letterlay. Golden-yellow in color, the wine offers a rather ripe nose of pear, mint, Provence herbs and fine spices. This leads to a nicely ripe and delicately creamy feel with good presence and nice finesse on the palate. The finish is long and delicately ripe yet with good fresh acidity and quite moderate sweetness. This will pair beautifully well with hearty winter stews. Now-2028

2007er Martin Müllen Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Auslese \* 07 08 91

This already rather golden-colored wine delivers a rich and delicately exotic nose of pear, pineapple, mango, melon, marzipan, honey and fine aniseed herbs. The wine is rich and delicately round on the palate and leaves a nicely playful feel in the slightly direct and honeyed finish. This is now fully open for business and should offer much sweet pleasure for many years to come. Now-2027

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2007er Martin Müllen Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese \*\*\* 10 08 91

This offers a rather ripe nose of pear, laurel and melon. The wine proves nicely ripe yet juicy on the palate with good creaminess and a hint of power in the rather elegant and creamy finish. This rich Auslese remains utterly drinkable despite the high level of ripeness of the fruit. Now-2037

2007er Martin Müllen Kröver Steffensberg Riesling Spätlese Feinherb \*\* 31 08 91

This wine stopped its long fermentation (13 months) at 11 g/l of residual sugar, i.e. just above the legal limit for Trocken but also rather low levels by Feinherb standards. It offers a gorgeous but rather slate-infused nose of pear, mango, apricot blossom and herbs. The wine proves nicely balanced on the palate, where a just off-dry feel adds a smoothness to a superb set of fruits and herbs. The wine is quite creamy but also nicely multi-layered in the long and delicately baroque finish. A gorgeous feel of pear-infusion emerges in the powerful after-taste. Now-2032

2007er Martin Müllen Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese \*\* 9.3 29 08 90

The wine is called "9.3" because it stopped its fermentation after 13 months at 9.3 g/l of residual sugar (i.e. just above the legal limit for dry). A whiff of volatile gives way to gorgeous scents of creamy fruits, spice bread and herbs. The wine proves remarkably powerful on the palate by Müllen standards but remains quite fascinating. The finish is gorgeously long and creamy, as more spices and ginger bread wrap ripe fruits and herbs. This is made for lovers of more ostentatious wines. Now-2027

2007er Martin Müllen Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Spätlese \* 8.8 30 08 89

This wine, made from a botrytis selection, is called "8.8" because it stopped its fermentation after 13 months below 9 g/l of residual sugar but, since total sugar levels exceed total acidity by more than 2 g/l, it does not qualify for legally Trocken. It delivers quite some creamy almond, apricot and fine herbs on the nose. It proves precise but also rather creamy on the palate with quite some honeyed spices coming through in the delicately drytasting and rather powerful finish (the wine does boast almost 14% of alcohol). This will particularly please lovers of slightly ostentatious and botrytis-infused wines. Now-2027

## **Weingut Christoph von Nell**

(Kasel - Trier-Ruwer)

1976er Christoph von Nell Kaseler Dominikanerberg Riesling Auslese 09 77 94

This golden-colored wine offers a stunningly vibrant and elegant nose of backed pineapple, a hint of cassis, grapefruit, a touch almond, aniseed herbs and fine smoky slate. Far from being big, this wine proves gorgeously airy and playful on the palate, with just the right touch of beeswax, fresh apricot, herbs and a hint licorice to smoothen everything out without any undue feel of sweetness. A gorgeous touch of ripe acidity as well as a faint touch of more earthy spices puts the finishing touch to this light and absolutely beautiful expression of mature Ruwer Riesling. This is just textbook stuff made in a light and classic style! Now-2026

1994er Christoph von Nell Kaseler Dominikanerberg Riesling Auslese 11 95 93

This offers a rather backward yet stylish Ruwer nose of grapefruit, candied lemon, a hint of coconut, wet stone and minty herbs, all enhanced by a gorgeous touch of beeswax. The wine is nicely racy and juicy on the palate, with more grapefruit and cassis mingling with seemingly chalky minerals on the palate. The finish is deliciously zesty and gorgeously creamy. This benefits hugely from airing and is really best opened half a day in advance. It then proves a telltale and lively expression of Ruwer Auslese. This is a hugely satisfying wine! 2019-2029

## Weingut S.A Prüm

(Wehlen - Middle Mosel)

2007er S.A. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese Fass 64 93+

A whiff of volatile acidity leads the way to gorgeous scents of candied quince, date, dried apricot, raisin and apricot on the nose. The wine is still on the sweet and almost primary side on the palate (as some candy floss comes through). The finish is beautiful tough and full of promise. While it can be enjoyed now on its baroque and exuberant side, this nice TBA will still refine with further bottle age and could then eventually prove even better than initially anticipated. 2027-2047

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2007er S.A. Prüm **Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Eiswein Fass 66** 

Auction

A whiff of volatile acidity gives way to an attractive nose marzipan, spices and herbs. The wine is nicely balanced and complex on the palate and leaves a gorgeous sweet and rich feel of apricot, mirabelle and marzipan in the fruity and direct finish. Overall, this Eiswein continues to behave more like a BA than an Eiswein as its acidity is nicely integrated. Now-2032+

2007er S.A. Prüm **Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese** 

93

This offers a gorgeous nose of marzipan, baked pineapple and grapefruit peel. The wine is nicely playful on the palate and leaves an elegant even if still slightly broad feel of fruits in the finish. This beautiful wine will still benefit from some aging. 2020-2037

2007er S.A. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese

25 08

91

This bright yellow-golden colored wine offers a still somewhat reduced nose driven by pear, cinnamon, slate and spices. The wine is juicy even if still on the rich side on the palate, with some fruity sweetness from pear and melon coming through in the finish. While nice to enjoy now, this could even do with a little more bottle age to integrate the rest of the sugar, 2022-2042

1988er S.A. Prüm

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Halbtrocken

12 89

91

This bright yellow-hay colored wine was made from fruit harvested at a low 80° Oechsle, i.e. sugar levels deemed too low even for Kabinett at many Estates today. This wine proves that sugar levels is not everything as it delivers a gorgeous nose of cassis, grapefruit, a hint of slate and superb finesse and elegance on the palate. Creamy peach and pear join the party and give way to a great dry-tasting and nicely tart finish. This is a beautiful wine made for lovers of stylistically structured and elegant wines. Now-2023

2007er S.A. Prüm Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese Fass 36 GK

Auction

89+

This wine proves still very much on the reduced side of life as it does not reveal much beyond a rather rich and powerful nose of marzipan, cinnamon and pear in alcohol. The wine is rather direct and easy on the palate and leaves a structured feel in the medium long finish. This is in desperate need of bottle age to develop its inner grace and it could ultimately warrant a higher scoring should it gain in precision and finesse. 2027-2047

### **Maison Trimbach**

(Ribeauvillé - Alsace)

2007er Trimbach Riesling Cuvée Frédéric Emile

This delicate wine is all about finesse and freshness on the nose as breathtaking fresh notes of herbs, spices and white minerals emerge from the glass. A hugely focused and yet intense feel of white minerals, ripe pear and wet stone peps up the palate and leads to a lively and zesty feel in the almost razor-sharp and focused finish. The beautiful after-taste is bone dry. This wine may prove somewhat light at first but the precision, finesse and elegance are simply remarkable. In many ways, it transcends the ripeness of the vintage and behaves more like a 2008 or 2004 than a typical 2007 Riesling. What an admirable Cuvée Frédéric Emile! Now-2037

## Weingut Vollenweider

(Traben-Trarbach - Middle Mosel)

2007er Vollenweider Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese

02 08

93

This offers a gorgeous nose of pear, peach, meadowsweet, herbs and spices. The wine is beautifully creamy and superbly well-balanced on the palate. This is on the big side for a Spätlese but still remains very juicy and pure. The finish is plain gorgeous as minerals, citrusy fruits, pear and aniseed herbs make for a great feeling of playful freshness. Now-2037



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 2007er
 Vollenweider
 Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese Portz
 05 08
 93

This offers a deliciously fruity nose of greengage, passion fruit, whipped cream and meadowsweet. The wine offers the presence and balance of a great pure Auslese with gorgeous elegance and complex finesse. The finish is long and ethereal. Now-2037

2007er Vollenweider Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese Reiler 06 08 93

This offers a gorgeous and elegantly flowery nose of pear, wet stone, passion fruit, dried herbs and a hint of meadowsweet. The wine is beautifully well balanced on the palate, with a hint of beeswax providing just right amount of wrapping for the gorgeously juicy and fresh flavors of citrusy fruits, spices and herbs. This is plain gorgeous in a pure and superbly juicy drinking Auslese style. Now-2037



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# Upcoming Mosel Fine Wines Issues: Topics to be Covered

Here is an avant-goût on what will be covered in the upcoming Issues in 2017:

June-October 2017	2016 Vintage Reports
2017	The Vintage Conditions
	The Wines
	Buyer's Guide
	The Vintage Card
	Detailed Estate Reviews
	Other Noteworthy Wines
August-September 2017	Auction Guides
2011	<ul> <li>Introduction to the Annual Trier Wine Auctions (history, how to participate, etc.)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Detailed Tasting Notes (Bernkasteler Ring and Grosser Ring / VDP)</li> </ul>
In Addition	Other Topics such as:
	<ul> <li>Dry German Riesling in General (GGs &amp; Equivalents)</li> </ul>
	Mosel Perspectives (Estates, Vineyards, Regulation, History, etc.)
In Parallel	Regular Postings on our Website and Social Media, including:
	• News
	Wines of the Month
	Vintage Highlights
	2017 Growing Conditions
	Updates of our TN database (via CellarTracker)
	Interesting Articles from other Sources
	Follow us on social Media (click on logo)
	f S