



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Issue No 37 – August 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.

Table of Contents – The Auction Issue

<u>2016 Mosel Vintage</u>	The Vintage in a Nutshell	4
<u>2017 Trier Auctions</u>	Introduction to the Auctions	5
	Bernkasteler Ring – Tasting Notes (45 Wines)	10
	Grosser Ring / VDP Mosel – Tasting Notes (15 Wines)	19
<u>Upcoming Issues</u>	Topics to be Covered	25

Contact Information

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

© Mosel Fine Wines. All rights reserved.

Unauthorized copying, physical or electronic distribution of this document is strictly forbidden. Quotations allowed with mention of the source.



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

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
<p>This wine immediately stands out as the airy precision of its elegant nose of white peach, a hint of cassia, 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</p>					

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.



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

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 - Lamberts Kirch by Peter Lauer - Neumagener Sonnenuhr is back - Trabener Zoltturm, 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)	-

Past issues are available to subscribers on simple request at info@moselfinewines.com.



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

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

Vintage Conditions	<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>
The Wines	<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>
Buyer's Guide	<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)



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Trier Auctions – Introduction to the Auctions

Every year, two winemakers' associations in the Mosel, the Bernkasteler Ring and the Grosser Ring / VDP, each hold an Auction at which some of the best wines of its members are auctioned off.

We regularly get many questions about these Auctions:

- What are these Auctions?
- How did they come about?
- Which wines are being offered? Are they the same as those available in the shops?
- How can one participate?
- Who should buy at the Auctions? Is it really worth it?
- How does one recognize an auction wine?
- Etc.

We provide here in this document the necessary basic background information on these Auctions.

THE ANNUAL TRIER WINE AUCTIONS AT A GLANCE

What are these Auctions?	The Trier Auctions are not your usual wine Auctions organized by the well-known commercial auction Houses. Instead they are events organized by the Bernkasteler Ring and the Grosser Ring / VDP Mosel at which member Estates sell some of their wines directly to the public, with commissioners as middle men.
How did the Auctions come about?	The Auctions were set up in the 19th century essentially as an efficient manner to capture value vs. the powerful trading houses. These Auctions gradually structured around grower associations by the turn of the 20th century, also to improve the traceability of the wines. Until the middle of the 20th century, Auctions were to be the standard approach for selling wines, with commissioners as middlemen. With the development of Estate bottling and direct sales, the Auctions became an annual event dedicated to selling off selected high quality and rare wines only. Two grower associations emerged in the Mosel, each organizing an Auction of wines from its member every year.
Which wines are sold at these Auctions?	The vast majority of the wines brought to these Auctions are special wines (not sold via traditional sales channels) made from particularly prized parcels or the result of painful selections. The Kabinett, Spätlese and Auslese are usually from the latest vintage, the Eiswein, BA and TBA from older vintages. In addition, some Estates may bring some mature rarities or rare large format bottles from wines which are sold via regular channels.
How to participate at the Auctions?	Auctions are held annually in the third week of September. Private individuals as well as professionals can bid at these Auctions. It is however advisable to contact a commissioner prior to bidding on the best way to handle any import or duties issues into your country.
Should one buy at the Auctions? Is it worth it?	Auction wines represent a pinnacle of Mosel Riesling but they are not cheap and often sell at a significant premium. However, this premium needs to be relativized by the fact that most fruity-styled or sweet auction wines are heavily de-classified. Some relative bargains can however be made, which allow one to get the "best of Mosel" at reasonable prices. The question of whether the premium and effort of buying at Auctions is worth it is a very personal one. Auction bottles do not necessarily need to be acquired at the Auction itself, some Estates and wine merchants / importers offer them also later.
How does one recognize an auction wine?	In principle, all auction bottles carry a round sticker to distinguish them from regular ones. In practice, not all do carry a sticker and then only the AP number can help out. AP numbers may not be very consumer friendly but a little effort may allow one to make some bargains.

To help wine lovers throughout the world, Mosel Fine Wines has been publishing a complete guide to the Auctions with tasting notes in advance of the Auctions since 2009 which are available on the website ([click here](#)).



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

HOW DID THESE AUCTIONS COME ABOUT?

The Auctions were set up in the 19th century essentially as an efficient manner to capture value vs. the powerful trading houses.

In order to understand the annual Auctions, one needs look back the way wines were sold in the 19th century. The wine trade in Germany was dominated by wealthy and powerful merchant houses. These merchants went to the Estates, purchased wines in casks and had these transferred to their own cellars. Here, the wines were matured and bottled, before being delivered to their customers in Europe and worldwide. Leading Estates first started to sell their top casks via Auction in the best vintages, such as 1857 or 1865, when demand was high, simply to secure the highest prices from the merchants. These Auctions were often organized at the Estates themselves. The success and growing demand for Mosel wine led more and more Estates to sell their wines via Auction. Soon enough, a series of days in spring emerged at which these Estates were all auctioning off their wines.

These Auctions gradually structured around grower associations by the turn of the 20th century, also to improve the traceability of the wines.

The high prices and strong demand for Mosel wines had another side effect: Some merchant houses could not resist the temptation to "fiddle around." This included blending wines, adding sweetening products, etc. To address these problems, leading growers in different parts of the Mosel started to organize themselves into grower associations at the turn of the 20th century. These grower associations committed themselves to some basic but stringent practices to ensure the quality of their wines:

- Produce only *Naturrein* wines, i.e. wines without any addition of sugar (be it as sweetener or via chaptalization).
- Sell their wines only through the Auctions organized by their grower association.
- Bottle the wines at the Estate with an original Estate cork to ensure the traceability of the product.

These principles may sound basic. One needs however to remember that the concept of wine as being made solely from fresh grapes had only been codified in law in 1892! In addition, commercial considerations most certainly played an equally important role in setting up these grower associations, be it only to improve their bargaining power with respect to the mighty merchants.

Until the middle of the 20th century, Auctions were to be the standard approach for selling wines, with commissioners as middlemen.

Until the 1930s, nearly all casks produced by any member of such a grower association were sold at the annual Auctions. Their success was so big that grower associations in some parts of Germany (but not in the Mosel) held Auctions several times a year! Estates sold full casks at Auction. While this may not have been an issue for regular wines, it proved more problematic for top casks of Auslese because the price and volume were often too much to handle for a single buyer. Here, commissioners came into play as middlemen. They would buy a specific cask on behalf of several buyers and organize the orders between them. For instance, a famous cask of 1911er Ayler Kupf feinste Auslese auctioned off in the 1920s went to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, another part to a prince in Sweden and the remainder to some private English customers.

With the development of direct sales, the Auctions became an annual event dedicated to selling off selected high quality wines only.

As of the 1930s, leading Estates started to market their wines directly and they gradually used the Auctions for selling their finest casks only. The fact that "only" better casks were sold off at the Auctions required the Estates to introduce some differentiation between casks sold directly (via merchants) and those sold via the Auctions. Consequently, a sticker with the year and location of the Auction was added on all auction bottles to distinct them from regular ones (more on how to recognize auction bottles in the last part of this document).

Two grower associations emerged in the Mosel, each organizing an Auction of wines from its member every year.

Several grower associations were operating at the turn of the 20th century, each holding their separate annual Auction. These were gradually to merge into two grower associations which still exist today:

- The Bernkasteler Ring: It was set up by six growers as *Vereinigung der Weingutsbesitzer der Mittelmosel* in 1899 and was holding its biannual Auctions in the casino in Bernkastel. In 1978, it merged with the *Naturwein-Versteigerungsgesellschaft Trier* (another grower association set up in 1911) and subsequently took its current name. It is sometimes referred to as the *Kleiner Ring*, i.e. the "Small Ring," in opposition to the *Grosser Ring* here below.
- The Grosser Ring / VDP: This grower association, originally called *Trierer Verein von Weingutsbesitzern der Mosel, Saar und Ruwer*, was set up in 1908. It merged three grower associations (one in the Middle Mosel, one in the Saar and the association of catholic Estates in Trier). Given that it had 56 members at its inception, it was referred to as *Grosser Ring*, i.e. "Great Ring" in German.

Each of these two grower associations organizes one Auction per year. Both take place in Trier (the location may vary from year to year). In 2017, the Auctions will take place on September 14 and 15:

BERNKASTELER RING				GROSSER RING / VDP			
<u>Place:</u>		Tagungszentrum der IHK Herzogenbuscher Strasse 12 54292 Trier		<u>Place:</u>		IAT Plaza Hotel Zurmaienerstrasse 164 54292 Trier	
<u>Timing:</u>		September 14, 2017 09.00-11.00: Pre-tasting 13.00 onwards: Auction		<u>Timing:</u>		September 15, 2017 09.00-11.00: Pre-tasting 13.00 onwards: Auction	



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

WHAT WINES ARE BEING SOLD AT THE AUCTIONS?

The vast majority of the wines brought to the Auctions are special casks of the finest wines (not sold via traditional sales channels).

Still today, which wines are being sold via the Auctions remains a major source of confusion, even to the most experienced Mosel wine lovers. 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. For the rest, every winemaker has a free hand. In practice the winemakers bring essentially special wines to the Auctions. These are often made from a particularly old or prized parcel or come from a painful selection of berries, which are then bottled separately (i.e. with a distinct AP number). These wines are therefore not available via traditional sales channels, although some wine merchants buy some extra bottles to add them on their list, or some Estates may offer them ex-cellar after the Auction, at least at the hammer price achieved during the Auction (if there are some remaining bottles).

The Kabinett, Spätlese, Auslese are usually from the latest vintage, the BA and TBA from older vintages.

Kabinett, Spätlese or Auslese brought to the Auctions are likely to be from the latest vintage (i.e. from the 2016 vintage for the Auctions held in September 2017), although several producers, in particular from the Bernkasteler Ring, regularly bring older bottles to these Auctions. The practice varies widely for Eiswein, BA or TBA bottlings. Some Estates tend to bring these wines to the Auctions immediately or soon after the minimum two years period. Other Estates prefer to let them mature somewhat in their cellars before bringing them to Auction. Most wines going through the Auctions are fruity-styled even though an increasing number of growers from the Bernkasteler Ring now offer some off-dry (Feinherb) or dry wines (including GGs) as well.

In addition, some Estates may bring some mature rarities or rare large format bottles from wines which were initially sold via regular channels.

On an exceptional basis, some Estates may bring mature rarities to the Auctions (such as magnums of the 1997er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Auslese lange GK or the 1990er Dr. Pauly Bergweiler Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg Auslese at the upcoming 2017 Trier auction) that could have been sold via regular channels upon release. In addition, some producers in the Bernkasteler Ring sell rare large formats of top regular wines at these Auctions. These wines, while sold at the Auction, would not be considered by wine lovers as "auction wines" but rather as "auction bottles" as the underlying wine (same AP) is or was also sold via regular channels.

WHO SHOULD BUY AT THE AUCTIONS? IS IT REALLY WORTH IT?

Auction wines represent a pinnacle of Mosel Riesling.

We have personally been avid buyers of auction wines for many years as these bottlings represent for us the essence of Mosel Riesling greatness. Simply put: Not all auction wines are magical but our greatest Mosel wine memories have nearly all come from auction wines (at least from those Estates that are members of the two grower associations). The greatness of auction wines is underlined in our 10-Years-After and 20-Years-After retrospectives which we publish every year in our Spring Issue. As you can see for yourself, auction bottlings are always among the very best of any vintage.

Auction wines are not cheap and often sell at a significant premium.

The quantities of wines brought to the Auctions are minute. They can go up to a few hundred bottles for some Spätlese bottlings but sometimes not exceed 24-36 bottles for rare TBA ones. It is therefore not surprising that these wines can be very, very expensive. The price of a Spätlese or Auslese auction bottling can sometimes be three times more expensive than its equivalent regular bottling and prices for rare TBA can easily exceed €1,000 per bottle (even before taxes, commissions, etc.!).

This premium needs to be relativized in view of the fact that most fruity-styled or sweet auction wines are heavily de-classified.

More than often auction Spätlese bottlings are made from fruit which are well into Auslese levels, auction Auslese could easily have been sold as Auslese GK if not BA via regular channels had they not been offered at Auction, etc. Readers of our tasting notes have most probably already noticed this. And thus one can see the high prices at Auctions as comparatively reasonable. Actually prices of say an auction Spätlese should not be compared to the regular Spätlese but more to the regular Auslese or even Auslese GK, and then the price difference is far less appalling. Remember also that BA and TBA are only released after a minimum of two years at Auction. Therefore a lot of wines which could be sold as regular BA or TBA are "declassified" as auction Auslese GK or lange GK. Here also our tasting notes will help readers to find out what is really in the bottle.

Some relative bargains can however be made, which allows one to get the "best of Mosel" at reasonable prices.

While auction wines can hardly be called cheap, some of these wines can prove relative bargains. At each Auction, there are always a few bottlings which offer particular value, either because they sell for hardly more than their regular equivalent or the quality difference more than justifies the premium. In particular, the Bernkasteler Ring Auction offers great opportunities to acquire superb wines at reasonable prices. For instance, the gorgeous 2012er Merkelbach Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese Urglück went for "only" €10.50 (hammer price) in 2013 and the refined 2014er Peter Neu-Erben Wiltinger Klosterberg Spätlese changed hands for a mere €11 (hammer price) in 2015.

The question of whether the premium and effort of buying at Auctions is worth it is a very personal one.

Anyone who "only" wants a good Mosel wines for everyday drinking is probably best served by buying regular (i.e. non-auction) wines from his favorite Estates. However, anyone seriously interested in Mosel Riesling should make the effort to get hold of some of these auction gems. In addition, lovers of Eiswein, BA and TBA often have no choice but to go through the Auctions to be able to get their hands on some of the finest examples by the likes of Joh. Jos. Prüm or Egon Müller as these Estates generally only sell Eiswein, BA and TBA through the auction channel.



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

HOW TO ACQUIRE AUCTION WINES?

Both Auctions are held annually in the third week of September, with the wines available for tasting in the morning and sold in the afternoon. They are held once a year, on two consecutive days in the second half of September. The Bernkasteler Ring traditionally holds its Auction on the third Thursday of September and the Grosser Ring / VDP on the subsequent Friday. Both Auctions are open to the public. However, one needs to register in advance to participate (as seats are limited, early registration is often mandatory). The participant then gets the possibility to taste the wines in the morning. The 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).

Private individuals as well as professionals can bid at these Auctions.

Technically speaking, only the accredited commissioners are actually allowed to bid at these Auctions. However, anyone who wishes to acquire some bottles at these Auctions 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 (see the latest list of accredited commissioners to each of these Auctions here below).

List of commissioners for the [Bernkasteler Ring Auction](#)

List of commissioners for the [Grosser Ring Auction](#)

It is however advisable to contact a commissioner prior to bidding on the best way to handle any import or duties issues into your country.

After the Auctions, the commissioners will contact the successful bidders for payment and shipment. Within the European Union, as far as we understand the law, wine lovers can work directly with a commissioner if he fetches the bottles himself or takes care of shipment, import administration and duties into his country of residence (wine lovers may still choose for easiness to work via a wine merchant / importer to avoid the logistics hassle). For bidders from outside the European Union (and in particular from North America or Asia), further shipping / importing restrictions may apply. In any case, we strongly advise wine lovers to contact a commissioner or his wine merchant / importer prior to bidding to check how this is best organized. 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).

Bids are done the standard way, with limits on prices and quantities, with however some historic particularities to each Auction.

Bids are put in the form of "I want X bottles of wine so-and-so for up to €Y hammer price per bottle." One may (and we regularly do ourselves) put in several different bids for the same lot based on the potential hammer price. For instance, for a particular wine, one could put in a bid for 6 bottles of wine for up to €30 OR 3 bottles for up to €50. In such a case, one gets 6 bottles if the price does not exceed €30 or one gets 3 bottles if the price exceeds €30 but remains below €50.

Please note that there are few particularities at each of these Auctions:

- At the Auction of the Bernkasteler Ring, a bid price is traditionally expressed in terms of the equivalent 75cl bottle, even if only half bottles are offered (this is a relic of the days in which casks were sold prior to bottling and hence the price determined per "unit"). You should therefore take extra-care when placing your bids for half-bottles or magnums to make sure that you define them correctly. In case of doubt, we recommend that you ask your commissioner.
- At the Auction of the Grosser Ring / VDP Mosel, each format of bottles (standard, magnum, half-bottle, etc.) is auctioned off separately. This regularly results in bizarre price formations, whereby half-bottles can turn out as nearly as expensive as full ones. Astute participants to the Auctions can regularly extract a comparative bargain here.

Auction bottles do not necessarily need to be acquired at the Auction itself, some Estates and wine merchants / importers offer them also later.

Despite being made in minute quantities, auction wines can be found on the open market. Our experience is that many leading merchants / importers specialized in German wines throughout the world often acquire some auction wines to enhance their catalogue (either immediately or for release after some years). Also, some Estates offer the possibility to acquire their auction wines at the Estate after the Auction, usually at or close to the hammer price. Going for this secondary market can therefore be an alternative option to acquire some of these auction wines, and one that does not require the hassle of preparing bids and importing the resulting wines. Of course, the price for these wines will be higher than the one at the Auction.



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

HOW DOES ONE RECOGNIZE AUCTION BOTTLES ON THE OPEN MARKET?

In principle, all auction bottles carry a round sticker to distinguish them from regular ones.

In order to differentiate them from regular wines, auction bottlings do carry a round sticker, usually above the front label or stuck to a corner of the label with the indication "Versteigerung," and in the case of the VDP, the year in which it was auctioned. As an image speaks more than a thousand words, we have attached pictures of some auction bottles.

Auction Sticker – Bernkasteler Ring



Auction Sticker – Grosser Ring / VDP



In practice, not all auction bottles do carry a sticker and then only the AP number can help out.

In principle, auction wines should be easy to identify in a shop. In practice though, things may not necessarily be as straightforward as it seems as several Estates offer these wines ex-cellar after the Auction (of course at auction prices or higher). Over the years, our experience has been that these auction bottlings may not always carry the "auction sticker" (this is an indication that the bottles were bought after the Auction at the Estate). In that case, the only way to know whether a bottle is an auction one is to check the AP numbers. You will find all you need to understand the AP system in the article "Mosel Perspectives – Understanding the AP numbering system" published in Issue No 27 in March 2015.

AP numbers may not be very consumer friendly but a little effort may allow one to make some bargains.

While this may not be very consumer friendly (who keeps track or wants to keep track of AP numbers?), it may be worth the effort and can reward one with some nice bargains. Indeed, auction wines do appear now and then on the secondary market. However, as these wines are not widely distributed, their singular value is often not recognized and these precious wines often sell for not much more than their regular equivalent. Savvy Riesling lovers can therefore make some great bargains... if they can recognize these wines on the open market.

This is also one of the reasons why Mosel Fine Wines has been providing full tasting notes with AP numbers for both the Bernkasteler Ring and Grosser Ring / VDP Auctions since 2008. There are many more auction wines, also with full AP details, to be found in our 10 and 20 years-after retrospectives published every year. In addition, subscribers to both Mosel Fine Wines and CellarTracker can also check very easily if a particular lot on sale at a shop or an Auction is actually an auction bottling via the searchable database integrated into CellarTracker.



Mosel Fine Wines

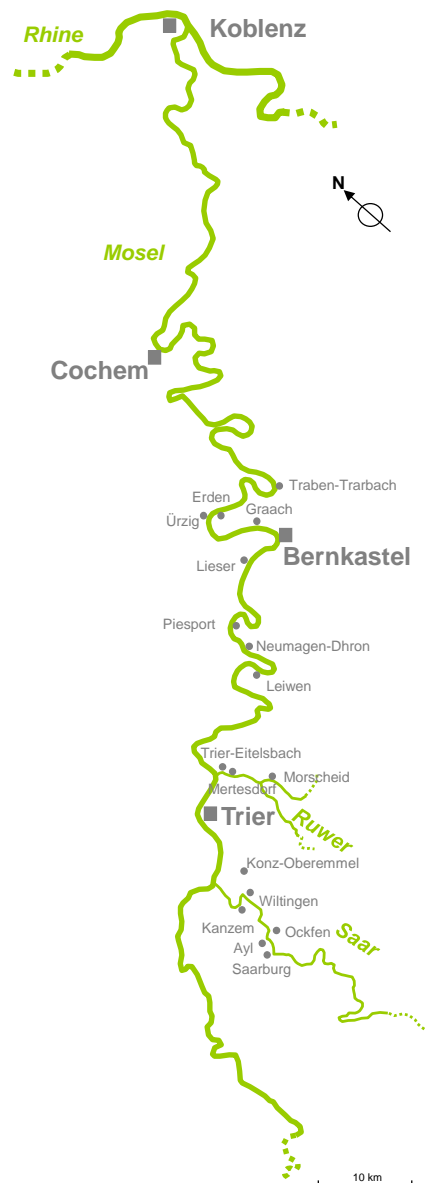
"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

The Vintage 2016: 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>





Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Bastgen

(Osann-Monzel – Middle Mosel)

2006er	Bastgen	Kestener Paulinshofberg Riesling Spätlese	10 07	Auction	88
---------------	----------------	--	--------------	----------------	-----------

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)

2015er	Bauer	Mülheimer Elisenberg Riesling Beerenauslese	25 16	Auction	92
---------------	--------------	--	--------------	----------------	-----------

This 2015er Mülheimer Elisenberg 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

2016er	Bauer	Mülheimer Elisenberg Riesling Auslese	15 17	Auction	90
---------------	--------------	--	--------------	----------------	-----------

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)

2015er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese Alte Reben	01 16	Auction	97
---------------	---------------------------	---	--------------	----------------	-----------

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

2015er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Beerenauslese Alte Reben	02 16	Auction	94
---------------	---------------------------	--	--------------	----------------	-----------

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+

2016er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese Alte Reben Fass Nr. 3		Auction	94
---------------	---------------------------	---	--	----------------	-----------

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



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2016er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben Fass Nr. 6	Auction	92
--------	--------------------	---	---------	----

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+
--------	--------------------	--	---------	-----

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
--------	--------------------	--	-------	---------	----

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
--------	------------------	---	-------	---------	----

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
--------	------------------	---	-------	---------	----

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
--------	------------------	---------------------------------------	-------	---------	----

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
--------	-----------	---	-------	---------	----

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



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Albert Gessinger

(Zeltingen – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Albert Gessinger	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** Alte Reben	11 17	Auction	93+
--------	------------------	---	-------	---------	-----

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
--------	-------	---	-------	---------	----

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
--------	-----------------	--	-------	---------	----

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	Mehringer Blattenberg Riesling Kabinett	07 17	Auction	91
--------	------------	---	-------	---------	----

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
--------	----------------	---	-------	---------	----

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



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Kees-Kieren

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Kees-Kieren	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese **	22 17	Auction	91
--------	-------------	--	-------	---------	----

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+
--------	-------------	---	-------	---------	-----

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
--------	--------	--	-------	---------	----

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+
--------	--------	--	-------	---------	-----

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
--------	--------------	---	-------	---------	----

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
--------	-----------------	---	-------	---------	----

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



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Paulinshof

(Kesten – Middle Mosel)

1987er	Paulinshof	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett	03 88	Auction	87
---------------	-------------------	--	--------------	----------------	-----------

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)

2003er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Berncasteler Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Trockenbeereauslese	51 05	Auction	94
---------------	-----------------------------	---	--------------	----------------	-----------

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

1990er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Auslese	04 91	Auction	92
---------------	-----------------------------	--	--------------	----------------	-----------

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+

2016er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Ürziger Goldwingert Riesling Auslese	28 17	Auction	92
---------------	-----------------------------	---	--------------	----------------	-----------

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)

2015er	Philipps-Eckstein	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Trockenbeereauslese	37 16	Auction	95+
---------------	--------------------------	--	--------------	----------------	------------

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

2009er	Philipps-Eckstein	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Beereauslese	28 17	Auction	94
---------------	--------------------------	---	--------------	----------------	-----------

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



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Rebenhof

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Rebenhof	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Beerenauslese Fass Nr. 17	Auction	94
---------------	-----------------	--	----------------	-----------

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

(Klūsserath – Middle Mosel)

2016er	F.J. Regnery	Klūsserather Bruderschaft Riesling Spätlese Feinherb Edition Michelskirch	23 17	Auction	88
---------------	---------------------	--	--------------	----------------	-----------

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
---------------	-----------------------------	---	--------------	----------------	-----------

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
---------------	-----------------------------	--	--------------	----------------	-----------

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
---------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------	----------------	-----------

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
---------------	------------------------	---	--------------	----------------	-----------

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



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2015er	Richard Richter	Winninger Uhlen Laubach Terrassen Riesling Réserve	19 17	Auction	91
---------------	------------------------	---	--------------	----------------	-----------

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
---------------	--------------------------	--	--------------	----------------	-----------

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
---------------	------------------------------	--	--------------	----------------	-----------

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
---------------	---	--	--------------	----------------	-----------

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
---------------	-----------------------	--	--------------	----------------	-----------

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



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Werner

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Werner	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese	19 17	Auction	93
--------	--------	---	-------	---------	----

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



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

The Vintage 2016: Grosser Ring / VDP Mosel Auction 2017 – Tasting Notes

We provide here a review of wines that will be auctioned off by the Grosser Ring / VDP Mosel on September 15, 2017 and that we can recommend on quality grounds. This includes wines from the following Estates (presented in alphabetic order).

Geltz-Zilliken

Fritz Haag

Reinhold Haart

Peter Lauer

Le Gallais

Schloss Lieser

Dr. Loosen

Egon Müller

von Othegraven

Joh. Jos. Prüm

Willi Schaefer

von Schubert

St. Urbans-Hof

Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

Saarburg

Brauneberg

Piesport

Ayl

Kanzem

Lieser

Bernkastel-Kues

Wiltingen

Kanzem

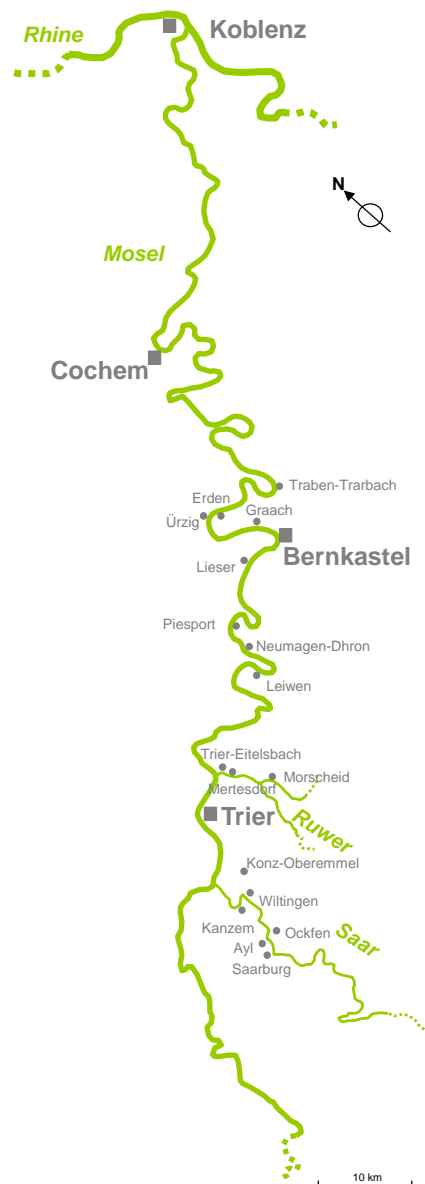
Wehlen

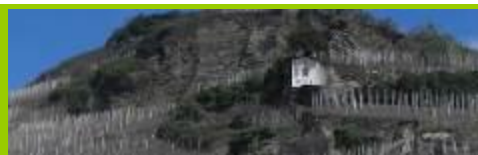
Graach

Mertesdorf

Leiwen

Bernkastel-Kues





Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

(Saarburg – Saar)

1997er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese lange GK	03 98	Auction	97
--------	----------------	---	-------	---------	----

This wine was already auctioned off in 1998. In 2017, the Estate releases a few cellar reserve magnums as mature rarity. Tasted from a 75cl bottle, this wine delivers an absolutely mind-bogglingly complex and attractive nose made of notes of chamomile, mint, honey, dried mango, grilled pineapple and butter cream. The wine is smooth with a very delicate creamy texture and ripe yellow honeyed fruits underlined by a superbly zesty acidity driven by grapefruit on the palate and in the very long and ethereal finish. The fruity presence is astonishingly youthful and vibrant for a 20 year-old wine. What a great dessert wine ... to drink by the magnum! Now-2047

2016er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	02 17	Auction	93
--------	----------------	-------------------------------------	-------	---------	----

A hugely complex, rich and ripe nose of rhubarb, candied fruits, orange and mango gives way to a fresher side underpinned by gooseberry and anise as the wine develops in the glass. The wine is very smooth and delicate on the palate, where juicy fruits, honey and luscious cream are wrapped into a mild expression of acidity. The acidity does however come through in the very and delicate finish and brings depth and intensity to this Auslese GK styled expression of Riesling. 2026-2046

Weingut Fritz Haag

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese lange GK #15		Auction	(96-98)
--------	------------	---	--	---------	---------

Small quantities were made of this superb Auslese lange GK #15 harvested at over 125° Oechsle. An initial whiff of volatile acidity quickly gives way to a stunningly complex and yet pure and primary nose of pear puree, raisin, marzipan, grapefruit and fine herbs. The wine develops the full multi-layered elegance of a grand Auslese lange GK on the palate, combining unctuous and delicately exotic fruits with nicely tickly and refreshing acidity. The finesse is simply staggering. This will be a stunner of a wine at maturity. 2031-2056

2016er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese #14		Auction	95+
--------	------------	---	--	---------	-----

The 2016er Juffer-Sonnenuhr Spätlese #14 develops a stunning nose of pear, quince, peach and earthy spices wrapped into residues of spontaneous fermentation, as well as lovely smoky and floral notes after some airing. The wine comes over as juicy and hugely elegant on the palate. It is packed with flavors but still comparatively light-featured. A great touch of grapefruit livens up the finish and brings focus and elegance to the experience. This is a stunning wine cut along the canons of airy Auslese in the making. We would even not be surprised if it even turns out even greater than initially expected at maturity. 2031-2056

2016er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	13 17	Auction	94
--------	------------	---	-------	---------	----

After 2014, Oliver Haag decided also to produce an auction Kabinett from the Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr, made this year from fruit harvested at 88° Oechsle. This terrific wine develops a simply stunning nose of apricot, pear, grapefruit and whipped cream on the nose and leaves a gorgeously playful feel on the light-featured and elegant palate, where it does develop the full fruity side of a modern Spätlese. Whoever has the patience to wait for this wine to mature for a decade or two will have the pleasure to enjoy a dead ringer for the great Fritz Haag Spätlese or Auslese from the 1990s. This is truly remarkable. 2026-2056

Weingut Reinhold Haart

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese GK	31 17	Auction	95
--------	----------------	--	-------	---------	----

This auction Auslese GK, harvested late at 104° Oechsle with 30% of botrytized grapes, delivers a gorgeous and overtly fruit-driven nose of pear, quince, grapefruit, peach and passion fruit. The wine shows its concentration on the palate, where it proves almost oily yet loaded with exotic fruits including pineapple, passion fruit and coconut. All this is nicely balanced out by tickly acidity in the still sweet but already hugely focused finish. This is a terrific Auslese in the making. 2031-2056



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Karthäuserhof

(Eitelsbach – Ruwer-Trier)

2016er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhof Riesling Spätlese Nr. 24	Auction	91
--------	---------------	---	---------	----

This delivers a nicely aromatic and attractive nose made of anise, quince, yellow peach and bergamot. These scents are joined by some licorice and smoke as it develops in the glass. The wine is nicely juicy and offers pear-driven aromatics leading to a comparatively light yet delightful complex and long finish. This is an outstanding Spätlese with great drinking appeal in the making. 2024-2036

Weingut Peter Lauer

(Ayl – Saar)

2016er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Auslese	30 17	Auction	94
--------	-------------	-----------------------------	-------	---------	----

This Auslese, harvested at 103° Oechsle, delivers a beautiful nose of white peach, quince, spices, honey, fine herbs and smoke. The wine develops a gorgeously complex side on the palate as apricot cream makes for great contrast to the zesty feel of grapefruit. The finish is complex, delicately creamy and beautifully long. 2031-2056

2016er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Kabinett Fass 5	Auction	93
--------	-------------	-------------------------------------	---------	----

This Kabinett offers a beautifully engaging nose of citrusy fruits, pear, smoky herbs and slate. It is gorgeously salty and vibrant on the palate, where it offers true Kabinett tension. The finish is precise, focused and energizing. This is a superb Kabinett in the making which combines superb drinking pleasure with outstanding complexity. 2026-2046

2016er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Spätlese Fass 23	Auction	92
--------	-------------	--------------------------------------	---------	----

This Spätlese offers a delicately ample and engaging nose made of peach, grapefruit, pear and herbs. This leads to a slightly riper and delicately ample feel of apricot blossom, more peach and fine zesty grapefruit on the palate and in the long and comparatively racy and delineated finish. This is in firm need of cellaring to gain in precision and complexity but will offer a beautiful Auslese-styled expression of Riesling in a decade or so. 2026-2046

2016er	Peter Lauer	Schodener Saarfelser Marienberg Riesling Spätlese Fass 24	Auction	92
--------	-------------	---	---------	----

This Spätlese offers a beautiful nose of ginger, pear, pineapple, white flowers and fine herbs as well as a hint of honey. The wine proves nicely complex and fruit-driven on the palate, where it develops the full delicately smooth side of a light Auslese. The finish has presence, breadth and depth yet remains nicely playful. 2026-2046

Weingut Le Gallais

(Kanzem – Saar)

2016er	Le Gallais	Wiltinger braune Kupp Riesling Auslese	06 17	Auction	96
--------	------------	--	-------	---------	----

This Auslese made from a selection of botrytized fruit made early in the harvest proves quite closed at first and only gradually develops its beautifully complex nose of pear, apricot, mango, bergamot, whipped cream and smoky slate, all wrapped into a touch of volatile acidity at this early stage. The wine proves beautifully creamy and refined as pear, honey and passion fruit drive the juicy and delicately exotic flavors on the palate. It leaves a gorgeously creamy feel in the long and delicately zesty finish. This lives from complexity and multi-layered finesse with almost BA-styled presence. What a gorgeous noble sweet wine in the making! 2031-2056



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Schloss Lieser

(Lieser – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese lange GK	29 17	Auction	96
--------	----------------	---	-------	---------	----

The 2016er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese lange GK Auction was made from a strict selection of fruit harvested at a full 122° Oechsle. It delivers a gorgeously pure and delicately exotic nose of peach, pear, passion fruit and coconut, all wrapped into some fine dried herbs, flowers and spices. The wine starts off on the sweet side as pear puree and almond hit one's taste buds on the palate. A great touch of grapefruit comes through towards the finish and brings already some freshness to this remarkably pure and elegant wine. This will easily need more than a decade of cellaring in order to integrate its sweetness and develop its full balance but should then prove a stunning expression of Auslese LGK. 2031-2056

2016er	Schloss Lieser	Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	28 17	Auction	95
--------	----------------	---------------------------------------	-------	---------	----

This first vintage of Doctor at the Schloss Lieser Estate delivered three wines, including this auction Spätlese harvested at 95° Oechsle. The wine delivers an gorgeously complex nose of pear, vineyard peach, brown sugar and fine spices. It delivers the full delicately creamy presence of a light Auslese on the palate, where stunning flavors of almond, pear and peach woe for attention. The finish is multi-layered and hugely complex. As so often with Doctor wines, this proves still slightly on the bulky side at this early stage (as Doctor wines usually do) and will start to show its full potential after a good decade in the bottle. 2026-2056

Weingut Dr. Loosen

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese lange GK	32 17	Auction	(94-97)
--------	------------	--	-------	---------	---------

A whiff of volatile acidity quickly gives way to complex scents of pineapple, brown sugar, honey, earthy spices and dried herbs. The wine is hugely creamy, unctuous, concentrated and deep on the palate. It leaves a stunning feel of almond-infused fruits as well as herbs and spices in the very long and fresh finish. This is a gorgeous Auslese in the making. 2031-2056

2016er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese GK	31 17	Auction	(93-95)
--------	------------	---	-------	---------	---------

This offers a beautiful nose of cassis and red berry fruits as well as pear, mint, spices and fine slate elements all freshened up by flowery scents of citrus and grapefruit. The wine proves gorgeously playful and develops the delicately ripe presence of an Auslese on the palate. A delightful touch of acidity rounds off this modern version of a 1997 Auslese. This is a terrific effort in the making. 2031-2056

Egon Müller zu Scharzhof

(Wiltingen – Saar)

2016er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett Alte Reben	03 17	Auction	94
--------	-------------	--	-------	---------	----

The 2016er Scharzhofberger Kabinett Alte Reben is made from a plot of very old un-grafted vines believed to have been planted around if not before 1900. The wine proves hugely reduced at this early stage and only hints at beautifully complex scents of pear, elderflower, gooseberry, white minerals, flowers and fine smoke, with some cassis elements still buried deep inside the wine. This leads to a gorgeous feel of fine herbs and spices on the delicately smooth yet zesty palate and leaves a delicately ripe, clean and salty feel in the long finish. The potential of this hugely complex and refined effort is immense but it will require quite some patience before it will reveal its full potential. 2031-2046+



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut von Othegraven

(Kanzem – Saar)

2016er	von Othegraven	Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Kabinett	09 17	Auction	93+
--------	----------------	--------------------------------------	-------	---------	-----

The 2016er auction Altenberg Kabinett was harvested at refreshingly moderate 80° Oechsle. Residues from spontaneous fermentation quickly give way to gorgeous scents of pear, grapefruit and fine herbs. The wine woes one with gorgeous flavors of passion fruit and minerals delivered with light Spätlese presence on the playful palate. The finish is juicy, refined and elegant. This is a superb Spätlese-styled wine in the making and one which could easily exceed our high expectations. The precision, finesse and purity are simply superb! 2026-2046

2016er	von Othegraven	Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Spätlese	12 17	Auction	93
--------	----------------	--------------------------------------	-------	---------	----

The 2016er auction Altenberg Spätlese was harvested at 91° Oechsle. Residues from spontaneous fermentation quickly give way to complex and primary scents of peach, pear, grapefruit, almond paste and some of the finest smoky herbs on the nose. The wine develops the delicately creamy side of a playful "drinking" Auslese and leaves a superbly ripe touch of zesty acidity in the finish. This beautiful wine made along the canons of the great 1997 vintage should prove stunning at maturity. 2026-2046

Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese lange GK		Auction	
--------	----------------	--	--	---------	--

Not ready for tasting.

2016er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK		Auction	
--------	----------------	--	--	---------	--

Not ready for tasting.

2016er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese		Auction	
--------	----------------	-------------------------------------	--	---------	--

Not ready for tasting.

2016er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese		Auction	
--------	----------------	--------------------------------------	--	---------	--

Not ready for tasting.

Weingut Willi Schaefer

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	15 17	Auction	95
--------	----------------	-------------------------------------	-------	---------	----

This Auslese was made from fruit harvested at 109° Oechsle. It delivers an absolutely gorgeous and fruit-driven nose driven by apricot, mango, pineapple, orange peel and a touch of spices, licorice and pear with more airing. The wine is beautifully juicy and exotic on the palate, yet despite the richness and complexity this offers airiness and elegance. The finish is still loaded with quite some residual sugar in need of integration. This Auslese LGK in all but name is a huge success, and a wine to lay down for more than 10 years to reach its drinking window. 2031-2056

2016er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	13 17	Auction	95
--------	----------------	--------------------------------------	-------	---------	----

This delivers a stunningly elegant and complex nose which is initially still marked by some residues of spontaneous fermentation through smoky notes of bacon and some bakery elements. These quickly give way to magnificent notes of white flowers, vineyard peach and spices. The wine has a great juicy presence on the palate, a feeling also amplified by a glorious smooth touch of whipped cream. The finish is intense, spicy and smoky. What a beautiful and complex Spätlese. 2026-2046



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut von Schubert – Maximin Grünhaus

(Mertesdorf – Ruwer-Trier)

2016er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 17	Auction	96
--------	--------------	---	---------	----

The 2016er Herrenberg Auslese Nr. 17, the result of painstaking selections, yielded less than 300 liters from fruit harvested at 120° Oechsle. It offers a gorgeously elegant nose of pineapple, apricot blossom, cassis and fine spices as well as a whiff of volatile acidity. These are joined by riper and more exotic aromatics including mango and passion fruit after some airing. The wine is gorgeously vibrant yet unctuously creamy on the palate. A great kick of acidity comes through in the finish making this a stunningly elegant expression of Auslese lange GK. 2026-2046

2016er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett Nr. 19	Auction	94+
--------	--------------	--	---------	-----

This is still rather reductive but proves superbly backward in style with white peach, herbs and fine spices wrapping some ravishingly elegant minty herbs. The wine is smooth yet zesty on the palate and leaves a stunningly complex feel in the long finish. As in the 2015 vintage, the von Schubert Estate produced a great auction wine cut along the great lines of its magical Auslese bottlings from the 1990s with plenty of upside if the wine firms up at maturity. This is a must buy for any lover of Grünhaus. 2026-2041

Weingut St. Urbans-Hof

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2013er	St. Urbans-Hof	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	26 14	Auction	98+
--------	----------------	--	-------	---------	-----

Nik Weis and his team harvested a meagre 80 liters of this beauty at 170-175° Oechsle on October 30, 2013. This develops a stunningly complex nose of passion fruit, pineapple, herbs and spices. The wine develops already a gorgeous touch of toffee and dried fruits on the palate and leaves a magnificently assertive, complex and creamy feel in the almost indefinite finish. We have tasted this beauty three times now over the last few years and it has gone from strength to strength: What a stunner of a TBA and a must-buy for any lovers of this style of Riesling. 2028-2063

2016er	St. Urbans-Hof	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese	21 17	Auction	(91-93)
--------	----------------	--	-------	---------	---------

This special cask of Goldtröpfchen Spätlese was made fruit harvested at a whopping 98° Oechsle. It develops a huge even if somewhat ripe nose of peach, pear, passion fruit and fine herbs. The wine proves nicely balanced on the palate, where more flavors of pear, some ginger and fine herbs drive the aromatics right into the long and elegant finish. Far from being overpowering, this Auslese in all but name delivers complexity and depth. 2026-2046

Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	08 17	Auction	92
--------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------	---------	----

This develops a rather reduced nose of quince, almond, herbs and spices. It proves nicely playful on the palate, where the wine develops the creamy presence of a light Auslese. The finish is nicely fresh and quite juicy but also still rather backward. As so often with Doctor wines, patience will be, once again, a necessary virtue to see this Riesling blossom. 2031-2056



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Upcoming Mosel Fine Wines Issues: Topics to be Covered

Here is an *avant-gout* on what will be covered in the upcoming Issues this year:

**October
2017**

2016 Vintage Report (Part III)

- Detailed Estate Reviews
- Other Noteworthy Wines
- Dry Riesling from Germany (Mosel & Beyond Mosel)
- Sekt – Additional Recommended Wines

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)

