



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Issue No 37 – August 2017

Vade-Mecum to the Bernkasteler Ring Auction 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 Riesling produced in Europe.

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

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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.

2015er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	13 16	Auction	97
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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" [here](#).

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 or 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 [here](#).

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](#).

5. SCORE: 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 a rating is put into the perspective of a tasting note. Here our principles:

- Scale:** We rely on a 100-point scale with the following overall principles:

95-100	Classic: 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 complexity, balance and elegance ("more is not better") as well as respect of terroir and style (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 Information

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 or AP numbers, 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)	Click Here
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)	Click Here Click Here Click Here Click Here
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)	-

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The Vintage 2016 – Victory from the Jaws of Defeat

While the highly acclaimed 2015 vintage hit the market in spring 2016, the 2016 vintage was facing with a spring from hell. However, as you will see, the vintage turned miraculously for the better, literally snatching victory from the jaws of defeat. The result is a classic even if slightly ripe vintage with great early charm ... and, hidden among its midst, some of the most stunning pieces of Mosel classicism we have tasted in 10 years of Mosel Fine Wines.

How come? Here the key fact in a nutshell.

The Vintage in a Nutshell

<p>Vintage Conditions</p>	<p>The vintage started normally, with bud break in line with long-term average. Then things turned for the bad. The Mosel, as much of Northern Europe, experienced a spring from hell with caterpillars eating the young shoots, 6 weeks of rain which led to widespread outbreaks of peronospora and also some localized hailstorm, in particular around Graach. Lastly, flowering happened late, at the end of June, and proved rather uneven. All this had an impact on yields, sometimes dramatically so.</p> <p>As if by miracle, things turned for the better as of early July. Dry sunny weather essentially settled in until the harvest. There was however localized impact of sunburn at the end of August, which affected also yields. September proved one of the hottest on record, further accelerating the ripening process.</p> <p>Growers were blessed with cool and dry weather during harvest, allowing them to make the right (and often necessary) selections. The lack of botrytis limited the opportunities for noble-sweet wines but several spells of frost allowed the production of Eiswein. Acidity and sugar levels proved overall moderate, in line with 2014 and 2012, but there are huge differences between wines.</p>
<p>The Wines</p>	<p>Overall, 2016 is a charmer of a vintage with much immediate ripe and fruity appeal, not unlike 2011 (in fresher) or 2007 (in lighter). However, 2016 is far from being homogeneous, in fact it is composed of a mosaic of vintages, a result of the freakish growing conditions. Hidden inside the vintage, there are true gems with the balance of 1997, one of the best vintages ever, 2002 or even 2008. The bulk of the harvest was brought in with refreshingly moderate sugar levels. Overall, the Saar and Ruwer produced slightly fresher wines than the Middle Mosel but there are great differences between Estates. The good harvest conditions allowed for some Auslese, little BA and even TBA wines, but some remarkably pure and fruity Eiswein. With a few exceptions, yields are often on the low side, the inevitable result of the poor spring.</p>
<p>Buyer's Guide</p>	<p>In general, 2016 offers the opportunity to acquire Riesling with great immediate ripe appeal: The vintage is a true charmer. At the top, 2016 is one of the most exciting and elegantly balanced vintage since the 1990s and well-worth stocking up for cellaring! In particular, we urge our readers to literally plunge onto the finest Kabinett and Spätlese: These are some of the most exciting and classic we have ever tasted. 2016 looks also set to become a major vintage for dry Riesling, provided the aromatics are not overripe. Lovers of dessert wines will find much to love in 2016 as the Auslese are pure and the Eiswein are gorgeously fruity. They should however also keep an eye open for the remaining stunning noble-sweet wines from 2015 which are still available here and there.</p>

Note: A comprehensive report on the 2016 growing conditions, wines and buying guide was published in Issue No 35 (June 2017)



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Bernkasteler Ring Auction 2017 – The Event at a Glance

The Auction is open to the public and professionals.

The Auction is open to both the public and professionals with the possibility to taste the wines in the morning. The auction wines are then auctioned off in the afternoon in a so-called "wet Auction," i.e. the wines are served again while they are being auctioned off (this may not be the case of course for some rare and / or old bottles). There is an entrance fee for non-professionals. As participation is limited, early registration is highly advisable.

<u>Place:</u>	Tagungszentrum der IHK Herzogenbuscher Strasse 12 54292 Trier	<u>Timing:</u>	September 14, 2017 09.00-11.00: Pre-tasting 13.00 onwards: Auction
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In general, only special casks of the finest wines (not sold via traditional sales channels) are brought to the Auction.

In principle, each Estate has the freedom to decide which wine(s) to auction off: A young wine, a mature one, a special cask, etc. The only restriction is that any Eiswein, BA or TBA has to have seen at least two winters (i.e. are at least 2 years old) before going to Auction. In practice growers want to bring their best wines to the Auction and the following rules of thumb generally hold true:

- Only special wines from special casks (i.e. with a distinct AP number) are brought to the Auction. These wines are therefore not available via traditional sales channels.
- The dry and off-dry wines as well as the fruity-styled Kabinett, Spätlese or Auslese brought to the Auction are likely to be from the latest vintage (i.e. from the 2016 vintage for the Auction to be held this year).
- The practice varies more widely what concerns Eiswein, BA or TBA bottlings. Some Estates tend to bring them to the Auction immediately or soon after the minimum two years period Other Estates prefer to let them mature somewhat in their cellars before bringing them to the Auction.
- Most wines are fruity-styled even though an increasing number of producers propose some off-dry (Feinherb) or dry wines as well.
- In addition, some Estates may bring some mature rarities or rare large format bottles from wines which were sold via regular channels.

Private individuals as well as professionals can bid at this Auction.

Technically speaking, only the accredited commissioners are actually allowed to bid at this Auction. However, anyone who wishes to acquire some bottles at this Auction can do so by placing bids with their wine merchant / importer (if they offer this service) or by contacting directly one of the accredited commissioners. Bids are put in the form of "I want X bottles of wine so-and-so for up to €Y hammer price per bottle." After the Auction, the commissioners will contact the successful bidders for payment and shipment. As far as we know, commissioners can ship directly to any resident within the European Union (wine lovers may still choose for easiness to work via a wine merchant / importer to avoid the logistics hassle). For bidders from outside the EU (and in particular from North America or Asia), particular shipping / importing restrictions may apply and it is advisable to contact a commissioner or your wine merchant / importer to check how this is best organized. After the Auction, the commissioners have a bid of logistics to handle with each Estate to make sure that they are sent the bottles for each of their clients. As a consequence, the bottles are typically only become available for shipping or collection a few weeks after the Auction.

Bidders need to take into account that commissions and taxes will be added to the hammer price.

The end price paid for the wines will be composed of the hammer price, to which one needs to add a commission fee (a few percentage points of the hammer price) for the accredited commissioners, shipping costs as well as any import duties and VAT (or sales tax).

Bidding occurs through registered commissioners.

Any bidding will occur through a set of accredited commissioners who handle the bids on behalf of the individuals or professionals. We provide here below the list of the accredited commissioners to the Auction as per the website of the Bernkasteler Ring (capture – August 2017):

Baum, Franz	Fritz Freund GmbH
Elmar Bergweiler	Karl A. Ress GmbH
Berres-Gessinger GmbH	J. & H. Selbach
Dünweg, W.	Fritz Steinlein e.K.
Christian Bechtel e.K.	

Full details of these commissioners (address, phone, email, etc.) can be found here: [Bernkasteler Ring Wine Commissioners](#).

More information can be found in the following document freely available online:

[An Introduction to the Annual Trier Wine Auctions](#)



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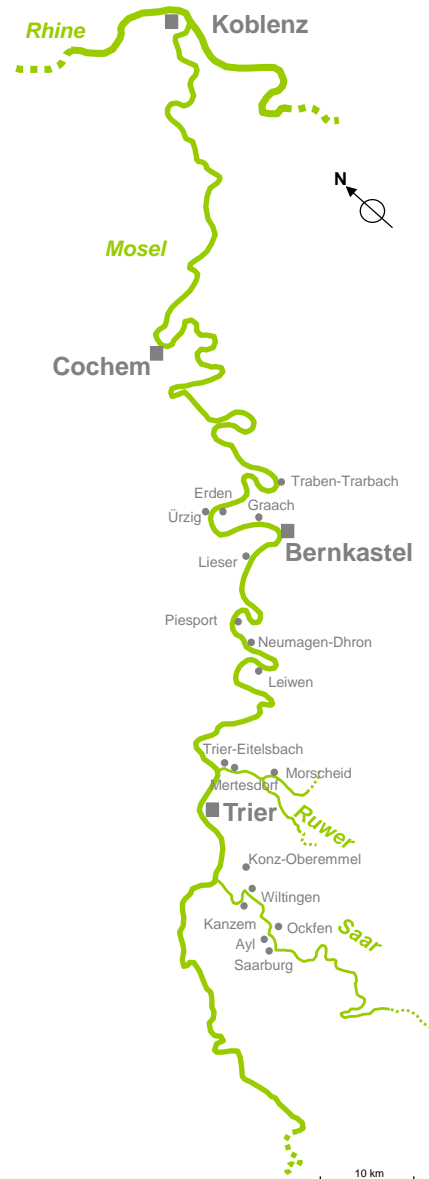
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Bernkasteler Ring Auction 2017 – Tasting Notes

We provide here a review of recommended wines that will be auctioned off by the Bernkasteler Ring on September 14, 2017 and that we can recommend on quality grounds. This includes wines from the following Estates (presented in alphabetic order).

Bastgen	<i>Osann-Monzel</i>
Bauer	<i>Mülheim</i>
Erben von Beulwitz	<i>Mertesdorf</i>
Clüsserath-Eifel	<i>Trittenheim</i>
Reinhold Franzen	<i>Bremm</i>
Leo Fuchs	<i>Pommern</i>
Albert Gessinger	<i>Zeltingen</i>
Goerg	<i>Neumagen-Dhron</i>
Albert Kallfelz	<i>Zell-Merl</i>
Kanzlerhof	<i>Pölich</i>
Karp-Schreiber	<i>Brauneberg</i>
Kees-Kieren	<i>Graach</i>
Kerpen	<i>Wehlen</i>
Lehnert-Veit	<i>Piesport</i>
Peter Neu-Erben	<i>Wiltingen</i>
Paulinshof	<i>Kesten</i>
Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	<i>Bernkastel-Kues</i>
Philipps-Eckstein	<i>Graach</i>
Rebenhof	<i>Ürzig</i>
F.J. Regnery	<i>Klüsserath</i>
Johann Peter Reinert	<i>Kanzem</i>
Richard Richter	<i>Winningen</i>
Andreas Schmitges	<i>Erden</i>
St. Nikolaus-Hospital	<i>Bernkastel-Kues</i>
Wwe Dr H. Thanisch – Müller-Burggraef	<i>Bernkastel-Kues</i>
Weller-Lehnert	<i>Piesport</i>
Werner	<i>Leiwen</i>





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Weingut Bastgen

(Osann-Monzel – Middle Mosel)

<u>2006er</u>	Bastgen	Kestener Paulinshofberg Riesling Spätlese	10 07	Auction	88
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This offers a comparatively expansive nose of coconut, pineapple, butterscotch, pear in alcohol, herbs and smoke. The wine develops an attractively mature note of petrol and some rhubarb on the palate and leaves a rather rich, Auslese-styled feel in the intense, powerful and direct finish. This ostentatious effort should drink nicely for at least another decade. Now-2026

Weingut Bauer

(Mülheim – Middle Mosel)

<u>2015er</u>	Bauer	Mülheimer Eisenberg Riesling Beerenauslese	25 16	Auction	92
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This 2015er Mülheimer Eisenberg BA was harvested at a full 163° Oechsle. A whiff of volatile gives way to great scents of mango, passion fruit, backed pineapple, some flowery elements and smoky herbs. The wine develops the full unctuous and oily side of a BA on the palate where nutty flavors are wrapped into date, raisin and candied exotic fruits. The finish is precise and elegant but also quite powerful in the after-taste. 2025-2060

<u>2016er</u>	Bauer	Mülheimer Eisenberg Riesling Auslese	15 17	Auction	90
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This offers a rather reduced nose of ripe fruits including melon, pineapple and almond cream wrapped into some herbs and flowers. The wine is smooth and rather pure on the palate and leaves a rich and delicately creamy feel of melon and white minerals in the delicately juicy finish. This rather ripe but delicately playful wine will need time to develop its inner balance. It should however then develop into an outstanding expression of Mosel Auslese. 2026-2046

Weingut Erben von Beulwitz

(Mertesdorf – Ruwer-Trier)

<u>2015er</u>	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese Alte Reben	01 16	Auction	97
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This TBA was made from strict selections harvested at a whopping 191° Oechsle. It offers a rather reduced nose which only gradually reveals a refined set of aromatics including candied grapefruit, coconut, tangerine, honey, cassis and fine spices, all wrapped into pungent scents of minty herbs. The wine proves delicately oily yet hugely complex on the palate and leaves a stunningly complex feel of raisin, quince, honey, mango and fine minty herbs in the focused and racy finish. This finely sizzled beauty will prove stunning at maturity! 2026-2046

<u>2015er</u>	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Beerenauslese Alte Reben	02 16	Auction	94
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This BA was made from strict selection harvested at 143° Oechsle. It already shows some signs of closing down as almond scents from reduction dominate superb notes of pineapple, apricot, passion fruit, date and green herbs as well as a whiff of volatile acidity at this early stage. The BA character appears fully on the palate, which proves gorgeously unctuous, zesty and, above all, packed with spices, raisin and date. The finish is elegantly balanced, with still some sweetness in need of integration. A good kick of acidity comes through in the after-taste of this great BA in the making! 2025-2045+

<u>2016er</u>	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese Alte Reben Fass Nr. 3		Auction	94
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This Auslese made from fruit harvested at over 110° Oechsle offers a reduced nose of candied cassis, grapefruit, passion fruit, gooseberry, pineapple and honey. The wine proves stunningly vibrant on the palate, delivering a noble-sweet elegance and even viscosity with Eiswein-like vibrancy as layers upon layers of gooseberry, mango and passion fruit hit the taste buds. The finish is superb and ravishingly lively. What a beautifully racy and complex Auslese in the making! 2026-2046



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2016er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben Fass Nr. 6	Auction	92
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This offers a beautiful nose of greengage, passion fruit, apple, pear and minty herbs as well as a touch of coconut. The wine develops a gorgeously zesty and delicately creamy feel of an Auslese on the palate and leaves a mineral infused and nicely tart feel in the fruity finish. One is left with elegantly pure notes of mango, orange and tangerine in the after-taste if this elegant Auslese-styled wine. 2026-2041

2016er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese Alte Reben Fass Nr. 4	Auction	91+
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This Auslese made from fruit harvested at 107° Oechsle develops a delicately rich and primary nose of cassis, apple, pear, melon and fine minerals. The wine is still loaded with residual sugar yet already hints at superb complexity as juicy and elegant fruits hit the mid-palate. It leaves a cassis and pear infused feel in the direct finish and remarkably zesty after-taste. There is quite some upside here if the wine gains in focus at maturity. 2026-2046

2016er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Feinherb Selektion Charlotte	11 17	Auction	89
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This offers a rather direct and ripe nose of pear, melon, white peach, apple and a hint of minty herbs. The wine is nicely playful in a direct and straightforward style and leaves a satisfying feel of herbs and minerals in the delicately ripe yet juicy finish. Now-2026

Weingut Clüsserath-Eifel

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

1998er	Clüsserath-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese ***	06 99	Auction	92
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This offers a beautiful nose of quince, greengage, mirabelle and fine herbs, wrapped into some superbly waxy elements. The wine develops already a slightly petrol-infused side on the palate but leaves a gorgeous feel of mirabelle, fine herbs and beeswax in the smooth and airy finish. This proves now gorgeously mature and elegant in its ripe and satisfying style. Now-2028

1997er	Clüsserath-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese ***	14 98	Auction	92
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This golden-colored wine develops a beautifully rich and ripe nose of blueberry, raspberry, greengage, frangipane, beeswax and licorice. The wine is ample and rich and driven by honeyed and creamy fruits on the palate. The sweetness has mellowed away nicely and only provides a silky background to more slate-infused fruits and nutty flavors. The wine is beautifully made in a ripe and delicately baroque style. Think winter evening, a gripping book and a good log fire: This is a lovely Auslese to drink slowly, but by the bottle. Now-2027

Weingut Reinhold Franzen

(Bremm – Terrassenmosel)

2015er	Reinhold Franzen	Bremmer Calmont Riesling Calidus Mons	05 17	Auction	91
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This offers a slightly backward nose of candied grapefruit, slate and gingery elements, all wrapped into some nutty reduction. The wine proves gorgeously playful and silky on the palate and leaves a delicately ample and hugely satisfying feel in the dry-tasting and delicately long finish. This is a great dry-tasting Mosel Riesling in the making. 2019-2030

Weingut Leo Fuchs

(Pommern – Terrassenmosel)

2007er	Leo Fuchs	Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese vom grauen Schiefer	19 08	Auction	92
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The 2007er TBA vom grauen Schiefer is the result of a strict selection of berries harvested at a whopping 215° Oechsle in the four steep hill vineyards in Pommern, i.e. the Rosenberg, Sonnenuhr, Goldberg und Zeisel. This golden colored wine delivers a rather direct but beautiful nose of apricot, baked apple, litchi, pear, aniseed herbs and fine spices. It proves oily and unctuous on the palate, where baked pineapple and apricot join the party and add depth to the experience. The finish is smooth, well balanced and nicely direct in style. Now-2037



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Weingut Albert Gessinger

(Zeltingen – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Albert Gessinger	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** Alte Reben	11 17	Auction	93+
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This offers a rather reduced nose of candied grapefruit, passion fruit, pear and melon. The wine proves delicately unctuous and fruity on the palate and leaves a clean feel of honey and backed pineapple in the very long and suave finish. This proves already gorgeously elegant and playful at this stage but there is even quite some upside here as the wine gains in presence at maturity. This could well be a sleeper of the vintage. 2026-2046

Weingut Goerg

(Neumagen-Dhron – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Goerg	Neumagener Rosengärtchen Riesling Spätlese Trocken Alte Reben	03 17	Auction	88
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This dry Riesling develops an engaging nose of ripe melon, quince, pear and grapefruit wrapped into smoky slate. The wine is slightly on the soft side on the palate but leaves a delicately intense feel of melon and herbs wrapped into some delicate and juicy acidity in the long finish. There is still some CO2 and tartness in need of integration so that it is best to leave this very nice wine alone for another year. 2018-2024

Weingut Albert Kallfelz

(Zell-Merl – Terrassenmosel)

2016er	Albert Kallfelz	Merler Königslay-Terrassen Riesling Spätlese	23 17	Auction	91
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A whiff of volatile acidity quickly gives way to rather attractive scents of ginger, white peach, herbs and sage on the nose. The wine is precise and direct on the palate and leaves a nice and juicy feel underlined by zesty acidity in the long and deliciously tart finish. This beautiful wine made in an overtly fruity and direct style will only fully shine at maturity. 2026-2041

Weingut Kanzlerhof

(Pölich – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Kanzlerhof	Mehringener Blattenberg Riesling Kabinett	07 17	Auction	91
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This offers a gorgeous and aromatic nose of pear puree, pineapple, grapefruit, white peach and fine herbs. The wine proves superbly playful and nicely fruity as yellow peach and pear hit one on the palate. A delicious almost Saar-styled raciness leads to a mineral infused feel in the almost off-dry finish. While already extremely engaging and enjoyable in its primary youth phase, this gorgeous Kabinett made in a delicately Spätlese style will age beautifully well. 2026-2041

Weingut Karp-Schreiber

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Karp-Schreiber	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG	05 17	Auction	90
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This light-colored wine offers a rather inviting and refined nose of pear, white peach, flowers, green apple, anise and fine herbs. It proves nicely playful and balanced on the delicate palate and leaves a gorgeously fruity and mineral-infused feel in the finish. This comparatively light-bodied and fresh dry Riesling proves already highly enjoyable. It will remain so for many more years to come. Now-2026



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Weingut Kees-Kieren

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Kees-Kieren	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese **	22 17	Auction	91
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This offers an inviting nose of star fruit, passion fruit, apple and melon wrapped into some whipped cream, smoke and earthy spices. The wine is nicely playful and delicately fruity on the palate where a touch of citrusy zest brings focus to the juicy but creamy fruits. The finish is nicely racy and focused. This is nicely made in a direct and hugely enjoyable style. 2026-2046

2016er	Kees-Kieren	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese ***	26 17	Auction	90+
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This offers a beautiful nose of apple, cassis, orange, pear and white flowers. The wine is rather soft and ripe as melon mingles with honeyed and exotic elements on the palate but develops already a surprisingly racy feel in the long and smooth finish. This is nicely made in a direct and overtly fruity style. We wouldn't be surprised if it gained in presence and depth at maturity. 2026-2046

Weingut Kerpen

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Kerpen	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese *	24 17	Auction	91
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This proves still quite reduced and only delivers a rather direct nose of white peach, green apple, herbs and smoke after some extensive airing. The wine is rather straightforward but hugely satisfying on the palate as the fruity side is nicely balanced out by some playful acidity which runs right into the finish. The wine then leaves a gorgeous Auslese side driven by almond cream and toffee in the playful and direct after-taste. 2026-2046

2016er	Kerpen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese **	27 17	Auction	90+
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This rather reduced Auslese offers a still slightly shy nose made of rhubarb, grapefruit, pear and pungent grassy herbs. The wine is hugely flavorful on the palate where it offers some ripe poached pear, melon and passion fruit. The finish is direct, smooth and comparatively juicy. This could ultimately exceed our expectations as it will be gaining in focus and depth with aging. 2026-2046

Weingut Lehnert-Veit

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Lehnert-Veit	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese	12 17	Auction	94
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At first, this offers a rather surprising nose of gooseberry and grassy herbs (not unlike that of a Sauvignon) before more typical white peach with a hint of pear and smoke kick in. The wine proves superbly precise and silky yet also delicately racy on the palate and leaves a beautifully pure and refined feel in the long and delicately zesty finish. The finish is long and remains stunningly precise and multi-layered in flavors. This stunning Auslese only needs to mature to develop its full potential. 2026-2046

Weingut Peter Neu-Erben

(Wiltingen – Saar)

2016er	Peter Neu-Erben	Wiltinger Klosterberg Riesling Spätlese	07 17	Auction	92
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This 2016er auction wine comes from the prime original sector of the Wiltinger Klosterberg situated close to the Wiltinger Gottesfuss. It starts off by developing a gorgeous nose of peach, juicy minty herbs and fine slate. The wine proves gorgeously playful and zesty on the palate, with stunning aromatics delivered with feather-light precision. It leaves a superbly juicy feel of pear, melon and white minerals in the long and ethereally smooth finish. Once again, this tiny Estate crafted a hugely remarkable wine from this prime and still completely under-rated sector of the Klosterberg. 2024-2041



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Weingut Paulinshof

(Kesten – Middle Mosel)

<u>1987er</u>	Paulinshof	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett	03 88	Auction	87
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This bottle from a late-cellar release by Paulinshof via the annual Trier Auction in 2017 proves bright and yellow-green in color. The wine delivers a nose of fern, smoke, cassis, strawberry and minerals. It is still quite lively and juicy on the racy palate and leaves a nicely crisp even if already quite austere feel in the mineral-infused, watery-light and tart finish. This very nice wine proves a superb success in the difficult (and today rare) 1987 vintage. It will particularly please lovers of fully mature and delicately structured Mosel Riesling in its mystic phase. Now-2020

Weingut Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

<u>2003er</u>	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Berncasteler Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	51 05	Auction	94
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This golden-bronze colored TBA harvested at a massive 240° Oechsle delivers a hugely concentrated and quite mature nose of nut, candied mango, dried apricot, honey and licorice. The wine has a syrupy consistence and is packed with baked apple, more nut and honey on the palate. The finish is all about honey, marzipan and menthol. This will please lovers of fully baroque and oxidative TBAs. Now-2053

<u>1990er</u>	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Auslese	04 91	Auction	92
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This mature Auslese from a cellar release by the Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler Estate at the annual Trier Auction in 2017 proves rather ripe and already quite tertiary in terms of aromatics on the nose with mature notes of leather, furniture, beeswax, toffee and tar. But it is on the palate that this wine develops its full grace. Some flavors of blood orange blend with marzipan and zesty citrusy fruits to deliver a stunningly complex feel right into the long and delicately waxy finish. While already quite advanced in terms of development, the wine remains superbly complex and refined on the palate. This will especially please lovers of the mystic complexity of fully mature Auslese. Now-2020+

<u>2016er</u>	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Ürziger Goldwingert Riesling Auslese	28 17	Auction	92
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This offers a rather aromatic nose of cassis, mango, melon, anise, green apple and pear. The wine delivers a gorgeously fruity and creamy feel of melon, apple and more cassis on the palate. The finish develops a beautifully salty side, making one magically go for another glass. This is still rather primary and overly fruity at this early stage but will develop nicely with a decade or more of patina. 2026-2046

Weingut Philipps-Eckstein

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

<u>2015er</u>	Philipps-Eckstein	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	37 16	Auction	95+
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A whiff of volatile gives way to ripe scents of pineapple, mango, mirabelle, honey and dried fruits. The wine is oily and packed with flavors of nut, date, raisin and dried fruits on the palate and in the delicately racy and still very sweet finish. The wine lives from its power and purity of the aromatic extraction at this stage but should develop beautifully into a great TBA at maturity ... in 20 years' time, if not more. It could then turn out to be even better than initially expected if more finesse comes through with time. The potential is immense. 2035-2085

<u>2009er</u>	Philipps-Eckstein	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Beerenauslese	28 17	Auction	94
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This BA was harvested at a full 155° Oechsle and only released in 2017, hence the late AP number. After an initial phase of strong reduction, the wine develops a gorgeous nose of greengage, mirabelle, grapefruit, star fruit and green apple. It proves stunningly smooth and oily on the palate, where the ripe mirabelle side wrapped into date, quince and honey takes over the gustative profile, giving the wine an almost TBA feel. The finish is superbly precise even if rather powerful and ripe. 2024-2059



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Weingut Rebenhof

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Rebenhof	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Beerenauslese Fass Nr. 17		Auction	94
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This already golden-bronze colored BA delivers a complex nose of quince jam, nut paste, mirabelle, grapefruit zest, grilled pineapple, dried apricot and earthy spices. The wine is beautifully honeyed on the smooth palate and leaves a gorgeously unctuous feel of honey, apricot and dried fruits in the long and suave finish. This is a superbly playful dessert wine! 2021-2041

Weingut F.J. Regnery

(Klüsserath – Middle Mosel)

2016er	F.J. Regnery	Klüsserather Bruderschaft Riesling Spätlese Feinherb Edition Michelskirch	23 17	Auction	88
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Flinty at first, this offers a slightly ample nose of melon, laurel, earthy spices and herbs. The wine is ripe and on the soft side on the palate and leaves a broad and delicately fruity feel in the satisfyingly ample finish. A touch of pear in alcohol and CO2 accompanies one in the after-taste. Now-2021

Weingut Johann Peter Reinert

(Kanzem – Saar)

2002er	Johann Peter Reinert	Wiltinger Klosterberg Riesling Auslese	18 03	Auction	93
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This delivers a stunning nose of cassis, anise, white peach, gooseberry, fine spices and herbs. The wine is juicy and feather-light on the palate, with some nice fruity sweetness and zesty acidity adding freshness to the deliciously airy and refined finish. This is as gorgeous as ever and a true highlight from the 2002 vintage! Now-2032

2003er	Johann Peter Reinert	Wiltinger Schlangengraben Riesling Auslese **	24 04	Auction	91
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This remarkably bright-colored Auslese exhibits a gorgeous nose of cassis, pineapple, melon and white flowers. The wine delivers a gorgeous feel of candy floss, melon and white flowers on the smooth yet delicately zesty palate and provides good freshness in the still rather sweet finish. This outstanding Auslese from the 2003 vintage will offer much pleasure for plenty of years to come. Now-2038

2003er	Johann Peter Reinert	Ayler Kupp Riesling Auslese **	23 04	Auction	90
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This offers a rather attractive nose of cassis, melon, peach and smoke. The wine is nicely smooth even if rather bold and soft on the palate. A fruity and aromatic side driven by melon, grenadine syrup and honey leads to a light-weighted and elegant even if slightly saturating and rich finish. Now-2033

Weingut Richard Richter

(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

2015er	Richard Richter	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Beerenauslese	26 16	Auction	93
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This proves hugely aromatic on the nose as scents of pear, kiwi, mango, baked pineapple and mirabelle emerge from the glass. The wine is superbly focused and elegant on the palate, where date, raisin and honey add depth and viscosity to the experience. There is quite some acidity at play here to liven up the whole experience. The slightly powerful finish is still dominated by honey but will gain in complexity as the wine matures. 2025-2045



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2015er	Richard Richter	Winninger Uhlen Laubach Terrassen Riesling Réserve	19 17	Auction	91
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This already golden-yellow colored wine delivers a hugely aromatic and exotic nose of passion fruit, pineapple, vanilla, melon and honey. The wine proves subtly rich and smooth on the palate, with good aromatic precision wrapped into a nicely off-dry sense of sweetness. The wine is bold and nicely baroque in style without any undue power or heat (despite its 13% of alcohol) in the after-taste. Now-2025

Weingut Andreas Schmitges

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Andreas Schmitges	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese	15 17	Auction	90
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This offers a rather elegant nose of passion fruit, star fruit and melon wrapped into some fine spices on the nose. The wine develops the full presence of an Auslese on the palate as creamy flavors of melon and mango are wrapped into a tickly touch of acidity. These lead to a big but playful feel with good complexity in the finish. 2026-2041

Weingut St. Nikolaus-Hospital

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2016er	St. Nikolaus-Hospital	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	12 17	Auction	89
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This offers a nice nose of yellow and white fruits, some earthy spices and herbs. The wine is nicely filigreed on the palate, with a great direct sense of juiciness. The finish is precise, airy and well balanced. This is nicely made in a direct and very satisfying style. 2026-2036 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 35 – June 2017)

Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Müller-Burggraef

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Müller Burggraef	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Kabinett	18 17	Auction	92
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The 2016er Berncasteler Doctor Kabinett AP18 is a special cask of Doctor Kabinett sold via the annual Trier Auction in 2017. It offers a fascinating nose of pear, melon, green apple, almond and fine spices. The wine offers great juicy fruits which it develops with Spätlese presence on the palate. This leads to a clean and fresh feel of herbs and juicy fruits right into the long and superbly playful finish. This is a superb piece of fruity-styled Doctor wine in the making. While maybe not a crisp Kabinett, this richer and multi-layered expression of Doctor proves superbly well made. 2026-2046

Weingut Weller-Lehnert

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2015er	Weller-Lehnert	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese ***	08 16	Auction	93
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This Auslese offers a rather closed nose of smoky slate, some citrusy fruits, greengage and some candied grapefruit with air. It is only on the palate that this wine hints at the greatness to come. Here, it develops gorgeous flavors of passion fruit, candied grapefruit, fine minerals and spices. The finish is beautifully elegant and vibrant and leaves a superb feel of fine spices. This needs a decade to fully shine. But then, it will be a cracker of a wine. 2025-2045



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Weingut Werner

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Werner	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese	19 17	Auction	93
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This still proves rather yeasty at first and only gradually reveals some attractive scents of white peach, melon and apple. The wine is nicely balanced on the palate even if it is still loaded with quite some residual sugar at this early stage, with a touch of poached pear and white flowers driving the flavor profile. The wine proves juicy and delicately zesty in the mouthwatering finish. This rather elegant expression of Auslese only needs to mature in order to fully deliver upon its potential. 2026-2056





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Mosel Fine Wines Issues: Topics Covered in 2017

Here is an overview on the topics covered in Mosel Fine Wines this year:

Jan 2017	Issue No 33: 2015 Look-Back and Background Stories <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Look-Back and Highlights from the <u>2015</u> Vintage▪ Mosel Personalities: Bert Selbach, Karl Erbes, the Merkelbach brothers▪ New life at the historic State Estates▪ German Wine: A Look at a Century Ago
April 2017	Issue No 34: Mature Mosel <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Update on Recent Vintages (<u>2008-2015</u>)▪ "10-Years-After" Retrospective of the <u>2007</u> Vintage (250 Wines)▪ "20 Years-After" Retrospective of the <u>1997</u> Vintage (100 Wines)▪ Hanno Zilliken: 40 Years of Saar Zest▪ Notes from the Cellar
June 2017	Issue No 35: 2016 Vintage Report (Part I) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Vintage Conditions, Buying Guide▪ Detailed Estate Reviews + Recommended Wines (500 Wines)
July 2017	Issue No 36: 2016 Vintage Report (Part II) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ More Detailed Estate Reviews + Recommended Wines (300 Wines)
August 2017	Issue No 37: Auction Guide <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Full information on Annual Trier Auctions 2017 and how to participate▪ Detailed tasting notes (ahead of the Auctions)
October 2017 <i>(to be released)</i>	Issue No 38: 2016 Vintage Report (Part III) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ More Detailed Estate Reviews + Recommended Wines▪ Dry German Riesling in General (GGs & Equivalent)
In Parallel	Regular Postings on Social Media <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ News▪ Wines of the Month▪ 2017 Growing Conditions▪ etc. <p><i>Follow us on social Media (click on logo)</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;"></div>