



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Issue No 40 – April 2018

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

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

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Understand Our Tasting Notes

The core of Mosel Fine Wines is to publish independent tasting notes. The particularity of Mosel and German wines 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).
- We provide the grape variety, except for the few cases of a blend, in which case the blend details will be given in the tasting note.
- 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](#). "N.A." means that the AP number was not yet available at the moment of publication.

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: Riesling has a long development cycle and can be enjoyable for 20 years and more. Like other great wines from this world, Mosel and German Riesling usually go 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 turned 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
Region	Mosel Visiting Guide	Mosel Visiting Guide 2018	-
Vineyards	Vineyard Classification The Classification Before the Classification	Issue No 39 (Jan 2018)	-
Estates	Keller takes over Prime Mosel Vineyard	Issue No 39 (Jan 2018)	Click Here
Wines	Deciphering the Modern German Wine Label	Issue No 34 (Apr 2017)	Click Here
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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Latest Vintages: An Update on 2016 – 2009

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

2016	If anything, the 2016 wines have gained in presence and precision and the greatness of the vintage slowly sinks in among wine lovers. Most are actually even more enjoyable than a few months ago, a trait shared with the 1997 vintage with which 2016 is often compared. However, a few dry and off-dry wines have hardened up and could indicate that 2016 may eventually go through a closed phase after all.
2015	As we expected, many 2015 wines have closed down now. The incredible depth of fruit makes that the fruity-styled wines remain enjoyable, but without showing the full cut and finesse that will eventually show at maturity. The dry wines are however very often more disjointed and not showing any of their early potential at this stage. We have an inkling that this great vintage will test our patience, like 1990 did.
2014	The heterogeneity of the 2014 vintage carried directly over onto the aging process. Except for a few light dry wines, the top wines made from clean fruit have closed down, as one would expect from these wines which are a remake of those from the 1990s. The wines affected by gin, saffron and mushroom flavors still remain comparatively open and offer a not unattractive Scheurebe styled fruit opulence. If you have not done so yet, we would opt to drink up these lesser wines except for the odd bottle and bury the little treasures of the vintage deep into the cellar.
2013	The fruity-styled 2013 wines have closed down for good now, making the underlying acidity seemingly sharp and out of balance. The better dry wines have come out of their early armor of smoke and tannins but the acidity gives an austere and sharp side to the wines. Also the top botrytized wines now show signs of closing down, even if they may still prove quite enjoyable as the sweetness provides the right balance to the acidity. Overall, this is a vintage to lay down and wait for.
2012	The 2012 wines have put on some flesh and go through a "fattier" phase which is not unlike what the 2007 went through at the same period. However, the zestier acidity cuts through this "weight" and makes many of these wines still thoroughly enjoyable today. In particular, the fruity Kabinett and Spätlese as well as the off-dry and dry wines offer much pleasure. These wines will most probably never go through a hard close down phase but they are currently more expansive and bulky. Only time will allow the finesse and elegance of the wines to come through.
2011	While many fruity-styled 2011 wines are shut down and go through a quite difficult and muted phase now, some of the drier wines start to slowly reveal some of the potential that we expected with age. Their low acidity makes for great food companionship now. The fruity wines are still really best left alone. Their comparatively low acidity combined with the high maturity of their fruit make them feel rich, opulent and often bulky, and thus not really enjoyable now. We expect that these will need at least a decade to integrate their sweetness and gain in harmony.
2010	After a mellower period in 2012-2013, many 2010 wines have firmed up and developed a stronger smoky side. However, some continue to shine through fruit opulence, structure and a deliciously zesty but ripe acidity. This suits in particular the off-dry bottlings, which have more charm than the legally dry wines. In all wines, the initially crisp acidity has given way to a much softer form of zest, providing further evidence that these wines will turn out harmonious after all. Patience is still required to fully enjoy them.
2009	The 2009 wines are slowly emerging from their shell now but are still often in a round and soft phase, especially for the fruity wines. We would definitely recommend opening any such wine well in advance, in order to give it time to breathe. The story is different for the dry and off-dry wines. These have now emerged from their shell and prove utterly enjoyable.



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10-Years-After Retrospective: 2008 – The Vintage at a Glance

The Growing Conditions

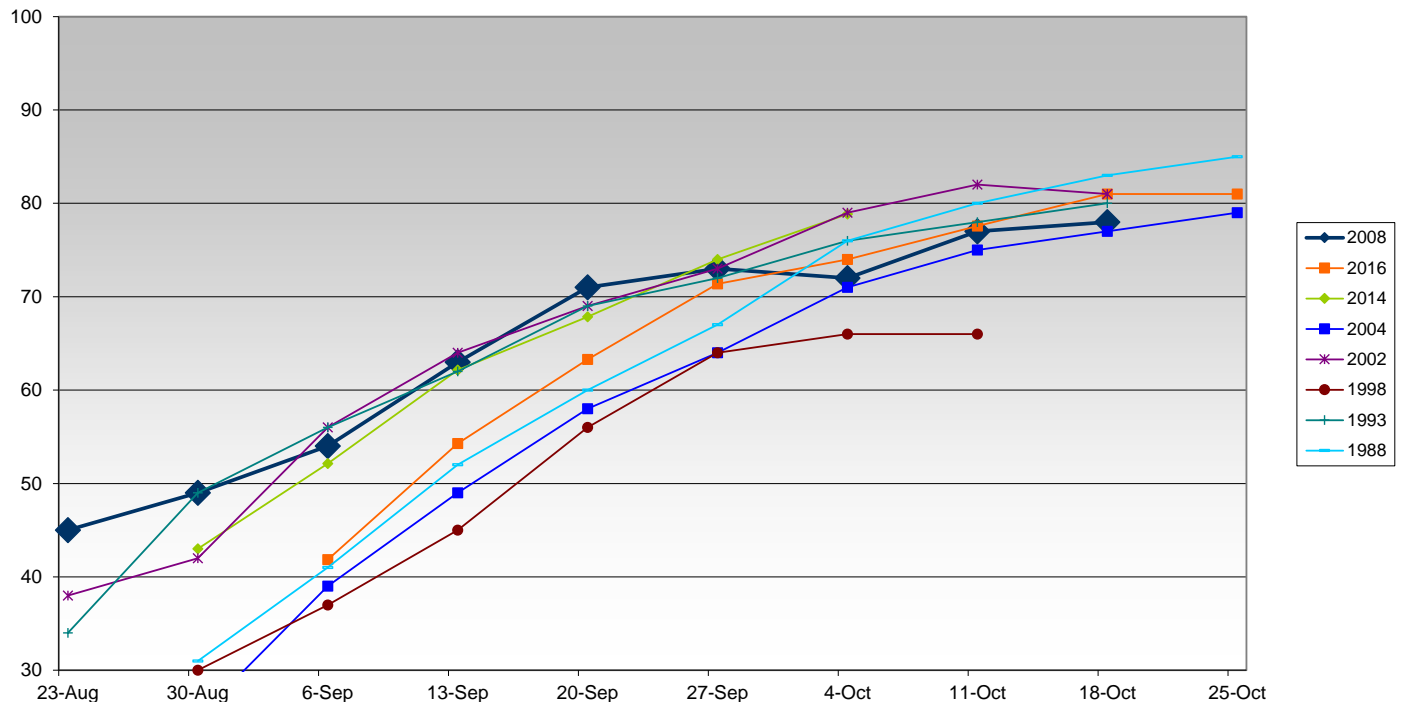
NB: A detailed account of the 2008 growing conditions can be found in Issue No 8 (June 2009)

A good start in the year led to a ripening ahead of long-term average, preluding yet another "warm" vintage in line with the 2005-2006-2007 trio. A normal bud break followed by an unusually warm spring led to a very early flowering, certainly by the standards a decade ago. At some point in July, the ripening of the grapes almost matched that of the 2006 or 2007 vintage. August was not as warm as in the hottest years. Still, all signs were set for yet another warm vintage (after the 2005-2006-2007 trio) by the end of the month.

A cool September and uneven October retarded the ripening process back to long-term averages from the 1990s and 1980s. September and October proved rather cool and on the rainy side. This slowed down the ripening process so much that many grapes were not yet fully ripe by mid-October. Also, the wet and damp conditions led to pressure from (mostly not noble) rot. The growing season was saved by some good weather by mid-October, which gave the necessary kick of ripeness. Still, the ripeness level was no longer high, but more in line with that of the better vintages from the 1990s and 1980s.

Harvest was late and challenging, with some Eiswein possible at the very end of 2008 and early 2009. The harvest proved quite challenging as sunshine alternated with periods of rain for much of the remainder of October and November. This led to a long and sometimes frustrating harvest period. Many of the younger generation of growers had not experienced such a situation, as the 2000s had been quite benevolent to the Mosel. Fortunately, a short period of dry weather at the beginning of November allowed growers who had enough patience to bring in some Auslese. The vintage was crowned with some Eiswein, which growers were able to harvest at the end of December 2008 and early January 2009.

Evolution of Sugar Levels (° Oechsle) - 2008 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages (Bereich Trier)



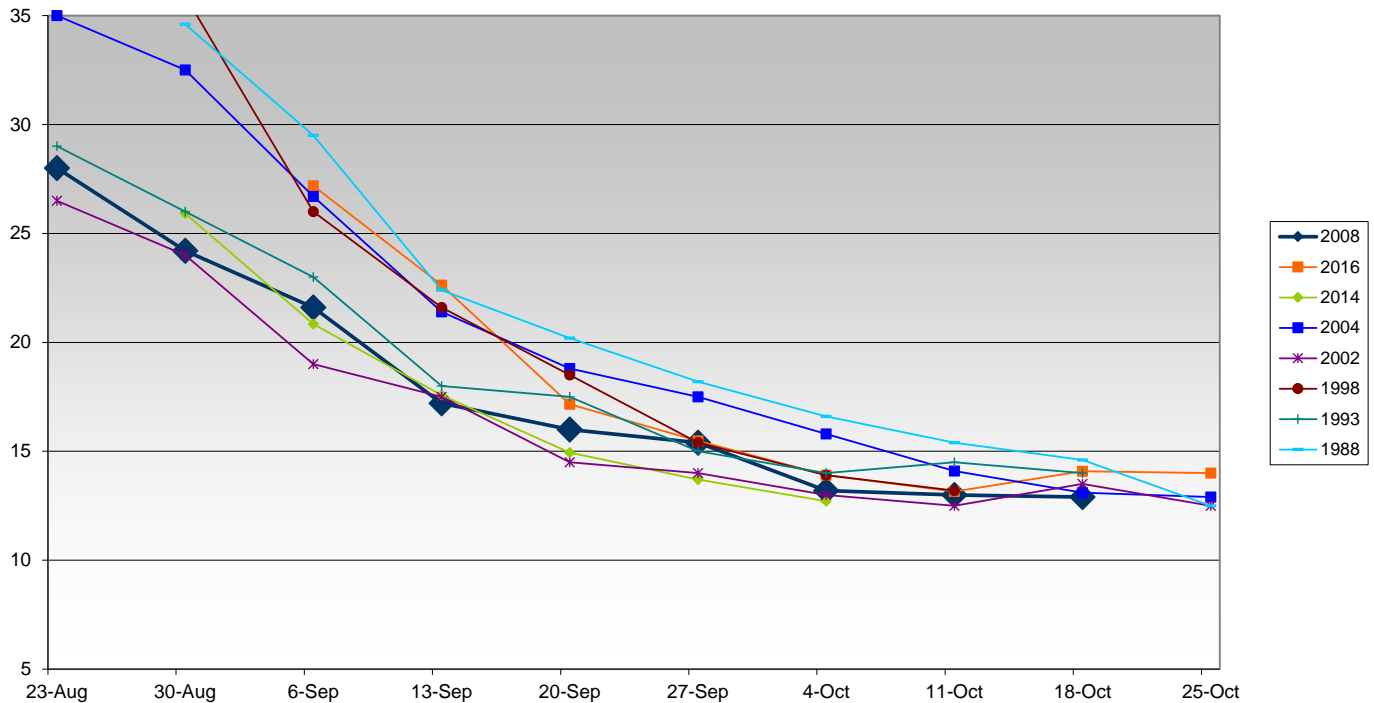


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Evolution of Total Acidity Levels (g/l) - 2008 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages (Bereich Trier)



Source: German Ministry of Agriculture - Rheinland-Pfalz

The Vintage Style

Early on, the wines showed a great juicy and animating liveliness reminding us the better vintages of the 1990s and 1980s.

The wines showed some bright and animating flavors, with green elements wrapped into juicy fruits. Overall, the acidity was lively but still ripe. However, the style was in complete contrast to that of the three previous vintages, where even Kabinett wines often had must levels of big Auslese.

Clearly, the sweet spot of the vintage was the Spätlese category, even though some gorgeous Kabinett were also made.

The retro nature of the vintage proved particular successful at the lower end of the must weights, i.e. Kabinett and Spätlese, a style in fact almost impossible to produce in the three previous vintages. But also some of the Auslese showed great potential.

We were enthusiastic about the vintage ...

We defined the 2008 vintage as a "retro-vintage" in the making and advised our readers to stock up on the vintage if they were partial to zesty classic Mosel wines like in the old days and warned to discard the notion of "not a great vintage" as "great vintages" in the Mosel were too often defined over the high octane wines (i.e. BA and TBA), which are not necessarily what Mosel lovers actually prefer or drink with the biggest frequency. We urged in particular our readers to plunge on the finest Spätlese. These were set to be modern-day (climate-change impacted) versions of the great Auslese from the 1990s in the making, i.e. elegantly complex and refreshing wines offering great drinking pleasure.

... but large parts of the press and the public were not, out of quality and economic concerns.

Much of the press was less enthusiastic about the vintage, defining it as a "useful vintage," a killer descriptor to most people. Also the public was not really catching on. The concerns came from essentially four factors. Firstly, the wines did not have the weight and immediate aromatic presence of the three preceding vintages (the trio 2005-2006-2007 will be remembered but for Auslese and upward wines). Secondly, the difficult harvest season made for worries whether the wines would be clean (such worries are unnecessary as the Riesling grape is never afraid to see some rain during harvest, on the contrary!). Thirdly, the wines showed some pronounced acidity (here again, the worry was unjustified, as we had pointed out, because much of this acidity was of tartaric nature). Lastly, and probably most importantly, the economic crisis was in full swing. The combination of these four factors made the 2008 wines a very hard sale indeed.



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10-Years-After Retrospective: 2008 Fruity / Sweet Wines Today – Ripe Racy Classicism



While the 2007-2006-2005 trio was about sweet wines, 2008 is about fruity Kabinett and Spätlese

The three vintages before 2008, namely 2007, 2006 and 2005, are all modern-day remakes of some of the greatest ever vintages in the Mosel, respectively the 1953, the 1949 and the 1959 (readers will find a detailed account in the Mosel Fine Wines Issues No 34, 30 and 27). The legendary status of the 1953-1949-1959 trio was essentially defined through their sweet wines and this was also the case for the 2007-2006-2005 trilogy. 2008 is fully complementary to this. As we reported early on, the sweet spot of the vintage are the lightly fruity-styled wines, i.e. Kabinett and Spätlese. While the finest do not have the depth and complexity of some of the greatest wines from the 1990s, they are the closest examples to those vintages. This is also reflected in our highlights, which are heavily tilted towards Kabinett and Spätlese wines. This does not mean that 2008 is a write-off for sweet wines. 2008 proved a great vintage for Eiswein and yielded a few stunning Auslese made from highly selected fruit (and hence usually auction bottlings or equivalent). The issue is not quality, it is quantity. Hardly any of these sweet gems was produced.

2008 has developed into a bigger and ripper version of the 1998, the under-rated vintage from the 1990s, with some of the structure of the 1988.

Stylistically, the cooler 2008 vintage actually turned out more varied than one may have expected early on. Some wines are simply racy, with the lemon, orchard fruits, mint and cassis side of the greater wines from the 1998 or the 1988 vintages. Other wines, in turn, prove quite ripe and remind us more of 2002 or 2000. The fact that there was some sunburn during the summer and that the grapes enjoyed a quite long hang time comes through in the style. Even in the best wines, the acidity is balanced by a slightly ripe side which we also often find in the 1998 vintage. However, the slender body, racy acidity and ripe fruit make the finest fruity wines from 2008 completely irresistible. If there is one weakness of the vintage, one would put it to a certain lack of depth which make out the truly finest wines. But this is really nitpicking, as we thoroughly enjoyed doing these tastings and would happily start again anytime!

Overall, Mosel has the edge over Saar and Ruwer, with a few Estates producing some of their finest collections ever.

The vintage has clearly favored the Mosel, as it suited better the required ripeness of acidity. There are however true gems in the Saar and Ruwer (Geltz-Zilliken and von Schubert did produce some stunning Eiswein and Spätlese), yet these are not widespread. In the Mosel, the success was much more consistent. Four Estates stand out for the sheer quality of their collection: Schloss Lieser, Markus Molitor, Willi Schaefer and Weiser-Künstler. The density of quality at these Estates in 2008 is remarkable. But also other Estates produced some stunning successes. Let us mention the superb Auslese from the Goldtröpfchen by Reinhold Haart and the stunning Spätlese from the Prälat by the now defunct Weingut Dr. F. Weins-Prüm. But also Matthias Knebel produced a stunning Spätlese in 2008 as did the Merkelbach brothers.

Most of the wines are starting to become enjoyable now.

Unlike 2007, 2006 and 2005, which were rich and ripe vintages, 2008 starts now to be quite fun to enjoy. Only some bigger Auslese or auction Spätlese can still prove on the reductive side. While most wines can be enjoyed now, most have just started to open up. We would always opt to open the 2008s well in advance in order to give them time to gain from airing. In fact, we have been doing these extensive retrospectives now since 10 years, there were few occasions where the wines were so much fun to taste than for the 2008 vintage.

A lookback to finish: We were quite upbeat about the vintage when young ... about it turned even better than in our dreams.

2008 was the first vintage which we covered in full details and, of course, we had a look back at how our expectations have materialized. Despite being among the most optimistic critiques regarding the potential of the 2008 vintage, we still underestimated it. Readers who have followed our advice back in 2009 are therefore in for even better wines than what they could expect!



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10-Years-After Retrospective: 2008 Fruity / Sweet Vintage Highlights

2008 Vintage Highlights – Sweet and Noble Sweet Wines *

2008er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein	01 09	Auction	97
2008er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK #13		Auction	96
2008er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	11 09	Auction	96
2008er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese	14 09		95
2008er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Eiswein	23 09		95
2008er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Beerenauslese	16 09		94
2008er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	12 09		94
2008er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Schlossberg Riesling Auslese ** (Golden Label)	48 09		94
2008er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	13 09	Auction	93+

* *Mainly Auslese GK and upwards but also any Spätlese or Auslese if it is an Auslese GK in all but name.*

2008 Vintage Highlights – Fruity Wines **

2008er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	05 09		94
2008er	Dr. F. Weins-Prüm	Erdener Prälat Riesling Spätlese	10 09		94
2008er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Kabinett	05 09		94
2008er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Spätlese	03 09		94
2008er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	02 09	Auction	93
2008er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	07 09		93
2008er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	13 09	Auction	93
2008er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	18 09	Auction	93
2008er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Golden Label)	23 09	Auction	93
2008er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Spätlese	39 09		93
2008er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	06 09	Auction	93
2008er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese	16 09		93
2008er	Dr. F. Weins-Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	03 09		93
2008er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett	01 09		92
2008er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	03 09		92
2008er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Riesling Kabinett	03 09		92
2008er	Karhäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karhäuserhofberg Riesling Spätlese Nr. 48		Auction	92
2008er	Dr. Lippold	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	02 09		92
2008er	Loersch-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Spätlese	14 09		92
2008er	von Othegraven	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese	16 09	Auction	92
2008er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	17 09		92
2008er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	07 14		92
2008er	Johann Peter Reinert	Ayler Kupp Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	23 09	Auction	92
2008er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	19 09		92
2008er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	26 09		92
2008er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett	02 09		92
2008er	Günther Steinmetz	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Spätlese *	08 09		92
2008er	Günther Steinmetz	Kestener Paulinsberg Riesling Spätlese **	10 09		92
2008er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	06 09		92

** *Mainly Kabinett and Spätlese but also any Auslese if it particularly light and elegant in style.*



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10-Years-After Retrospective: 2008 Dry / Off-Dry Riesling – Brilliance ... at the Top



Overall, the 2008 dry / off-dry Riesling are driven by juicy freshness but also quite remarkable presence.

Our tastings underlined the fresh and juicy nature of the 2008 vintage, in complete contrast to the ripe and rich nature of the 2007-2006-2005 trio. However, our tastings also revealed that many wines show unusual presence for the freshness and structure of the wines. We suspect that many Estates were experimenting with extensive pre-fermentation cold soak and tried to reach high level of ripeness, and this reflects in the resulting wines. Think racy with some oomph.

At the top, 2008 is a brilliant vintage and one of the finest of its kind in the history of modern German dry wine ...

2008 delivered some stunning wines at the top and this reflects in the high number of classic rated wines (i.e. wines with 95 points or more). When the fruit was picked perfectly, the cold-soak not too extensive and the aging done appropriately, 2008 was a dream of a vintage. One Estate towers above all others in 2008: Weingut Georg Breuer. It produced not one but at least three modern-day legends out of this vintage. We continue to be (positively) surprised that an Estate with such a track record and such high quality does not get more national and international recognition. You have read it first here. However, also Keller and Trimbach produced some stunning classics, as did potentially Donnhoff. It is also to be noted that the Mosel joined the club of great dry Riesling producers. Markus Molitor produced one of the finest dry Riesling of the vintage.

... but 2008 is not a homogeneous success, as many wines bring power and surprising green-ripe notes.

Not all wines have delivered on the inherent potential of the 2008 vintage. The wet harvest conditions, the noticeable acidity and the desire by many growers to make "impressive" wines led to a series of (relative) disappointments, as our tastings have shown. The wines are marked by acidity but also some green and unripe notes, or are made from over-ripe and slightly flabby fruit. So it is not really a vintage where one can back-buy blindly any dry Riesling available on the secondary market, on the contrary. It is really necessary to follow our advice or have the opportunity to taste them oneself.

The wines are now fully open for business, even if some still benefit from additional pre-drinking airing.

The wines are aromatically fully there and have integrated their early reduction and tannic structure. However, some wines will always remain delicately on the restraint side, which means that we would always opt to open any 2008 a few hours in advance, have a sip to evaluate the situation, and if need be, air the wine.

One final comment: When to drink your 2008? The top wines will last for 25 years at least. We are talking of one of the finest vintages ever in Germany ... but, as we explained, only at the top.

Happy hunting!



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

10-Years-After Retrospective: 2008 Dry / Off-Dry Vintage Highlights

2008 Vintage Highlights – Dry / Off-Dry Wines

2008er	Georg Breuer	Rüdesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling	01 09	99
2008er	Georg Breuer	Rauenthaler Nonnenberg Riesling	03 09	97
2008er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	48 09	97
2008er	Georg Breuer	Rüdesheimer Berg Rottland Riesling	05 09	96
2008er	Keller	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken GG	44 09	96
2008er	Trimbach	Riesling Cuvée Frédéric Emile		95+
2008er	Dönnhoff	Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Trocken GG	25 09	94
2008er	Emrich-Schönleber	Monzinger Halenberg Riesling Trocken GG	12 09	94
2008er	Hugel	Riesling Jubilee		94
2008er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese ** (White Label)	42 09	94
2008er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Monzinger Halenberg Riesling Trocken GG	18 09	93+
2008er	Dr. Bürklin-Wolf	Forster Kirchenstück Riesling Trocken G.C.	26 09	93
2008er	Keller	Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG	46 09	93
2008er	Emmerich Knoll	Dürnsteiner Schütt Riesling Smaragd		93
2008er	Keller	Dalsheimer Hubacker Riesling Trocken GG	45 09	92
2008er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken R	19 09	92
2008er	Nikolaihof	Steiner Hund Riesling Reserve		92
2008er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Superior	10 09	92
2008er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Gottesfuss Riesling Alte Reben	19 09	92



Mosel Fine Wines

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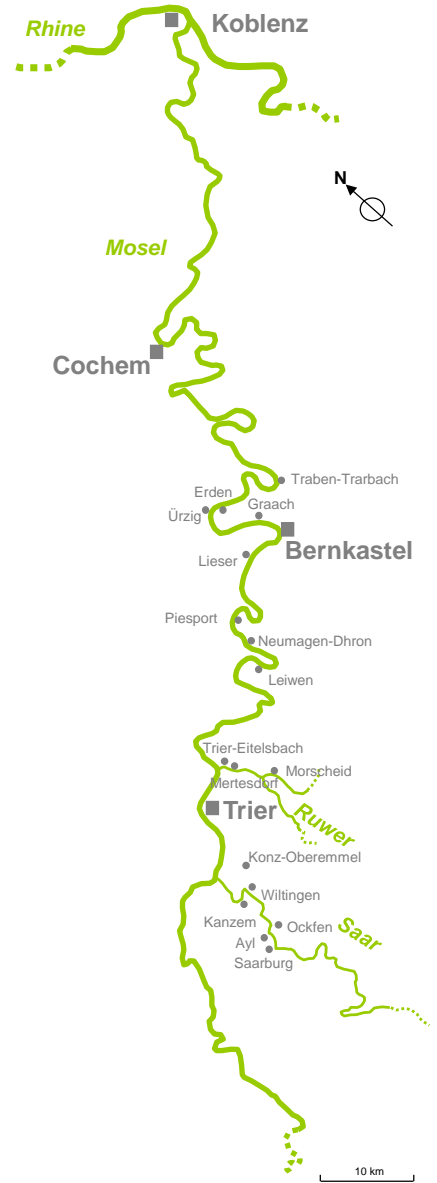
By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

10-Years-After Retrospective: 2008 – Tasting Notes (Mosel)

We had the opportunity to re-taste 100 Mosel Riesling from the 2008 vintage over the last few weeks. Besides Mosel wines, we also included some tasting notes from other regions in Germany as additional reference points in a separate section.

A.J. Adam
Bastgen
Blees-Ferber
Clemens Busch
Jos. Christoffel jr.
Stephan Ehlen
Karl Erbes
Geltz-Zilliken
Fritz Haag
Reinhold Haart
Dr. Hermann
Karlsmühle
Karthäuserhof
Kees-Kieren
von Kesselstatt
Knebel
Le Gallais
Peter Lauer
Schloss Lieser
Dr. Lippold
Loersch
Meulenhof
Merkelbach
Markus Molitor
Egon Müller
von Othegraven
Joh. Jos. Prüm
S.A. Prüm
Johann Peter Reinert
Max Ferd. Richter
Josef Rosch
Willi Schaefer
von Schubert – Maximin Grünhaus
Schwaab-Dietz
Günther Steinmetz
St. Urbans-Hof
Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch
Van Volxem
Vollenweider
Wegeler
Dr. F. Weins-Prüm
Weiser-Künstler

Neumagen-Dhron
Osann-Monzel
Leiwen
Pünderich
Ürzig
Erden
Ürzig
Saarburg
Brauneberg
Piesport
Erden
Mertesdorf
Eitelsbach
Graach
Morscheid
Winningen
Kanzem
Ayl
Lieser
Ürzig
Leiwen
Erden
Ürzig
Wehlen
Wiltigen
Kanzem
Wehlen
Wehlen
Kanzem
Mülheim
Leiwen
Graach
Mertesdorf
Erden
Brauneberg
Leiwen
Bernkastel-Kues
Wiltigen
Traben-Trarbach
Bernkastel-Kues
Wehlen
Traben-Trarbach





Mosel Fine Wines

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

10-Years-After Retrospective: 2008 – Detailed Tasting Notes (Mosel - 100 Wines)



Weingut A.J. Adam

(Neumagen-Dhron – Middle Mosel)

2008er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Spätlese	04 09	92
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This offers a beautiful nose of cassis, pineapple, grapefruit and lemon zest which are wrapped into earthy spices including laurel, cinnamon and caraway. The wine is quite concentrated yet nicely playful on the zesty and creamy palate and leaves a delicately earthy feel of herbs and some creamy fruits in the long and multi-layered finish. This Auslese in all but name is still slightly on the sweet side and will certainly benefit from a few more years of aging. 2023-2038

2008er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Kabinett	03 09	91
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This offers a rather backward nose made of white peach, a hint of apricot blossom, mirabelle, elderflower and earthy spices. The wine is focused yet fills the palate with gorgeous flavors of peach, grapefruit and white mint. A firm acidity cuts through the slightly Spätlese-styled presence and makes for an utterly elegant and juicy finish. This beautiful wine, which we featured as [wine of the month](#) back in 2010, will prove highly enjoyable for many more years to come. Now-2033

Weingut Bastgen

(Osann-Monzel – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Bastgen	Kestener Paulinshofberg Riesling Spätlese Auf den Felsen	09 09	Auction	91
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The 2008er Kestener Paulinshofberg Spätlese Auf den Felsen comes from a sector still planted with over 100 year-old un-grafted vines. It exhibits a beautiful nose made of tangerine, apricot blossom, pear and whipped cream, all wrapped into some smoky herbs. The wine develops a pure and creamy presence on the palate (it is really an Auslese in all but name) and leaves one with an herbal and spicy feel in the long and delicately zesty finish. The after-taste is all about multi-layered complexity. This is a beauty which amply confirms our early positive assessment of this wine (we featured it as [wine of the month](#) back in 2009). Now-2028

Weingut Blees-Ferber

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Blees-Ferber	Leiwener Klostergarten Riesling Eiswein	18 09	93
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This offers a mature and juicy yet fresh nose of apricot, candied orange, pineapple, lime, acacia, cinnamon and baked apple. The wine is superbly honeyed and delicately creamy yet juicy on the palate. At the same time a gloriously zest and in no way aggressive acidity peeps up the gorgeously unctuous and intense texture. This finish is magnificently balanced and singing. This BA-Eiswein styled Riesling is plain delicious. Now-2033



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2008er	Blees-Ferber	Piesporter Gärtchen Riesling Auslese	15 09	89
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This yellow-golden colored Auslese delivers a nice, aromatic and exotic nose of canned pineapple, candied grapefruit, papaya and honey as well as pear and licorice as well as a good touch of elderberry syrup with airing. The texture of the wine is still marked by quite some residual sugar on the palate. Ripe and soft acidity as well as a feel of rich exotic fruits add to a creamy yet juicy side to this still rich and youthful Auslese. The finish only timidly develops some depth after some airing. This is already quite enjoyable if one does not mind an Auslese on the sweet side. However, this will gain further in complexity over the coming years. 2023-2038

Weingut Clemens Busch

(Pünderich – Terrassenmosel)

2008er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Fahrlay-Terrassen	20 09	91
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This hay-colored wine develops a gorgeous nose of pineapple, coconut, pear and almond, all wrapped into a cocktail of spices and herbs including cinnamon, oregano, laurel and thyme. The wine proves rather firm and structured on the palate and zesty acidity provides the focus in the finish. This outstanding effort will please lovers of more forceful expressions of dry Riesling which nevertheless retain finesse. Now-2028

2008er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Raffes	23 09	90
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This hay-golden colored wine develops a captivating nose made of pear, baked pineapple, cinnamon, licorice, almond and smoky herbs. The wine develops a focused, intense and spicy feel of almond and baked apple on the palate. The wine proves remarkably present in the powerful and delicately ripe finish. This focused baroque expression of dry-tasting Riesling needs hearty winter food to absorb its presence. Now-2023

Weingut Jos. Christoffel jr.

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese ***	07 09	92
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This bright colored wine develops a stunning even if somewhat reductive and backward feel of candied grapefruit zest, cassis, pear, coconut and herbs. The wine is superbly light-weighted but also slightly restrained flavor-wise on the palate despite the fact that the zest and sweetness are in perfect balance. The finish is nicely persistent but, above all, remarkably elegant and multi-layered. Now-2033

2008er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett	01 09	92
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This offers a stunning nose of cassis, ripe peach and strawberry. The wine is delicately waxy yet feather-light on the palate and leaves a stunningly deep and complex feel in the light and playful finish. This is a superb beauty to drink mindlessly. What a great classic expression of Kabinett! Now-2028

2008er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	03 09	92
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The 2008er Würzgarten Spätlese AP 3 is a special cask which was bottled separately. This still proves rather reductive on the nose and only gradually reveals some attractive scents of pear, mirabelle, earthy spices and a hint of whipped cream. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate and leaves a gorgeously pure and racy feel in the vibrant yet multi-layered and complex finish. This is a gorgeous fruity Riesling made in a light Auslese style. Now-2033



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Weingut Stephan Ehlen

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Stephan Ehlen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett	02 09	88
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This yellow-golden colored wine offers a rather reductive nose made of some flint stone and menthol at first. After some airing, it develops notes of canned yellow peach, pineapple juice, anise and honey. The wine is nicely juicy on the palate where some apple and pear juice kick in. The finish of this Spätlese-styled fruity Riesling is nicely balanced out by some zesty acidity which cleanses the after-taste. This proves very nice to enjoy now and for many years to come. Now-2033

Weingut Karl Erbes

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese	10 09	90
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This is comparatively restrained on the first nose, yet develops ripe and attractive notes of pineapple, mirabelle, honey, mango, and butter cream with airing. The wine is still quite sweet yet loaded with ripe yellow and honeyed fruits on the palate. The finish is smooth and offers outstanding delicacy thanks to a nicely touch of tickly acidity. This will need further aging to gain in complexity and develop more aromatic presence on the nose. It should then prove a great dessert wine. 2023-2043

2008er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese Kranklay	09 09	90
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This offers a superbly fruit-driven nose with yellow peach, mirabelle, pineapple, passion fruit and grapefruit all wrapped into honey. The wine develops the presence of an Auslese presence on the juicy and creamy palate. The finish is long, full of juicy candied grapefruit and intensity. This Auslese-styled wine is nicely smooth and delicate. Now-2038

Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

(Saarburg – Saar)

2008er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein	01 09	Auction	97
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The 2008er Saarburger Rausch Eiswein was harvested at 163° Oechsle on December 30, 2008. Bright yellow-golden in color, this wine develops a stunning nose of apricot, peach, pineapple and coconut, before more typical notes from the Rausch including grapefruit, anise and chamomile join the party with airing. The wine proves superbly silky, creamy and refined on the palate and leaves a fruit-infused feel in the still quite sweet finish. This is a grandiose Eiswein developing superbly well. It will ultimately exceed our high expectations. 2023-2038

2008er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	02 09	Auction	93
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This offers a stunning nose of cassis, pear, yellow peach and gooseberry as well as flint stone and delicately green herbs. The wine proves rich and smooth on the palate, where cassis and gooseberry bring superb freshness. The after-taste is all about interplay between raciness and creaminess. This is a beautiful Saar Spätlese with Auslese presence in the making. Now-2033



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Weingut Fritz Haag

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK #13	Auction	96
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This auction Auslese GK quickly sheds off an initial whiff of reduction from sulfur to reveal a most stunning nose whipped cream, yellow peach, pineapple, apricot blossom, smoke, aniseed herbs, honey and mint as well as a great touch of cassis in the background. The wine proves gorgeously multi-layered on the palate and offers gorgeous creamy fruits wrapped into a most delicately honeyed texture. A touch of unctuous apple jelly, baked spices and marzipan comes through as well. Yet all these smooth flavors are outstandingly balanced by a juicy zesty acidity. The after-taste is intense and even powerful (despite the wine only having 7% of alcohol). This is stunning little BA in the making. Yet, it still needs extensive cellaring to fully blossom. But the patience will reward you with a great dessert wine! 2028-2058

2008er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	07 09	93
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This has evolved beautifully well over the years and offers now a stunning nose of candied orange, apricot cream, raspberry, minty herbs, sage and a hint of honeyed exotic fruits. The wine delivers plenty of ripe fruits wrapped into a most gorgeous honeyed texture on the palate. For the 2008 vintage this acts more like an Auslese than a light Spätlese, but as such it is a great fruity expression of the Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr. Now-2038

2008er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Riesling Kabinett	03 09	92
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The 2008er Brauneberger comes exclusively from the Juffer (80%) and the Juffer-Sonnenuhr (20%). This bottle under screw capsule (the wine exists under both screw cap and cork) proves still hugely reduced on the nose and only gradually reveals a stunning bouquet of peach, white minerals, pear and citrusy whipped cream. This inviting fruity feel carries over onto the palate, where a slightly riper side underpinned by licorice comes through. The finish is remarkably youthful, as the racy-sweetness interplay makes for a mouth-watering experience. While quite enjoyable now after some airing, this is actually best left alone for another couple of years. 2023-2033

Weingut Reinhold Haart

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese	14 09	95
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This proves still quite backward with only some cassis, pineapple, coconut, herbs and minerals but shows more richness with airing, as there are notes of mango, pineapple, honey and toffee kicking in. The wine proves incredibly racy and refined on the palate, where the wine develops great raciness and focus. The finish is superbly focused and refined. This is a magnificent Auslese from the 2008 vintage. 2023-2038

2008er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese	12 09	91
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This offers a rather beautiful nose of mirabelle, orange peel, pear and earthy spices. The wine develops quite some ripe fruits and caramel on the palate. The finish is juicy and leaves a feel of herbs and minerals in the long and ample after-taste. Now-2028

2008er	Reinhold Haart	Wintricher Ohligsberg Riesling Trocken GG	02 09	91
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This offers a beautiful nose of pear, quince, licorice, herbs, spices and some camphor. The wine proves beautifully elegant and smooth yet focused on the palate (the wine does have almost 9 g/l of residual sugar). The finish has good presence without undue power. The complexity in the after-taste is staggering as some salty and spicy elements come through. This is a beautiful, delicately baroque expression of dry Mosel Riesling. Now-2033

2008er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Trocken GG	03 09	89
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This yellow-colored wine delivers a typical nose of almond and licorice wrapped into an exotic blanket made of pineapple, cassis and fine herbs. The wine is on the smooth and delicately lactic side on the palate and exhibits quite some yellow fruits in the creamy finish. This proves a very good wine made for food. Now-2028



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Weingut Dr. Hermann

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Dr. Hermann	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Eiswein GK	17 09	92
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The 2008er Erdener Treppchen Eiswein was harvested at a full 155° Oechsle. This deep yellow-colored wine develops a slightly broad nose of candied orange, brown sugar, honey, herbs, date and licorice. It starts off on the rather rich and ripe side on the palate before a quite striking touch of acidity kicks in and provides rather firm structure to the finish. This rather ample and sturdy expression of Eiswein is still far from being ready. Patience is still needed for the acidity to melt away into the sweetness. 2023-2038

2008er	Dr. Hermann	Erdener Herrenberg Riesling Eiswein	16 09	91+
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The 2008er Erdener Herrenberg Eiswein was harvested at "only" 130° Oechsle. Already deep golden in color, this wine develops a slightly broad but complex nose of licorice, almond, passion fruit, date, raisin and sticky toffee pudding. The wine is still quite sugary sweet on the palate and this dominates any attempt at complexity. The finish reveals already some interesting even if slightly broad flavors. We would really advise any owner to wait for another 5 years at least before cracking upon another bottle. 2023-2038

2008er	Dr. Hermann	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese GK Herzlay	11 09	89
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The 2008er Erdener Treppchen Spätlese GK Herzlay comes from a privileged sector close to the Erdener Prälat and still planted with very old un-grafted vines. This wine has exhibits an inviting nose made of grapefruit, pear, mirabelle and pungent earthy spices and herbs. It proves rather light-weighted on the palate and leaves a clean but slightly direct feel in the long and hearty finish, however without the ultimate complexity usually found in Dr. Hermann wines. Now-2028

Weingut Karlsmühle

(Mertesdorf – Trier-Ruwer)

2008er	Karlsmühle	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese	13 09	91
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This wine is already surprisingly deep in color. An initial whiff of sulfur reduction quickly gives way to gorgeous notes of exotic fruits including mango, guava and passion fruit as well as dried apricot, grapefruit, lime and smoke on the nose. The wine hits the palate with intense and almost overwhelming notes of honey, canned pineapple, mango and tar. Yet, all this is nicely framed by a most animating and refreshing acidity. Despite the overall richness of this wine (forget about the word Spätlese on the label, this is an Auslese if not an Auslese GK if one takes the vintage context into account), the finish proves focused and leaves one with grapefruit zest, lime and smoke in the after-taste. This forceful expression of fruity Riesling is quite impressive and will please lovers of sweet wines with a good kick of acidity. Now-2028

Weingut Karthäuserhof

(Eitelsbach – Trier-Ruwer)

2008er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Spätlese Nr. 48	Auction	92
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This golden-hay colored wine delivers a gorgeous and delicately ripe nose of pear, mirabelle, apple, sage and minty herbs. The wine develops the delicately creamy presence of a light Auslese on the palate, a feeling which is reinforced by the well-integrated and rather ripe acidity. The finish is beautifully long and enticing as one is left with a kaleidoscope of flavors in the after-taste. Now-2033



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Weingut Kees-Kieren

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Kees-Kieren	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett **	22 09	Auction	93
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This gorgeously burst out of the glass with myriads of ripe exotic fruits, including mango, passion fruit and pineapple as well as honey, ripe apricot, date, plum, canned yellow peach and tar. The wine is actually still very primary and is loaded with sweetness, ripe fruits and honey giving this very juicy wine an ample and mouth-coating feeling. The finish is smooth as well as nicely zesty and gorgeously long. This is really hugely impressive, and one should definitely forget about the word Kabinett written on the label: This is an Auslese GK ... but a great and juicy one! Now-2048

Weingut Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt

(Morscheid – Trier-Ruwer)

2008er	von Kesselstatt	Josephshöfer Riesling Trocken GG	49 09		91
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This offers a superb fruit-driven nose made of lemon curd, apricot, fresh pineapple and grapefruit zest all wrapped into spices and a hint of tar and smoke. The wine is nicely structured and offers good presence and intensity on the palate. There is in addition superb freshness thanks to a subtle yet animating acidity running through the wine. Apple, grapefruit and lime make for a zesty feel. The finish is light, dynamic and just slightly tart. This is a, outstanding dry Riesling to enjoy over the coming decade. Now-2028

2008er	von Kesselstatt	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese	32 09		91
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This displays floral scents as well as menthol, herbs, anise, cardamom, thyme and violet on the nose. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate as it wraps juicy fresh fruits into some candied grapefruit and minty herbs. The finish is long and persistent, but also still on the sweet side (giving the wine almost Auslese presence). While already very enjoyable now, this will further gain in precision over the coming decade. 2023-2038

2008er	von Kesselstatt	Josephshöfer Riesling Kabinett	39 09		87
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This offers a direct, ripe and fruity nose yellow peach, apple, greengage and grapefruit as well as dried spices, tar and licorice. The wine shows quite some ripe fruits driven by apricot, mango and apple on the palate. These lead to a smooth and almost soft and still rather sweet finish. This proves a very good wine, but one which is direct, easy, and nicely fruity. Now-2028

Weingut Knebel

(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

2008er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Beereauslese	16 09		94
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This 2008er BA was harvested at a whopping 180° Oechsle, i.e. well into TBA territory. It delivers an exquisite and rich nose of honey, bakery elements, mango, mirabelle and smoke. Further exotic flavors come through on the palate and its richness and density make for a rich and superbly velvety feel in the extraordinary long finish. The after-taste shows true refinement and delicacy with some grapefruit and citrus driven acidity coming through. This has not the usual liqueur one would find in a TBA, yet it is an impressive and rich dessert BA. 2023-2048

2008er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	13 09	Auction	93
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This delivers a gorgeously delicate and pure nose of exotic nuances, praline, ripe pineapple, mango, baked apple, almond paste, candied melon and pear wrapped into honey and fresher scents of smoke, mint and cassis. The wine delivers great balance between sweet candied fruits and exquisite lightness on the juicy palate. The finish is delicate, smooth and fresh. This is a magnificent rich, juicy and refined auction Spätlese to enjoy over the coming decades. Now-2038



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Weingut Peter Lauer

(Ayl – Saar)

2008er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Kern Fass 9	92
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The 2008er Kern comes from a south-west parcel situated in the classical part of the Ayler Kupp hill and was fermented down to 40 g/l of residual sugar. The wine develops a beautifully engaging nose driven by grapefruit, coconut, ginger and smoky herbs. It is beautifully well balanced and playful on the palate, where a touch of acidity adds to the overall pleasure of enjoying this wine. The finish is juicy and beautifully off-dry. What a great success in this vintage! Now-2033

2008er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Stirn Fass 15	91
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The 2008er Stirn comes from a parcel situated in the upper cooler and windier part of the original Ayler Kupp hill and was fermented down to 35 g/l of residual sugar. It develops a beautiful nose of pear sorbet, grape, licorice, oregano and smoke. The wine proves barely off-dry on the elegant and playful palate (one would never guess that it has 35 g/l of residual sugar). The finish is playful and delicately airy. A nice touch of zest brings focus to the caramel and licorice infused after-taste. Now-2028

2008er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Fass 25	88
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The 2008er Ayler Kupp Fass 25 is made from parcels in the Scheidterberg and the Sonnenberg and was fermented to off-dry levels (14 g/l of residual sugar). It develops an attractive nose of mirabelle sorbet, licorice, yellow peach and yellow plum. The wine proves elegant and animatingly fresh on the palate, where it develops remarkable elegance and finesse for a more "Village" wine. Now-2028

2008er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Fass 2	86
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The 2008er Ayler Kupp Fass 2 comes from a parcel in the Neuberg sector of the original Ayler Kupp hill and was fermented to bone dry levels. It develops a delicately broad nose of poached pear, licorice, tangerine, minerals and spices. The wine proves on the powerful side on the palate and leaves a slightly hot feel in the finish (it does boast 13.5% of alcohol). This screams for hearty food. Now-2023

Weingut Le Gallais

(Kanzem – Saar)

2008er	Le Gallais	Wiltinger braune Kupp Riesling Auslese GK	09 09	Auction	90+
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Deep golden and already slightly orange in color, this develops quite a nose of volatile acidity, canned peach, pineapple, quince and honey. The wine is quite mighty and structured on the palate (it shows a bold 9% of alcohol on the label), giving way to a rather bitter and slightly out of balance texture in the finish, even if the residual sugar slightly covers this feeling. It gains in presence after extensive airing but still comes over as remarkably powerful and slightly dissociated. Will this ever integrate? At the moment, it proves rather disconcerting and for sure does not reach the usual standards for such high-end bottlings. 2023-2038

Weingut Schloss Lieser

(Lieser – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	12 09	94
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This offers a stunning nose of white peach, star fruit, pineapple and pear wrapped in a gorgeous feel of whipped cream. The wine is still completely reduced on the palate and only hints at a gloriously pure feel of peach, apricot and pineapple in the smooth, focused and multi-layered finish. At the moment, this beauty still needs days to develop its inner focus. We would therefore urge readers to leave this alone for another decade or possibly more in order to get the most out of this amazing Auslese GK in the making. 2028-2048



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2008er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	13 09	Auction	93+
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This offers a big and hugely complex nose made of tangerine, yellow peach, mango, honey, strawberry and minty herbs. The wine develops a rather ample, Auslese-styled feel on the palate, where apricot, honey and peach give an elegant but imposing side to the wine. The finish is still dominated by sweetness in need of integration but some beautifully zesty acidity comes through in the after-taste. This gains significantly with airing over days. This Auslese in all but name is a stunner but one which will test the wine lovers' patience as it is a solid decade away from showing its immense potential. 2028-2043+

2008er	Schloss Lieser	Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Spätlese	07 09		91+
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This offers a hugely elegant and refined nose of smoke, citrus, dried flowers, herbs and mint. The wine offers great presence on the palate where there is a superb interplay between some riper fruits including yellow peach, apricot and pineapple and a nicely juicy acidity driven by grapefruit and lime. The sweetness of the wine still dominates the finish and makes the wine feel rather round at this stage. This will benefit of a few more years of bottle aging to gain in focus and develops its inner beauty. 2023-2038

Weinbau Dr. Lippold

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Dr. Lippold	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	02 09		92
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The 2008er Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese Alte Reben is made from 55 year-old vines in the Gewann Weltersberg, a prime sector situated in the upper part of the Würzgarten, downriver from Ürzig. The wine offers a most delicate and flowery nose of vineyard peach, rose petal, orange blossom, lime and balm. The wine is beautifully playful even if still aromatically restrained on the palate. But its delicacy and refinement are already quite breathtaking. The finish is pure and airy as well as zesty and dynamic, courtesy of a gorgeously juicy and perfectly integrated acidity. Despite approx. 40 g/l of residual sugar, the finish comes over as beautifully off-dry rather than fully fruity-styled. This may appear light or zesty at first, but make no mistake, this little jewel only needs time in the glass to blossom. This is a great zesty, light yet layered Spätlese which will prove quite irresistible at maturity, in something like 5 years' time. 2023-2038

2008er	Dr. Lippold	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Hochgewächs	01 09		88
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This still bright-colored wine proves quite reduced and slightly marked by SO2 at first before it gradually opens up to reveal an elegant, youthful and fresh bouquet of dried flowers, wet slate, green apple, anise, mint and ginger. Although being light and delicate on the palate, the wine develops good presence and depth and leaves an intense feel in the herbal and tart finish. The minty and dry-tasting after-taste makes one salivate and want to go for more. As surprising as it may sound (as this is a "mere" Hochgewächs), this wine has still not reached its drinking window, and will gain from further cellaring. 2021-2028

Weingut Loersch

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

The Weingut Loersch was called Weingut Loersch-Eifel until the 2011 vintage.

2008er	Loersch-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese Alte Reben	19 09		93
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This subtly golden colored wine develops a hugely aromatic nose made of mirabelle, baked pineapple, beeswax, honey, licorice and fine herbs, all wrapped into smoky slate. The wine is quite sweet but packed with stunning flavors of honeyed and delicately dried fruits. This small BA in the making proves remarkably complex and persistent. One is left with a great sense of ripe pure flavors of dried fruits and honey in the after-taste. It is already enjoyable, but we would opt to wait another few years for the sweetness to integrate more into the wine. 2023-2038

2008er	Loersch-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Spätlese	14 09		92
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This offers a beautifully pure nose of pear, white peach, fine herbs and mint. The wine develops a delicately creamy and sweet presence on the palate and leaves a superbly playful and tickly feel in the long and silky finish. This beautiful Spätlese offers great presence and juicy creaminess. It is already enjoyable, but we would opt to wait another few years for the sweetness to integrate more into the wine. 2023-2033



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Weingut Merkelbach

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	18 09	Auction	93
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This delicately golden-colored beauty delivers a most exquisite and gorgeously delicate nose of white flowers, vineyard peach, whipped cream, orange zest, candied grapefruit, anise and a hint of smoke. These are joined by more exotic fruits as the wine expands in the glass. It offers a myriad of complex juicy flavors on the delicately creamy palate. The finish is soft and subtle. This ethereal Spätlese has developed magnificently well, far exceeding our early expectations! Now-2038

Weingut Meulenhof

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Meulenhof	Erdener Prälät Riesling Spätlese	09 09		89
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This still slightly reductive wine only gradually reveals its nicely complex nose made of flint stone, grilled pineapple, grapefruit zest, smoke and menthol. With airing, riper scents of apricot, a hint of mango and fine honey join the party. The wine proves juicy and still quite sweet on the palate. Juicy yellow and exotic fruits add a softness and smoothness to the experience. This juicy and direct Spätlese has managed to overcome its massive initial reduction and proves very easy to drink now in a still slightly backward style. Now-2033

Weingut Markus Molitor

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Schlossberg Riesling Auslese ** (Golden Label)	48 09		94
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This bright yellow-colored wine develops a hugely subtle nose made of mirabelle, cassis, greengage, under-ripe pineapple and whipped cream. This sense of finesse continues on the palate, where the wine proves subtle, not overly concentrated, playful and elegant. The finish is a delight as a hint of honey brings the right touch of depth to the overall remarkably fresh flavors. Everything is so beautifully in balance here. Far from being a powerhouse, this plays on subtlety and finesse. What a wine (which, incidentally, we featured as [wine of the month](#) upon release). Now-2038

2008er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese ** (White Label)	42 09		94
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The dry 2008er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Auslese ** immediately draws one's attention through its beautiful white-yellow color. The wine develops a complex and quite fruit-driven nose made of mirabelle, greengage, pineapple, a hint of beeswax and plenty of aniseed herbs, all wrapped into some smoky slate. The wine is delicately smooth and intense on the palate and leaves a big, complex and multi-layered feel of minerals, apple, mint, greengage and herbs in the long and silky finish. This gorgeously complex wine screams for hearty food. This beauty still gains significantly from airing, so do not hesitate to open half a day in advance, if you can. 2023-2033

2008er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Golden Label)	23 09	Auction	93
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The fruity 2008er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese Auction develops a stunning nose of pear, mint, whipped cream, caraway and slate. The wine is beautifully airy, precise and juicy on the delicately creamy yet zesty palate. Here, flavors of ripe pear blend into some earthy herbs right into the lingeringly long finish. The wine has the precision of a Spätlese with the presence of an Auslese. But what a terrific effort! Now-2038



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Weingut Egon Müller zu Scharzhof

(Wiltingen – Saar)

2008er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese	04 09	91+
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This Scharzhofberger Spätlese AP 4 (there were two different bottlings made in 2008) offers a rather reduced nose of grapefruit, lemon, lemon grass, licorice and herbs. The wine is still quite backward on the palate, where the acidity adds structure and focus to the wine. The finish is still remarkably abrupt and almost non-saying. This still needs quite some years to develop its full balance. 2023-2038

Weingut von Othegraven

(Kanzem – Saar)

2008er	von Othegraven	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese	16 09	Auction	92
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This offers a superbly complex nose mixing ripe yellow peach, grapefruit, earl grey and a touch of quince with fresher scents of flinty smoke, flowers and herbs. The wine feels quite youthful and the fruit sweetness and creaminess give it real Auslese presence. A superbly integrated acidity cleanses the palate and gives quite some freshness to the finish. The after-taste is very persistent and full of lime and spices. Now-2033

Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese	05 09	92
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This bright-colored Auslese offers a beautiful nose of pear, licorice, herbs and fine spices. The wine proves beautifully balanced on the palate and leaves an elegant and playful silky feel in the long and beautifully smooth finish. This is a textbook Auslese by JJ Prüm which now starts to be extremely nice to taste. Now-2033

2008er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	17 09	92
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This offers a gorgeous nose of white peach, minty herbs and fine spices all wrapped into some bacon infused notes from residues of spontaneous fermentation. The wine is beautifully light and balanced on the palate and leaves an airy and superbly lively feel of herbs, white flowers and fine spices in the long finish. What a gorgeously beautiful Kabinett to drink mindlessly on a sunny day! Now-2038

2008er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	07 14	92
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This bright-colored wine develops a delicately ripe yet youthful nose of pear, white flowers, bacon (from reduction), fine herbs, licorice and spices. The wine proves delicately smooth and creamy, with rather moderate and well-integrated acidity on the palate. The finish has the complex delicacy of an Auslese with the refined playful side of a Spätlese. Now-2033

2008er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	12 09	91+
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Reductive notes of sulfur only gradually give way to superb notes of grapefruit, minty herbs, smoke, grilled pineapple, almond cream and a hint of mango. While the nose is more reminiscent of a Spätlese, the palate clearly offers the full smooth and creamy presence of an Auslese. This is only timidly freshened up by some earthy spices in the finish at this stage. This still needs a couple of years to shed some of its reduction and develop its full complex potential. 2023-2038

2008er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	10 09	91
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Signs of reduction (struck match) give way to superbly floral nuances, yellow peach, smoke, almond cream, and minty herbs after airing. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate with juicy yellow fruits, peach, guava and a hint of melon. The finish is delicately smooth and long. This still needs a few couple of years to shed its reductive side and fully shine. 2023-2038



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2008er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	09 09	90
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This offers a splendid even if flinty nose of gooseberry, mint, white peach, herbs and fine spices. The wine is delicately fruity and light on the palate and leaves a clean and fruity feel in the zesty and linear finish. This light and off-dry tasting Kabinett is still extremely backward and has plenty of life ahead. Now-2033

2008er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese	02 09	89
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This exhibits a smoky nose of wet stone, stone fruits, green apple, herbs, anise and a touch of fennel. The wine is straight and zesty on the palate with a very light-weighted and lean structure. A hint of smoothness coming from yellow peach appears in the medium-long and rather straight finish. This light version of Spätlese is only starting to slowly show its first signs of blossoming, but there is no hurry to drink all of your bottles. Now-2033

2008er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	03 09	87+
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This is still massively reduced and marked by quite pungent notes of sulfur and struck match. It only timidly shows some notes of peach, gooseberry, apple and smoke. There are more yellow fruits coming through on the palate. The wine is light-weighted, comparatively lean and tart in the medium-long finish. This will definitely need further cellaring in order to shed some of its reductive side and develop its aromatics. It could then well exceed our present perspective. 2023-2033

Weingut S.A. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2008er	S.A. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	09 09	89
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This offers an inviting nose of quince, grapefruit, apricot blossom, white flower and almond. The wine is finely oxidative in style and nicely balanced on the deliciously zesty palate. The finish then brings an almond-infused side which adds to the pleasure of enjoying this direct yet multi-layered Kabinett. Now-2028

2008er	S.A. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett Trocken	06 09	85
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This bright hay-yellow colored wine develops a vivid and slightly green nose of lemon, grapefruit, and white minerals. The wine is remarkably sharp on the palate as firm acidity makes for a slightly austere and backward experience. The finish is quite long, backward and smoky. It is also somewhat harsh as a result of the strong acidity. This steely effort will please lovers of acidic, Saar-styled wines. Now-2023

Weingut Johann Peter Reinert

(Kanzem – Saar)

2008er	Johann Peter Reinert	Ayler Kupp Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	23 09	<i>Auction</i>	92
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This bright white-hay colored wine is simply singing. It offers a gorgeous nose of minty herbs, white peach, a hint of whipped cream for good soothing measure and quite some white chalky minerals. The wine is deliciously racy and delicately smooth on the palate and leaves a lively and focused feel of gooseberry, whipped cream and apple in the beautifully long finish. One could easily finish a bottle of this wine made with Kabinett lightness in one go. It is simply plain delicious and remarkably youthful. Now-2033

Weingut Max Ferd. Richter

(Mülheim – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	13 09	93
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This delivers a highly complex and superbly fresh nose of smoke, lead pencil, white peach and gooseberry. The wine is packed with intense yet refined notes of fresh fruits on the mid-palate. However the acidity and the zesty side of fruits quickly come to the forefront in the fresh and intense finish. This is only starting to enter its drinking window and will be a joy to drink over the next two decades. Now-2038



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2008er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Spätlese	39 09	93
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This offers a superb nose of raspberry, yellow peach, cardamom, spices, mint and whipped cream. The wine is elegantly creamy and refined on the palate and delivers great complex notes of spices and white orchard fruits in the long finish. This terrific, refined and delicate Spätlese lives from freshness and persistence. Now-2038

2008er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	19 09	92
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This shows a very delicate, ripe yet beautifully complex nose of apricot, mango, pineapple and peach. The wine develops superb creamy presence on the palate, which leads to a delicate and still slightly sweet finish. However, a great sense of freshness lurks in the background. This Auslese-styled Riesling only needs another five years to fully shine 2023-2033

2008er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Auslese	09 09	92
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This offers a great minty nose of white orchard fruits, cardamom, smoke and anise. The wine is superbly creamy yet delicate on the palate. The finish is all about refinement. This beautifully fresh and a pure Auslese offers great drinking pleasure. Now-2038

2008er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	26 09	92
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This is beautifully tight and fresh on the nose as it gradually reveals gorgeous notes of herbs, sage, spices, white peach and gooseberry. Zesty fruits drive the palate at first before a touch of cream kick in as the wine expands. This real Kabinett delivers great freshness and intensity. Now-2038

2008er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett	08 09	91
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This is still quite primary yet offers ripe notes of mango, yellow peach, candied grapefruit and tar. The wine proves intense as quite some creamy fruits emerge on the palate. The finish is beautifully fresh and delightful. This is really more a Spätlese than a light Kabinett but, as such, a superb fruity-styled Mosel at the beginning of its maturity phase. Now-2033

2008er	Max Ferd. Richter	Mülheimer Sonnenlay Riesling Auslese Trocken	17 09	90
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This proves beautifully open for business as scents of white peach, mint, cardamom, anise and violet emerge from the glass. The wine proves superbly structured with good presence and intensity as well as fresh notes of gooseberry, mint and anise hit one on the palate. The finish is very long and exhibits a touch of power. This still proves remarkably youthful but already offers much pleasure. Now-2028

Weingut Josef Rosch

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Josef Rosch	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Spätlese	09 09	90
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Light golden in color, this displays a really refined set of aromatics including mint, grapefruit, anise, yellow peach, smoke and dried spices as well as a hint of coconut cream, toffee and fennel. The wine develops quite some ripe and juicy fruits on the palate, a feeling amplified by a creamy texture with flavors of almond and coconut cream. The feeling is very smooth and delicate, and there is a touch of grapefruit driven acidity coming through in the finish, which gives balance and length to the wine. The after-taste in this delicate and rather playful Spätlese is all about juicy ripe peach and a hint of toffee. Now-2038

Weingut Willi Schaefer

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	11 09	Auction	96
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This offers a beautiful even if still rather backward nose of peach, strawberry, mirabelle, melon, lemon and herbs all wrapped into a fresher touch of cassis. Despite the ripeness, the wine remains beautifully undercooled on the palate, where herbs and fine spices paired with strawberry give depth to this stunningly complex Auslese. The acidity is superbly integrated and contributes to the great playful mouthwatering feel in the finish. 2023-2038



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2008er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	05 09	94
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The 2008er Domprobst Spätlese AP 5 is simply a beauty. The wine starts off by delivering the most wonderfully racy notes of pear, mirabelle, white peach and laurel. These then give way to a gorgeous interplay between ripe acidity and creamy fruits on the palate. The wine is superbly balanced and delivers its good with great tension and focus. The finish is lively, fresh, creamy and, above all, hugely complex and elegant. What a beauty! Now-2033

2008er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	06 09	Auction	93
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This offers a stunning nose of pear, laurel, herbs and fine spices. The wine develops a hint of licorice and ripe pear on the palate and leaves a superb and mouthwatering feel in the long and complex finish. This little beauty more than fulfills the high hopes we had set on it young (we featured it as [wine of the month](#) back in 2009). Now-2033

2008er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	08 09	92
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This delivers an engaging and aromatic nose made of butter cream, almond paste, toffee, apple, yellow peach, conference pear, dried herbs and laurel. The wine coats the palate with juicy exotic fruits including mango and papaya. The finish is still quite on the sweet and smooth side, also because of the ripe nature of the acidity. This full on, deliciously creamy dessert wine should prove quite enjoyable for many more decades to come. Now-2038

2008er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett	02 09	92
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This offers a still slightly reduced nose made of greengage, white peach, grapefruit, mirabelle, earthy herbs and spices. The wine is delicately creamy yet refreshingly minty on the palate. A nice touch of playful acidity gives focus and brings a lively side to the long and multi-layered finish. While already hugely enjoyable now, this could still improve with a few more years of bottle age. This amply fulfills the high hopes we had set on this wine early on (we featured it as a [wine of the month](#) back in 2009). 2023-2033

Weingut von Schubert – Maximin Grünhaus

(Mertesdorf – Trier-Ruwer)

2008er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Eiswein	23 09	95
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The 2008er Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Eiswein was harvested at a full 170° Oechsle on December 29, 2008. This orange-colored wine develops a gorgeous nose of apricot, herbs, furniture polish, date, fig and licorice. It proves superbly smooth and refined on the palate where the interplay between cream and zest is simply stunning. This behaves more like a BA with date, fig and apricot, even if a hint of Eiswein character comes through in the finish to add freshness and intensity. Now-2048

2008er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese	16 09	93
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This yellow-hay colored wine delivers a beautifully juicy nose of apple, mango, coconut, some whipped cream and minty herbs. The wine is beautifully lively on the palate and in the remarkably zesty finish. Here grapefruit and peach add a succulent side to the racy aromatics. This is plain gorgeous and remarkably easy to drink. Now-2033

2008er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Superior	10 09	92
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The 2008er Abtsberg Superior was fermented down to 18 g/l of residual sugar. It develops an engaging and youthful nose of cassis, vanilla, lemon, yellow peach, pear and some creamy herbs. It proves nicely refined and playfully elegant on the delicately creamy palate. The finish is zesty and refined. More lemon zest comes through in the after-taste and adds to the overall tart pleasure of enjoying this wine. This has still plenty of years ahead. Now-2033

2008er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett	14 09	89+
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This bright-yellow colored Kabinett still proves rather backward and only gradually reveals a beautiful nose blending mirabelle with grapefruit and minty herbs. The wine is remarkably sharp and lively on the palate, with still some youthful and assertive green elements in need of integration. This still behaves like a work-in-progress Kabinett and it is really only in the after-taste that the full complex beauty starts to emerge. 2023-2038



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2008er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Bruderberg Riesling	13 09	88
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This white-hay colored wine still proves marked by reductive elements (and this after 10 years!) and only gradually develops a most engaging and vibrant nose made of cassis, pear, minty herbs and chalky minerals. The wine proves rather smooth and ripe on the pear and spice infused palate and it is only in the finish that the zesty acidity of the Ruwer comes through, paired with some ethereal pine elements. This proves comparatively big for a Ruwer wine but it is extremely easy to enjoy. Now-2028

Weingut Schwaab-Dietz

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

Weingut Schwaab-Dietz is a small family Estate resulting from the split-up of the rather well-known Schwaab-Scheer Estate in 1970. It holds a prime parcel in the Erdener Prälät and did also own a vineyard in the Wehlener Sonnenuhr until the Flurbereinigung around 2010.

2008er	Schwaab-Dietz	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese	11 09	87
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This offers a nicely direct, open and attractive nose of coconut cream, canned yellow peach, smoke, anise, spices and honey. The wine is driven by juicy honeyed and yellow fruits on the smooth and delicate palate. The nicely sweet and rather direct finish is enhanced by some quince and pear in the medium-intense after-taste. Now-2028

2008er	Schwaab-Dietz	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	12 09	87
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This displays a quite aromatic nose of almond cream, toffee, coconut milk, grapefruit, menthol and anise. Sweetness paired with ample juicy and fruity cream give this wine a clear Auslese character, despite the underlying touch of acidity which comes timidly through in a medium-long and juicy finish. The after-taste is full of toffee and pineapple juice. This is nice to drink as a juicy and clean Auslese. Now-2028

Weingut Günther Steinmetz

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Günther Steinmetz	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Spätlese *	08 09	92
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This offers a beautiful nose of grapefruit, coconut, cassis, elderflower and a whiff of earthy spices. The wine proves nicely playful and delicately off-dry rather than fruity on the palate (it does have 9% of alcohol) and leaves a clean and gorgeously juicy feel in the long and nicely intense finish. The after-taste is all about silky multi-layered complexity. This is a truly beautiful Spätlese made in the traditional style with less residual sugar. Now-2028

2008er	Günther Steinmetz	Kestener Paulinsberg Riesling Spätlese **	10 09	92
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This bright yellow colored wine develops a beautiful nose of cassis, grapefruit zest, coconut, and apricot blossom, all wrapped into a strong reductive blanket of slate and smoke. It is beautifully juicy and tickly on the palate. A great touch of creamy and waxy fruits comes through and accompanies one right into the still quite structured finish. The after-taste then reveals the ripeness of the grapes as apricot blossom, a bit of honey and some cardamom as well as some white mint come through. All in all, this is a beautiful wine delivering Auslese presence with Spätlese playfulness. Now-2038

2008er	Günther Steinmetz	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese *	11 09	91
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This offers a delicately complex nose of greengage, mirabelle, aniseed herbs and ground spices. The wine is beautifully playful and balanced on the palate and leaves a slightly assertive and delicately tart feel in the mouth-watering finish. This proves still rather backward but should show its full potential in a few years' time. 2023-2038

2008er	Günther Steinmetz	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese **	12 09	91
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This offers a delicately powerful nose of lemon zest, greengage, mirabelle, wet slate and dried Provence herbs. The wine is rather firm and assertive on the palate (it does boast 9% of alcohol) and leaves a satisfying fruity rather than fully sweet feel in the long and hearty finish. A touch of bitterness cleanses the after-taste and makes one go for more. Now-2028



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2008er	Günther Steinmetz	Kestener Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese	16 09	90
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This Spätlese offers a slightly timid yet rather fresh and lively nose made of apple, aniseed herbs and chalky minerals. The wine is delicately off-dry rather than fruity on the palate (it does have 9% of alcohol) and leaves a direct and hearty feel in the nicely intense and beautifully focused finish. This now screams for food. Now-2023+

2008er	Günther Steinmetz	Mülheimer Sonnenlay Riesling Spätlese Trocken	04 09	89
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Hay-golden in color, this dry Spätlese offers the telltale flowery and aniseed nose of the Mülheimer Sonnenlay, all wrapped into some smoky slate. The wine proves beautifully slender and playful on the palate and leaves a clean and animating feel of herbs, minerals and apply flavors in the juicy finish. Now-2028

Weingut St. Urbans-Hof

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2008er	St. Urbans-Hof	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese	18 09	<i>Auction</i>	91
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Quite flinty and marked by a whiff of sulfur at first, this only gradually reveals a comparatively restrained and fresh nose with hints of yellow peach, grapefruit, green apple, orange zest and smoke. The wine develops nice depth and presence on the palate. Here, juicy yellow fruits and honey give the wine a nicely complex side. The long and zesty finish of this beautiful Spätlese is fresh and develops good grip. Now-2033

Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Thanisch)

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	06 09		92
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This is still quite aromatically restrained at first and only gradually reveals its stunning nose made of vineyard peach, candied grapefruit, orange blossom, almond cream, minty herbs and smoke. This all leads to a gorgeously creamy, delicately floral and refined palate. As we expected early on, this Spätlese gained significantly in stature and presence, without losing its sheer freshness and finesse. The wine still gains massively from being open (ideally several days), which means that this beautiful Spätlese will only blossom in a few years' time. 2023-2038

Weingut Van Volxem

(Wiltingen – Saar)

2008er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Gottesfuss Riesling Alte Reben	19 09		92
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This offers a rather ripe nose of pear, quince, star fruit and earthy spices. The wine is beautifully focused on the palate, where a touch of sweet smoothness provides the right balance to the tickly acidity. The finish is delicately complex but also still on the off-dry side of things. While not ready, this hints already at a nice balance between presence and finesse. 2023-2038

2008er	Van Volxem	Scharzhofberger Riesling P.	22 09		90+
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This dark yellow-colored wine develops a rather powerful nose of infused pear, chamomile, vanilla and cardamom. The wine proves quite complex on the smooth and delicately powerful palate. Here, baked apple, earthy spices and a touch of aniseed herbs make for a backward experience. The finish reveals the primary side of the wine as tart elements still tower above the inherent complexity. This still needs to develop aromatically. 2023-2038



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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Vollenweider

(Traben-Trarbach – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Vollenweider	Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese	03 09	91
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This displays a very delicate nose of white flowers, whipped almond cream, apricot flower, smoke and a hint of nutmeg. The wine is superbly juicy on the palate. Its refined creamy texture paired with gorgeous fruit flavors (including apricot, strawberry and pineapple) make for an Auslese experience. Yet there is a good kick of candied grapefruit in the long and focused finish. Niow-2038

2008er	Vollenweider	Riesling	10 09	87
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This Estate Riesling develops a quite smoky and reductive side at first before it reveals a beautifully fresh nose made of grapefruit, lime, mint, yellow peach and freshly cut pineapple, all wrapped into thyme and laurel. The wine hits the palate with some intense grapefruit driven acidity giving this now fully dry-tasting wine a straight and almost lean structure. Lots of spices run through the wine and add to the tart feel in the long and remarkably powerful finish. Now

Weingüter Wegeler

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Wegeler	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Spätlese Vintage Collection	08 13	91
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The 2008er Bernkasteler Badstube Kabinett Vintage Collection is a late-release from the Estate's cellars in 2018. The wine is still rather reduced and only gradually reveals its beautiful nose made of apple, conference pear, laurel and smoky slate. The wine proves nicely playful on the palate as a delicately creamy sense of fruitiness is nicely pepped up by some tickly acidity. It leaves one with a nicely fruity and zesty feel in the medium-long finish. Now-2028

2008er	Wegeler	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett Vintage Collection	06 09	90
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The 2008er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett Vintage Collection is a late-release from the Estate's cellars in 2018. The wine develops a beautiful nose of cassis, candied grapefruit, pear, mint and chalky minerals. The wine proves beautifully playful and remarkably present for a Kabinett on the palate. There is still quite some sweetness, but it is perfectly wrapped into zesty acidity. This outstanding effort has still plenty of life ahead. Now-2033

Weingut Dr. F. Weins-Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Dr. F. Weins-Prüm	Erdener Prälat Riesling Spätlese	10 09	94
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This offers a beautiful nose of yellow peach, almond, green apple, apricot blossom and cream, all wrapped into some earthy herbs and spices. The wine is gorgeously playful and racy on the comparatively slender palate. This leads to a gorgeously complex and fruit-laden feel in the long and juicy finish. While it is dangerously easy to knock down, there is real depth in this wine which still proves hardly evolved at all. What a beauty! Now-2033

2008er	Dr. F. Weins-Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	03 09	93
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This bright white-lay colored Spätlese delivers a stunning even if still slightly reductive nose made of citrusy fruits, white and yellow peach, aniseed herbs and white flowers. The wine is simply stunningly playful on the palate as the interplay between juicy acidity and delicately creamy fruits makes for the most wonderful and complex mouthwatering feel. The finish is delicately creamy yet nicely racy. This is textbook Mosel wine to enjoy by the bucket load! Those who followed our advice early on (we featured it as [wine of the month](#) back in 2009) will be in for quite a treat. Now-2033



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Weingut Weiser-Künstler

(Traben-Trarbach – Middle Mosel)

2008er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Kabinett	05 09	94
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This displays an absolutely stunning nose still marked by some residues of spontaneous fermentation as a whiff of bakery products, almond cream and smoky bacon only gradually give way to marvelous scents of flowers, white peach, vanilla cream, ginger spices and a hint of cassis and gooseberry. While the nose may have the intensity of a Spätlese, the wine turns fully to the Kabinett side on the palate. Here, a superbly zesty acidity gives tension to the fresh and under-cool flavors. A perfectly integrated creamy side then brings depth and delicacy to the table. This is textbook stuff, combining intensity of taste with sappy and refreshingly pure acidity. What a treat! Now-2033

2008er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Spätlese	03 09	94
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The 2008er Enkircher Ellergrub Spätlese exhibits a great set of flavors including whipped cream, yellow peach, dried white flowers, coconut, dried apricot and candied melon. These are joined by some delicate grapefruit and orange zest as the wine develops in the glass. It comes over as still very youthful and rather sweet on the palate. Even though the mid-palate shows superb concentration and depth, the underlying zest and freshness of the wine only come through in the very long and pure finish. This is more Auslese than Spätlese in style, nonetheless it is a fascinating Riesling which still needs a few more years to reach maturity. It is a great fruity-styled wine in the making which has significantly gained in weight and complexity since release. 2023-2043



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

10-Years-After Retrospective: 2008 – Tasting Notes (Beyond the Mosel)

Besides the Mosel, we also reviewed wines from other German wine regions as well as Riesling beyond Germany (Austria and France) in a bid to offer additional reference points to our readers about the vintage 2008. These wines were all reviewed by us over the last few weeks.

We provide here tasting notes from the following Estates:

Georg Breuer	<i>Rüdesheim</i>	<i>Rheingau</i>
Dr. Bürklin-Wolf	<i>Wachenheim</i>	<i>Pfalz</i>
Dönnhoff	<i>Oberhausen</i>	<i>Nahe</i>
Emrich-Schönleber	<i>Monzingen</i>	<i>Nahe</i>
Hugel	<i>Riquewihr</i>	<i>Alsace</i>
Keller	<i>Flörsheim-Dalsheim</i>	<i>Rheinhessen</i>
Emmerich Knoll	<i>Dürnstein</i>	<i>Wachau</i>
Koehler-Ruprecht	<i>Kallstadt</i>	<i>Pfalz</i>
Künstler	<i>Hochheim</i>	<i>Hochheim</i>
Nigl	<i>Senftenberg</i>	<i>Kremstal</i>
Nikolaihof	<i>Mautern</i>	<i>Wachau</i>
Rebholz	<i>Siebelingen</i>	<i>Pfalz</i>
Schäfer-Fröhlich	<i>Bockenau</i>	<i>Nahe</i>
Trimbach	<i>Ribeauvillé</i>	<i>Alsace</i>
Wegeler	<i>Oestrich-Winkel</i>	<i>Rheingau</i>



Mosel Fine Wines

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

10-Years-After Retrospective: 2008 – Detailed Tasting Notes (Beyond the Mosel – 25 Wines)



Weingut Georg Breuer

(Rüdesheim – Rheingau)

2008er	Georg Breuer	Rüdesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling	01 09	99
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This offers a breathtaking yet finely sizzled nose made of peach, pear, bergamot, sea breeze, flowery elements, mint and flint stone. The wine proves superbly elegant and refined on the palate. It develops density and a compact structure coupled to juicy complexity. Salty elements add freshness to the gorgeously focused palate. The finish is all about airiness, precision, focus and elegance. The overall balance is that found in the finest of Clos Sainte Hune or some of the mythical bottles of Künstler from the 1990s. This is a modern-day legend in the making! Now-2038

2008er	Georg Breuer	Rauenthaler Nonnenberg Riesling	03 09	97
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This beautiful dry Riesling develops a stunning nose blending aniseed herbs, pear, grapefruit and white flowers. Finesse and elegance are defining the palate. One is left with a great focused, precise, airy and elegantly citrusy feel in the persistent finish. The after-taste is all about backward and bone-dry purity and zest. This truly remarkable effort transcends the vintage. Now-2038

2008er	Georg Breuer	Rüdesheimer Berg Rottland Riesling	05 09	96
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This hay-white colored wine develops a mineral-infused nose driven by chalk and slate wrapped into some apple and bergamot. The wine is still hugely structured on the palate and leaves an almost austere feel in the long and remarkably dry finish. This still proves far too young and primary as it requires a solid day to start to develop its aromatic complexity. But the potential, structure and precision in this wine are simply remarkable. Of course this is not a wine for fruit lovers, be warned, this is a study of terroir. It is easily the finest Berg Rottland we ever had from Georg Breuer. 2023-2038

Weingut Dr. Bürklin-Wolf

(Wachenheim – Pfalz)

2008er	Dr. Bürklin-Wolf	Forster Kirchenstück Riesling Trocken G.C.	26 09	93
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This wine develops a beautiful and almost Burgundian styled nose, even if already quite evolved, of pear, biscuit, toffee, hazelnut cream and fine spices on the nose. The feel on the palate is quite impressive, as the wine unfolds layer upon layer of fine orchard fruits, minerals and herbs. The finish is then all about herb-infused apricot and greengage. This great dry Riesling is now at full peak. Now-2023



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Weingut Dönnhoff

(Oberhausen – Nahe)

2008er	Dönnhoff	Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Trocken GG	25 09	94
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This develops a precise and intense nose of almond, juicy yellow peach, a touch of toffee and apricot blossom on the nose. A more honeyed and almond-infused side comes through on the palate and adds to the smooth complex feel in this delicately exotic wine. The wine may seem easy and pleasing but the multi-layered complexity in the finish is simply staggering. This is a beautiful silky effort made in a slightly more opulent style but no less pleasing than usual by Dönnhoff standards. Now-2028

Weingut Emrich-Schönleber

(Monzingen – Nahe)

2008er	Emrich-Schönleber	Monzinger Halenberg Riesling Trocken GG	12 09	94
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This develops a beautifully floral and aniseed nose of pear, grapefruit, lime and fine herbs. The wine develops an inviting fruity feel on the palate which is beautifully balanced out by a kick of acidity. The finish is pure, airy and driven by intense zesty fruits making it bone dry in taste. This beauty is now at its peak and should stay there for many years to come. Now-2033

Maison Hugel

(Riquewihl – Alsace)

2008er	Hugel	Riesling Jubilee		94
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The 2008er Riesling Jubilee comes exclusively from the Grand Cru Schoenenbourg in Riquewihl. It gradually reveals a most stunning herbal nose of melon, pineapple, apple, chalky minerals, grapefruit and earthy spices with some dried flowers nuances. The wine is quite racy, citrusy and focused on the palate and leaves a remarkably youthful feel in the bergamot-infused finish. As crazy as this may sound, this is actually still backward as there is still some animating tartness coming through and in need of integration, and will only truly shine in a few years' time. The after-taste is full of salty elements. What a superb effort underlying the greatness of this underrated bottling of Riesling. 2023-2038

Weingut Keller

(Flörsheim-Dalsheim – Rheinhessen)

2008er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	48 09	97
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The 2008er G-Max offers a gorgeous nose with plenty of herbaceous notes, smoke, tobacco, coco, candied grapefruit, mint and fennel, all wrapped into a hint of volatile acidity which adds presence and intensity to the nose. The wine proves deep, concentrated and even a tad powerful on the palate, yet always maintains a tremendous sense of freshness. The hugely long finish is all about lime, spices and citrusy fruits. This beautiful and structured G-Max is still pretty much work in progress and we would ideally wait for another couple of years to reach its maturity window. 2023-2043

2008er	Keller	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken GG	44 09	96
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This develops a stunningly engaging nose with citrusy fruits including grapefruit, fine spices and floral elements. The wine proves gloriously well balanced on the palate and proves very pure and lingering in the beautifully elegant finish. Floral elements and a touch of salt then add a sense of airiness to the after-taste. This cruises far above the usual standards of the Kirchspiel. In fact, it may well be one of the finest Kirchspiel ever made. What a great wine! Now-2028



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2008er	Keller	Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG	46 09	93
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This exhibits gorgeous notes of coconut, almond, white bean, rose water, gooseberry and rather herbal elements on the nose. The wine proves both delicately fruity and fresh on the palate and leaves a rather powerful and quite impressive feel in the long finish. The exotic side of the Morstein comes then roaring in the after-taste which is all about apricot and some fine exotic fruits. This is a typical expression of Keller Morstein showing both ripeness of fruits and high density. Now-2033

2008er	Keller	Dalsheimer Hubacker Riesling Trocken GG	45 09	92
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This offers a gorgeous nose of driven by apricot, almond, minerals, spices and herbs all wrapped into a hint of more exotic fruits. The wine develops good fruity and mineral presence on the palate and leaves a beautiful even if surprisingly powerful feel in the silky and multi-layered finish. Now-2033

2008er	Keller	Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen Riesling Trocken Abts E®.de GG	47 09	NR
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This wine starts off with a subtle and finely aniseed and perfumed scents enhanced by citrusy elements on the nose. These are joined by pungent notes of gooseberry, white bean and green herbs, as if Sauvignon Blanc had crossed the wine. The wine is all about flint stone, cassis and green herbs on the palate but is dominated by a powerful and a hot feel in the broad and bold finish (the wine does boast 13.5% of alcohol). The after-taste is all about power underpinned by some heat. Other bottles tasted in the past fared better but were also on the powerful side. Now-2023+

Weingut Emmerich Knoll

(Dürnstein – Wachau)

2008er	Emmerich Knoll	Dürnsteiner Schütt Riesling Smaragd		93
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This develops a rather ample, aromatic and smoky nose of almond, rose water, mirabelle and spices. The wine proves quite youthful and still on the tannic side on the palate, where riper fruits are pepped up by citrusy elements. The finish has quite some presence and more of the tannic structure. While already enjoyable, this should have quite some development potential ahead. 2023-2033

Weingut Koehler-Ruprecht

(Kallstadt – Pfalz)

2008er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken R	19 09	92
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This offers a delicately ample nose made of poached pear, pineapple, white minerals, herbal elements and a hint of earthy spices. The wine proves nicely balanced even if slightly assertive on the palate. The finish is all about silky finesse and refinement, even if it shows a touch of power. This is a beautiful Spätlese R even if the 2008 rendition seems slightly on the riper side than usual. Now-2028

2008er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken	15 09	88
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This already deeply yellow-colored wine offers a rather complex nose of wet stones, mirabelle, pear, coconut cream and a hint of almond and nut. The wine proves slightly dissociated on the palate, where a zesty structure still needs to get in sync with the lightly creamy side. It proves delicately smooth and creamy in the long and earthy finish. This proves a very good wine but one without the deep complexity and precision found in the finest Koehler-Ruprecht wines. Now-2028

2008er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken R	20 09	NR
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This bottle of Saumagen Auslese Trocken R proves slightly disconcerting as it starts off by showing some William's pear distillate, button mushroom, mirabelle and earthy herbs. The wine is rather broad and on the soft side (certainly by Koehler-Ruprecht standards) and leaves a surprising feel of camphor in the assertive and quite structured finish. Now-2028?



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Weingut Künstler

(Hochheim – Rheingau)

2008er	Künstler	Hochheimer Hölle Riesling Trocken Terrassen Edition	19 09	91
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This deeply yellow-colored wine develops a still rather backward nose made of smoky elements, mirabelle, tangerine, petrol-infused components and some whipped cream as well as dried aniseed herbs. The wine proves to be on the bold side as it hits the buds and leaves a big assertive feel in the delicate and quite complex finish. The after-taste is powerful but also quite nicely balanced and elegant. This rather powerful wine screams for food, and is a superb effort for lovers of this style of Riesling. Now-2023

Weingut Nigl

(Senftenberg – Kremstal)

2008er	Nigl	Riesling Privat		NR
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The 2008er Riesling Privat is selection from old vines with a high percentage from the Piri vineyard. This wine bottled under screwcap offers a strangely reduced and evolved nose made of pear, melon, almond paste and minty herbs. The palate proves on the one side powerful yet at the same time without much density. Youthful floral but also slightly medicinal elements as well as quite some bitterness unfortunately dominate the finish, making this a quite disconcerting experience. Now-2023+?

Weingut Nikolaihof

(Mautern – Wachau)

2008er	Nikolaihof	Steiner Hund Riesling Reserve		92
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This wine proves rather backward with herbal elements, melon and chalky minerals driving the bouquet, and more ripeness coming through after some airing, including mirabelle and a touch of honey. The wine starts off on the slightly diffuse side on the palate before it gains in focus and leaves a rather soft but beautifully complex feel in the long finish. Its power and intensity is well wrapped into a superbly zesty side, and this is a splendid forceful Riesling. Now-2028

Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz

(Siebeldingen – Pfalz)

2008er	Rebholz	Birkweiler Kastanienbusch Riesling Trocken GG	21 09	91
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This dry Riesling opens up first to some reductive scents of button mushroom before a more complex bouquet comes through which blends herbs, pear, star fruit, litchi and herbs. The wine proves quite opulent and structured on the rather juicy palate. While nicely complex, the finish proves slightly diffuse by Rebholz standards and lacks a little bit of tension for true greatness. Still, it is an outstanding wine which will offer much pleasure over years to come. Now-2028



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Weingut Schäfer-Fröhlich

(Bockenau – Nahe)

2008er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Monzinger Halenberg Riesling Trocken GG	18 09	93+
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This bright yellow-colored wine develops a stunning nose of quince, grapefruit zest puree, chalky minerals and fine aniseed herbs. This turns into a gorgeous cocktail of Limoncello, whipped coconut cream and some finely sizzled Asian spices on the focused and playful palate. The finish is delicately tickly, even if on the powerful side. A tart and exquisitely earthy and spicy side in the after-taste makes one magically go for another glass. This slightly powerful expression of dry Riesling still proves remarkable and full of potential. 2023-2038

2008er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Bockenauer Felseneck Riesling Trocken GG	21 09	91
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This wine has developed a more orangey side with some tangerine and apricot adding to the underlying base of pear, anise, green apple and herbs. It proves surprisingly big and intense structure on the palate, at least by the Estate's standards, and develops an unusually bitter side in the full-on finish. Firm lime-driven acidity gives some focus to the intensity in the after-taste. This will particularly please lovers of ostentatious yet racy dry Riesling. Now-2028

Maison Trimbach

(Ribeuville – Alsace)

2008er	Trimbach	Riesling Cuvée Frédéric Emile		95+
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This develops a beautiful and inviting nose of mirabelle, apricot blossom, white minerals and herbs with a touch of almond paste. The wine is stunningly focused and driven by citrusy fruits on the palate. The whole experience goes crescendo as the finish proves simply breathtakingly good. This remains still a tad unfocused at this stage with animating tartness and the usual touch of austerity in the background, and we would leave this beauty to rest for another 5 years and could even prove better than initially anticipated. It should then join the long list of mythical bottlings of Cuvée Frédéric Emile. This is stunning. 2023-2038

2008er	Trimbach	Riesling Clos Sainte Hune		NR
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Alas, this bottle shows some signs which remind us of premature oxidation as we unfortunately experience it in some white Burgundy. The wine was all about cooked apple, caramel and other oxidative elements. The wine developed a rather precise but also rather short and simple feel of sherry in the finish. Other bottles from the same case proved however superb (see for instance Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 30 – Mar 2016 for a tasting note)

Weingüter Wegeler

(Oestrich-Winkel – Rheingau)

2008er	Wegeler	Riesling Spätlese Trocken Geheimrat J	03 09	91
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The 2008er Geheimrat J is made from a blend of all the Estate's Grand Cru vineyards. This hay-yellow colored wine develops a beautifully subdued and subtle nose of candied grapefruit, cassis, pear, lemon zest, bergamot and other aniseed herbs. It is medium-bodied and delicately smooth on the palate. Here, a more mineral and structured side comes through in the delicate and elegant finish. A slight touch of heat in the after-taste gives the wine more weight. The wine gains significantly from airing and develops its full potential only after 1-2 days. So opening well in advance is really a must here. It will then reward one with stunningly fruity and smoky flavors and be a perfect match to delicately spicy food. Now-2028



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

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20-Years-After Retrospective: 1998 – The Vintage at a Glance

The Growing Conditions

The start of the season proved quite ideal, with perfect flowering just ahead of long-term averages.

Unlike the previous years, the 1997-1998 winter proved rather mild as did the early spring. As a result, bud break was rather early. Spring proved good, with solid temperatures and not too much rainfall. A splendid June led to perfect flowering (and hence the prospect of a good and plentiful harvest).

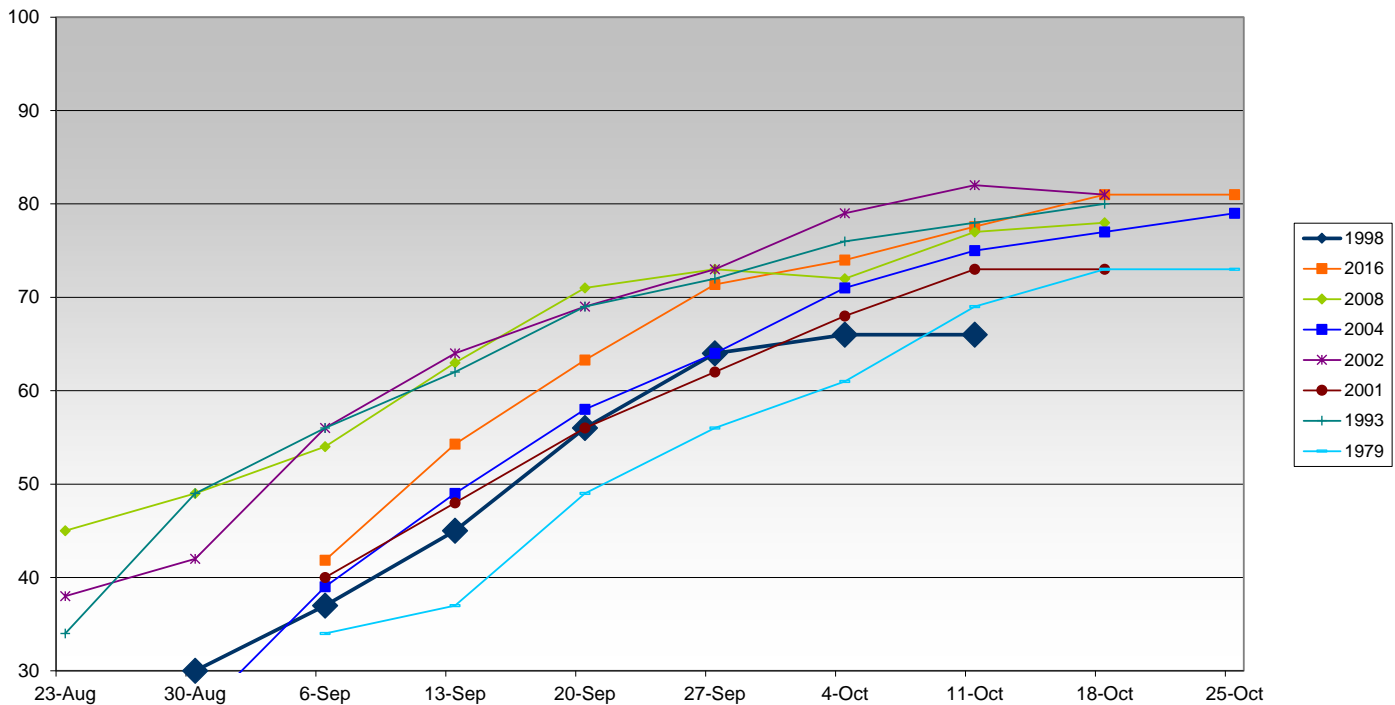
The summer was marked by an unusually hot and dry August, which led to heat damage and loss of yields.

July proved slightly cooler and cloudier than in previous years. August was the complete opposite, bringing scorching hot temperatures. In fact, until the heat wave of 2015, the hottest temperature ever measured in Germany was 41.2°C (106°F) in the Brauneberger hill on August 11, 1998. This led to losses of yields due to "grape sunburn" throughout the region.

A poor and rainy autumn delayed harvest until late in October, despite early flowering. But the vintage redeemed itself by allowing some Eiswein.

The vintage was eventually to be marked by heavy rainfalls in September and October (almost double resp. triple the long-term average). This led to swelling of the grapes and huge issues with diseases appeared. Fortunately, the weather conditions included strong winds, which helped to keep the grapes somewhat dry. Despite an early flowering, harvested only started at the end of October, i.e. in line with long term average) and stretched well into November as growers hoped for a late Golden October which, in the end, never came. Despite an early promise of a plentiful harvest, the sunburn in August and evaporation due to botrytis during the harvest meant that yields were eventually on the low end of the scale. The vintage may have proven a disaster financially had there not been a spell of deep frost, which came very early (between November 21 and November 23), allowing growers to harvest good quantities of (high-value) Eiswein.

Evolution of Sugar Levels (° Oechsle) - 1998 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages (Bereich Trier)



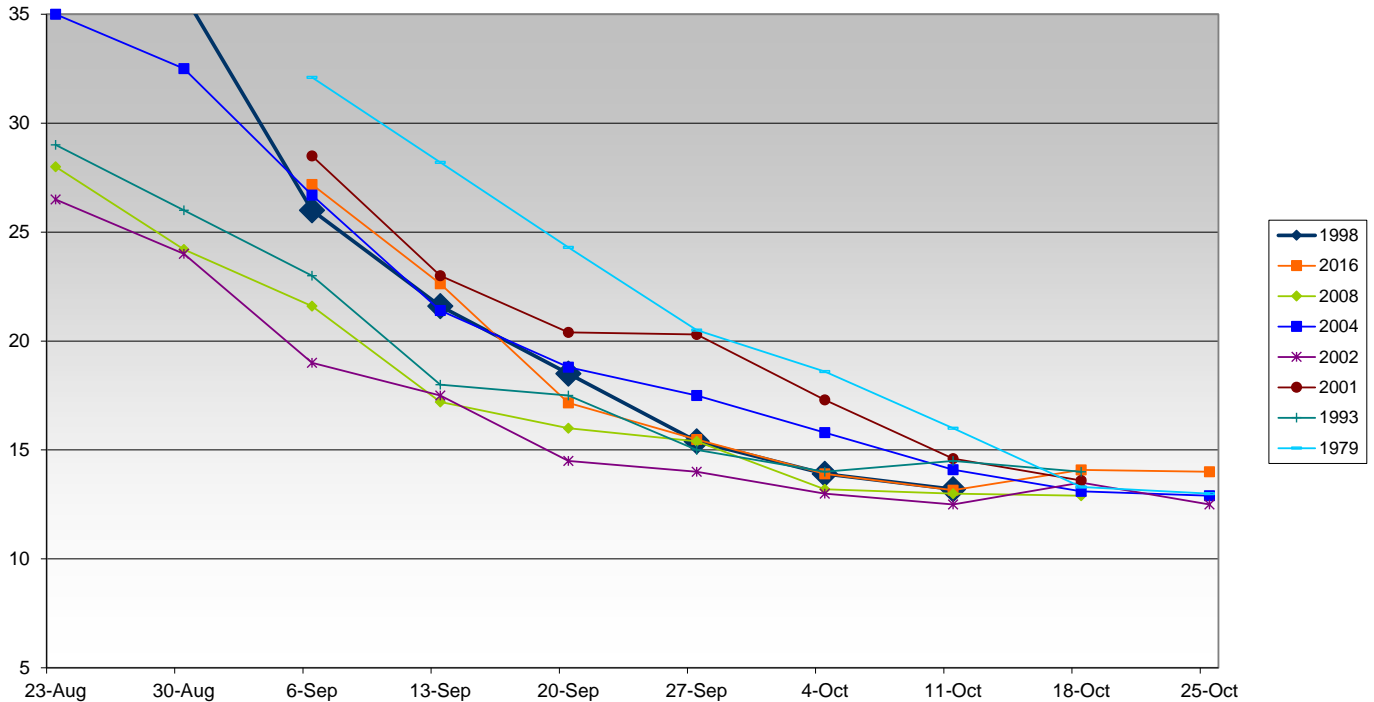


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Evolution of Total Acidity Levels (g/l) - 1998 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages (Bereich Trier)



Source: German Ministry of Agriculture - Rheinland-Pfalz

The Vintage Style

Despite the worries due to the difficult harvest season, the wines proved superbly open and nicely balanced.

Reports from the period were often written in a toned down style as the difficult and long harvest season made both wine lovers and wine professionals doubt of the soundness of the vintage. However, the wines proved to have much charm with ripe (but not overripe) flavors underpinned by ripe yet tickly acidity and this for good reasons. Up to then, 1998 was still the hottest vintage ever and the grapes had enjoyed an exceptionally long hanging time, a result of the early flowering and the poor September and October.

The vintage catered the basic needs for QbA and Kabinett and offered the chance to stock up on some stunning Eiswein.

Much of the wines produced were at lower sugar levels. In the Saar and Ruwer, there was not much quantity at Spätlese let alone Auslese level. However, these basic wines proved unusually ripe and juicy while retaining the lightness inherent to their category. Little botrytized selections were made (a few mavericks including von Schubert produced some TBA) but this was compensated by what was hailed as some of the finest Eiswein ever in the Mosel. All in all, the vintage proved well received.



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

20-Years-After Retrospective: 1998 Wines Today – Riesling All-Rounder

We re-tasted over 50 wines from the 1998 vintage over the last few months. These were mostly, but not only, from the Mosel. The result was one of the most delicious tastings we have ever carried out!



The 1998 wines are simply delicious!

The wines from the 1998 vintage have developed an absolutely tantalizing signature note blending pina coloda (pineapple and coconut) with some cassis or pear, depending on the ripeness of the grapes. The wines are not too powerful, elegantly balanced and underpinned by some good zesty but ripe acidity. All this makes them almost dangerously easy to enjoy.

The sweet spot of the 1998 vintage are the Kabinett and the Eiswein!

One of the surprising facts of the vintage is that most gems seem to be at the opposite side of the must level scale. The vintage yielded some stunning Kabinett grade wines (notably at the hands of Fritz Haag and von Schubert) as well as some great deep-colored Eiswein. But, also the other classic categories, Spätlese and Auslese, yielded some fine wines, as our tastings showed. But the best Kabinett wines are almost as exciting as the Spätlese and Auslese in this vintage. In addition, we have to highlight one special wine: the 1998er von Schubert Abtsberg (QbA). This "simple" Estate wine is just stunning. It is probably one of the greatest Riesling values ever as it sold for a song when young.

All parts of the Mosel delivered handsomely.

All regions and villages delivered some beautiful wines, even if we have to admit that the Ruwer fared particularly well, but the region's performance is also the result of the incredible high standard of quality of its two flagship Estates, Karthäuserhof and von Schubert. However, also the other reputable Estates delivered handsomely. In particular, the "Haag Estates" (Weingut Fritz Haag and Weingut Schloss Lieser) produced some stunners, as did Markus Molitor and the Max Ferd. Richter Estate. In the Saar, Hanno Zilliken (Weingut Geltz-Zilliken) made stunning auction lots. One should also note the remarkable performance of the S.A. Prüm Estate, which produced one of the finest Auslese of the vintage.

Overall, there is much to enjoy in the 1998 vintage, even if it does not reach the dizzying heights of its predecessor.

When we were carrying out our large horizontal review tastings, temptation was great to give up concentration, take the bottles on the terrace and simply enjoy them! The good wines are really superb quaffing stuff despite their complexity and elegance. To make a long story short: Buy 1998 Mosel wines if you find some on the secondary market!



Mosel Fine Wines

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20-Years-After Retrospective: 1998 Vintage Highlights

1997 Vintage Highlights – Sweet and Noble-Sweet Wines *

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Eiswein			97
1998er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** (Golden Capsule)	29 99	Auction	96
1998er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Eiswein	22 16		96
1998er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldener Helenenkloster Riesling Eiswein	43 99		96
1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Eiswein	33 99		96
1998er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese GK	03 99	Auction	94
1998er	Jordan & Jordan	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Eiswein lange GK	06 99		94
1998er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Eiswein	41 99		94
1998er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Auslese	01 10		94
1998er	S.A. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GK Fass 24		Auction	94
1998er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	08 99		94
1998er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese ***	05 99		93
1998er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	09 99		93
1998er	Max Ferd. Richter	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	13 99		93

* *Mainly Auslese GK and upwards but we also add those Spätlese or Auslese which are Auslese GK in all but name.*

1998 Vintage Highlights – Fruity Wines **

1998er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Fuder 14		Auction	94
1998er	Schloss Lieser	Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Spätlese	07 99	Auction	94
1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett	23 99		94
1998er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Spätlese Nr. 53		Auction	93
1998er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	05 99		93
1998er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	14 99		93
1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling	03 99		93
1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Kabinett	10 99		93
1998er	Wegeler	Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	07 99		93

** *Mainly Kabinett and Spätlese but also Auslese if they are particularly light and elegant in style.*

1998 Vintage Highlights – Dry / Off-Dry Wines

1998er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken R	27 99		92
1998er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Halbtrocken	35 99		92
1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken	20 99		92
1998er	Wegeler	Riesling Spätlese Trocken Geheimrat J	13 99		92
1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken	25 99		91



Mosel Fine Wines

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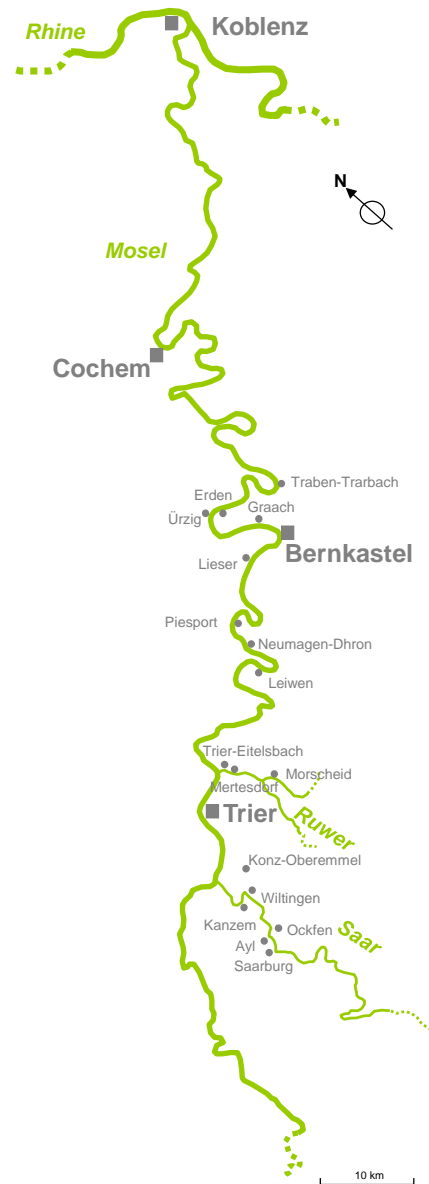
By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

20-Years-After Retrospective: 1998 – Tasting Notes

We had the opportunity to re-taste a large number of wines from the 1998 vintage over the last few weeks, including in the form of comprehensive horizontal tastings carried early 2018, with about 50 wines re-sampled in total.

- Blees-Ferber**
- Jos. Christoffel jr.**
- Clüsserath-Eifel**
- Karl Erbes**
- Fritz Haag**
- Geltz-Zilliken**
- Jordan & Jordan**
- Karthäuserhof**
- Koehler-Ruprecht**
- Schloss Lieser**
- Markus Molitor**
- Egon Müller**
- Joh. Jos. Prüm**
- S.A. Prüm**
- Max Ferd. Richter**
- von Schubert – Maximin Grünhaus**
- Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch**
- Wegeler**

- Leiwien*
- Ürzig*
- Trittenheim*
- Ürzig*
- Brauneberg*
- Saarburg*
- Wiltingen*
- Eitelsbach*
- Kallstadt*
- Lieser*
- Wehlen*
- Wiltingen*
- Wehlen*
- Wehlen*
- Mülheim*
- Mertesdorf*
- Bernkastel-Kues*
- Bernkastel-Kues*
- Oestrich-Winkel*





Mosel Fine Wines

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

20-Years-After Retrospective: 1998 – Detailed Tasting Notes (50 Wines)

Weingut Blees-Ferber

(Leiwener – Middle Mosel)

1998er	Blees-Ferber	Leiwener Klostergarten Riesling Eiswein	06 99	91
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Mahogany in color, this offers a quite smoky and mature nose of tar, licorice and nut as well as leather, gingerbread and cooked apple. The wine develops great power and presence as huge zesty flavors including lime, grapefruit and orange peel drive the flavor profile on the palate. The finish is intensely powerful and with searing acidity (no wonder as it has 19 g/l of acidity!) which dominates the sweetness at this stage. The wine is dense and compact, and comes over as younger on the palate as on the nose. This is now in its tertiary phase, and will particularly please lovers of mature and electrifying Riesling. Drink up

Weingut Jos. Christoffel jr.

(Ürziger – Middle Mosel)

1998er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese ***	05 99	93
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This wine proves quite primary and only gradually reveals stunning notes frangipane, orange blossom, pineapple and coconut. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate and leaves a clean and juicy feel on the palate. The finish is airy, animating and simply ravishingly complex and refined. This is a beauty. Now-2038

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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 37 – Aug 2017)

Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

(Saarburg – Saar)

1998er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese GK	03 99	Auction	94
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This Auslese impacted by Eiswein develops a stunning nose of smoke, tar, earl grey, leather, beeswax, cassis, and mint. The wine is beautifully juicy and creamy on the palate and leaves a lively and delicately baroque feel in the long and racy finish. This is a stunning light Eiswein in the making which proves incredibly fresh and lively, so that the feeling in the after-taste is more off-dry than fully sweet. It is now at full peak and will best be enjoyed over the coming decade. Now-2028

1998er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	04 99	Auction	94
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This delivers the telltale scents of an Eiswein-impacted wine (no wonder as this auction Spätlese was made from partially frozen berries) with notes of lime, green apple, kiwi, grapefruit, gooseberry, smoke and herbs. The wine proves hugely zesty on the palate. The gorgeous impact of grapefruit and lime-driven acidity carries over right into a hauntingly sharp and electrifyingly long finish. This is a hugely impressive “Spätlese Eiswein” expression of Riesling! Now-2028



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Weingut Fritz Haag

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

1998er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Fuder 14	Auction	94
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This starts off with a stunning nose of pear, candied grapefruit, pineapple, orange blossom and coconut. The wine proves beautifully zesty with the presence of a light Auslese on the palate. The finish is pure, animating and has this zesty touch of citrusy whipped cream which has made the success of the Fritz Haag wines over the years. This auction Spätlese is simply splendid. Now-2028

1998er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	09 99	93
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This offers an admirable nose of pineapple, wet wood, coconut cream, apricot and fine earthy herbs. The wine is beautifully silky and elegant on the palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of marzipan and herbs in the long and delicately assertive finish. Now-2028

1998er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	05 99	93
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This yellow-colored wine develops a beautiful nose of candied grapefruit, orange peel, citrus, a hint of whipped cream and fine aniseed and delicately minty herbs. The wine is beautifully lively, light-footed and playful on the palate and leaves a just fruity feel without any undue sensation of sweetness in the juicy finish. This textbook Kabinett is just pure pleasure in a bottle! Now-2023

1998er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	07 99	91
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This offers an inviting nose of yellow peach, pineapple, smoke, apricot, minty herbs and fine spices. The wine coats the palate with ample juicy fruits, a comparatively soft texture and whipped cream. There is some acidity coming through in the direct finish and adding freshness to this overall Auslese styled and mature Riesling. Now-2028

Weingut Jordan & Jordan

(Wiltingen – Saar)

Peter Jordan set up his Jordan & Jordan Estate after he had taken over the historic Bernd Van Volxem Estate at the beginning of the 1990s. In 2000, Roman Niewodniczanski took it over and renamed it back to Van Volxem.

1998er	Jordan & Jordan	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Eiswein lange GK	06 99	94
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This orange-colored wine develops a big nose of dried apricot, orange puree and some smoky barbeque herbs all wrapped into a whiff of volatile. The wine proves quite oily, smooth and suave on the palate, where the natural sweetness adds to the baroque and structured side. The finish has the sweetness and complexity of an Essenzia with a good acidity, but still rather tame and well integrated for an Eiswein. While slightly atypical for an Eiswein, it is a truly remarkable dessert wine! Now-2048

Weingut Karthäuserhof

(Eitelsbach – Trier-Ruwer)

1998er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Spätlese Nr. 53	Auction	93
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This offers a gorgeous nose of pear, whipped cream, minty herbs, earthy spices and some almond. The wine is beautifully lively and playful on the palate, where a creamy side just adds an Auslese-styled smoothness to the vividness of the wine. The minty side makes a comeback in the finish, which brings the light and bright side of this splendid Auslese in all but name to the forefront. The after-taste is now more off-dry than fully sweet, something also due to the 9% of alcohol, which are very well integrated into the wine. What a beautiful mature Riesling! Now-2028



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1998er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 58	Auction	92
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This dark-yellow colored wine develops a surprising even if quite enticing nose mixing gooseberry with banana flambé, honey and cooked apple. The wine develops an almost Eiswein side as quince sorbet and firm acidity dominates the creamy and quite dramatic palate (we would not be surprised if some Eiswein made it into this bottling as such a practice was not uncommon in auction bottlings at some Estates in the 1990s). The finish is nice but also quite assertive and bold. This is a superb Auslese made in a more outspoken style than usual at Karthäuserhof. Now-2023+

Weingut Koehler-Ruprecht

(Kallstadt – Pfalz)

1998er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken R	27 99	92
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This goldenrod-colored dry Riesling greets one with a stunning nose of mature Riesling made of dried herbs, thyme, yellow peach, pineapple juice, beeswax, baked apple, cinnamon and butter cream as well as a touch of chanterelle. It comes over as intense and almost powerful (it does boast 13.5% of alcohol). Mature notes of beeswax and a touch of exotic fruits are wrapped into spicy and herbal notes. The finish proves somewhat tart and slightly phenolic. While the wine may not live up to the promise of the nose, this mature dry Riesling remains truly enjoyable provided one serves it with hearty food to buffer off the power of its palate. Now

Weingut Schloss Lieser

(Lieser – Middle Mosel)

1998er	Schloss Lieser	Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Spätlese	07 99	Auction	94
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This wine develops a gorgeous bright nose of candied grapefruit zest, pineapple, coconut and white flowers. It is stunningly well balanced on the palate, where creamy elements add a soothing side to the vividness of the acidity. The finish is pure, elegant and refined. This is a classy Auslese-styled fruity Mosel wine to enjoy by the bottle! This debut auction Spätlese by Schloss Lieser proves a tremendous success. Now-2033

Weingut Markus Molitor

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

1998er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** (Golden Capsule)	29 99	Auction	96
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This beautifully golden-colored wine develops an absolutely stunning nose of mirabelle, elderflower, tea, beeswax and honeyed elements. The wine develops the smoothing oiliness and zesty focus of a BA on the palate and leaves a myriad of ripe fruits including pear, date, raisin, cooked apple and apricot wrapped into a subtle touch of acacia honey. Everything here is in perfect balance and makes one magically go for another glass. What a huge success! Now-2038

1998er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Eiswein	41 99	94
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This deep golden-bronze colored Eiswein proves rather reductive at first before revealing a stunning nose of honeyed date, Turkish delight, candied grapefruit zest, earthy spices and pine wood. The wine develops great smooth tension on the palate, where more creamy dried fruits, beeswax and herbs are wrapped into a nicely focused acidity. The sweet-zesty tension in the long finish adds to the finesse and elegance of this remarkably fresh Eiswein. Now-2038



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Weingut Egon Müller zu Scharzhof

(Wiltingen – Saar)

1998er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett	09 99	Auction	91
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This yellow-colored wine develops a rather pungent nose of lemon, quince, earthy spices and fine smoky elements. The wine is on the light side, at least by Egon Müller Scharzhofberger Kabinett Auction standards, but proves nicely enjoyable in a direct and juicy style. A nice touch of candied lemon adds freshness to the long and off-dry finish. Now-2028

Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

1998er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Eiswein	22 16		96
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The Estate produced two Eiswein from the Wehlener Sonnenuhr in 1998, of which the "bigger" one was sold via the Auction in 2000. The "smaller" Eiswein was harvested at well over 130° Oechsle and only released by the Estate in 2016. It offers a hugely complex, multi-layered and mature nose of camphor, quince, baked pineapple, mango, starfruit and beeswax with a touch of licorice. This gives way to a gorgeous creamy feel, with complex scents of fruits, nut and herbs on the palate and a stunning feel of freshness. This retains great finesse and complexity despite the intrinsic ripeness and understated baroque side of the wine. This will particularly please lovers of mature BA-Eiswein styled Riesling. What a beauty! Now-2028 (Reprint – Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 32 – October 2016)

1998er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Auslese	01 10		94
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This bright-colored wine was only released late, in 2010 (thus the AP number). It develops a beautiful nose of grapefruit, pineapple, coconut cream, laurel and spices. The wine offers the telltale lightness of JJ Prüm wines on the palate and a great zesty intensity in the long finish. This is a superbly elegant and refined wine which will offer much pleasure for many decades to come. Now-2038

1998er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	13 99		92
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This bright-colored wine develops a beautiful nose of pineapple, quince, coconut cream and white flowers. It is balanced even if still rich and bold on the palate. A touch of honey, exotic fruits and nut cream underlines the GK side of this splendid Auslese. The finish is long, smooth and beautifully elegant. Now-2028

1998er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	09 99	Auction	91
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This offers a rather ripe and broad nose of quince, crème brûlée, almond paste, baked pineapple, vanilla and earthy spices. The wine is quite assertive on the palate and leaves a slightly abrupt feel in the finish. The wine is smooth and quite soft, a feeling also amplified by quite some residual sugar. While of outstanding stature, this Auslese GK styled Riesling does not really reveal the ultimate finesse of great JJ Prüm wines. Now-2028

Weingut S.A. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

1998er	S.A. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GK Fass 24		Auction	94
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The 1998er Graacher Himmelreich Auslese GK Fass 24 exhibits an already bronze color and delivers an engaging ripe nose of quince puree, mirabelle, apricot blossom and honey, all wrapped into smoky elements. The wine is characterized by a smooth creaminess on the palate underpinned by gloriously zesty acidity. This interplay makes for a most juicy feel in the licorice-infused and richly fruity finish. The after-taste is all about beeswax, zesty acidity and mirabelle poached in honey. What a glorious Auslese GK! Now-2033



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1998er	S.A. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GK Fass 25	92
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The golden-bronze colored 1998er Graacher Himmelreich Auslese GK Fass 25 offers a gorgeous nose of quince, mirabelle, backed pineapple and honeyed cream. The wine is ethereally light and focused on the palate. gorgeously creamy elements then bring the right soothing touch in the juicy and elegant finish. This is a beautiful dessert wine. Now-2028

1998er	S.A. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK Fass 29	91
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The deep bronze-golden colored 1998er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese GK Fass 29 develops an attractive nose driven by quince, mirabelle, apricot blossom, white mint, minerals and herbs. The wine is beautifully focused and precise on the palate and leaves a pure and quite precise feel in the finish. The after-taste is all about zesty minerals, a touch of fern and some quince. Now-2023

Weingut Max Ferd. Richter

(Mülheim – Middle Mosel)

1998er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldenzer Helenenkloster Riesling Eiswein	43 99	96
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This mahogany-colored Eiswein was harvested at 186° Oechsle on November 21. It offers a rich and highly powerful nose of acacia honey, dried exotic fruits, leather, tar, and apple juice. The wine develops already tertiary notes of raisin, leather, polish furniture and sweet orange lifted up by an electrifying kick from a great acidity (it has no less than 16 g/l of acidity!) on the quite intense palate. The finish proves powerful and seems to last for minutes, leaving one with some smoky flavors of wood fire, tar and slate in the after-taste. This beautiful effort will particularly please lovers of mature, ostentatious and luxurious TBA-Eiswein styled wine. Now-2048

1998er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	08 99	94
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This delivers an elegant nose of vineyard peach, coffee bean, whipped cream and apricot. The wine proves concentrated and sweet on the honeyed and delicately exotic palate. The finish is however beautifully fresh and elegant, making this wine hugely enjoyable as well as complex and refined. Now-2038

1998er	Max Ferd. Richter	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	13 99	93
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This needs quite some time in the glass to fully show the beauty of its bouquet underpinned by pineapple juice, quince, yellow peach, honey and gingerbread. The wine develops a more opulent side on the palate where quite some creamy, rich and honeyed fruits kick in. The finish proves deep and intense. This superbly balanced "drinking" Auslese will now also nicely be paired with food. Now-2038

1998er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	14 99	93
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Elegant and refined notes of peach, whipped cream, orange blossom, vanilla cream, smoke and vineyard peach make for a remarkably youthful bouquet on the nose. A creamier side comes through on the palate before superb zesty fruits take over towards the very long, airy and off-dry finish. This superb effort proves both remarkably easy to drink and offers refinement and complexity. Now-2028

1998er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Halbtrocken	35 99	92
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Made from grapes harvested in the coveted Lammertelay sector, this off-dry Spätlese plays fully on the charm of the Wehlener Sonnenuhr as it unfolds some rich and lovely notes of apricot blossom, orange peel, pineapple, smoke and anise on the nose. The wine proves quite structured and delicately creamy on the intense and remarkably powerful palate. All this leads to a superbly long finish with more freshness and some zesty fruits. This is quite a lovely mature off-dry Riesling. Now-2028

1998er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	18 99	91
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This delivers a quite rich spectrum of ripe and candied fruits including mango, pineapple and quince as well as tar, smoke, cinnamon and leather. The wine shows a more youthful and fruity side on the rich, creamy and sweet palate. Cream, apricot and mango give then way to mineral and smoky notes in the long and fresh finish of this now fully mature fruity-styled Mosel. Now-2028



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1998er	Max Ferd. Richter	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese Trocken	25 99	89
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This delivers beautifully refined scents of quince, vanilla cream, tar, flowery elements, gingerbread and marzipan on the nose. The wine proves lightly creamy, very elegant and juicy on the palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of peach and apple in the quite delicate finish. One is left with an attractive spicy and mineral feel in the fully dry-tasting after-taste. This light dry Auslese (with only 11.5% of alcohol) is now at its peak but should remain nicely enjoyable for many years to come. Now-2023

Weingut von Schubert – Maximin Grünhaus

(Mertesdorf – Trier-Ruwer)

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Eiswein		97
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The 1998er Herrenberg Eiswein offers a gorgeously fruity nose of greengage, mirabelle, quince and herbs. The wine is beautifully elegant and smooth on the fruit-driven palate. The finish is all about deliciously zesty and creamy orchard fruits, licorice and zesty cream. What a gorgeously complex Eiswein! Now-2033

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Eiswein	33 99	96
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The 1998er Abtsberg Eiswein exhibits a gorgeous nose of apricot, fern, date, fine spices and herbs. It is smooth and a delicately oily feel comes through in the racy yet remarkably well-balanced finish. This is superb Eiswein which shines through its stunning complexity. Now-2033

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett	23 99	94
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This offers a gorgeous and still astonishingly reductive nose of cassis, strawberry and minty herbs. The wine proves stunningly zesty and playful on the palate and leaves a juicy feel in the laser-sharp yet intense finish. The after-taste is all about citrusy minerals, a hint of flowers and chalky minerals. This is textbook Kabinett. Now-2033

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling	03 99	93
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This Estate-level wine from the Abtsberg completely defies the "humble" status it was given upon bottling. This stunning wine shines through vibrant cassis, grapefruit, white chalky minerals and fine minty herbs. Its focus and precision on the palate are simply remarkable. The finish is now almost dry in taste yet resonates long in the complex and refined after-taste. What a remarkable wine which was sold for a song upon release! Now-2023

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Kabinett	10 99	93
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This starts off by gradually revealing a stunning nose made of lemon, cassis, minty herbs and spices. The wine is beautifully elegant and refined on the zesty and focused palate and leaves a stunning feel of chalky minerals in the precise and long finish. One is left with a beautiful sense of juiciness in the superbly balanced finish. What a cracker of a Kabinett! Now-2028

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 215		92
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The 1998er Abtsberg Auslese Nr. 215 was harvested late from partially frozen fruit. This golden-colored wine delivers a gorgeous nose of mirabelle sorbet, licorice, chalky minerals, honey and herbs. It is delicately smooth on the palate and leaves a nicely playful and delicately creamy feel in the long finish. Now-2028

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 219		92
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The 1998er Abtsberg Auslese Nr. 219 was harvested late from partially frozen fruit. It offers a big and slightly exotic nose of mango, honey and apricot. The wine is quite creamy on the palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of honey, greengage, licorice and herbs in the long and complex finish. Now-2028

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese	13 99	92
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This offers a rather ripe nose of mango, mirabelle, earthy herbs, a hint of licorice and fine herbs. The wine is quite smooth and juicy on the palate and leaves a delicately ripe and racy feel in the long finish. Now-2033



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1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken	20 99	92
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This offers a stunning nose made of cassis, grapefruit, spices and minty herbs. The wine offers great balance on the palate and leaves a stunning feel of herbs in the long, spicy and lively yet creamy finish. The freshness and balance of this 20 year-old wine are simply remarkable. Now-2028

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken	25 99	91
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This offers a stunning nose of cassis, grapefruit, licorice and herbs. The wine proves nicely balanced on the palate and leaves a gorgeously clean and pure feel of lemon herbs and white minerals in the long and nicely focused finish. A delicately soothing touch of cream rounds up the whole experience in the after-taste. Now-2028

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett Trocken	18 99	90
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This offers a beautiful nose of cassis, grapefruit zest, white mint and chalky minerals. The wine develops a nice balance on the palate, with good juicy presence, a nice and well-balanced feel in the crispy finish. This may be slender and light but it is remarkably packed with succulent racy flavors. Now-2028

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Kabinett Trocken	08 99	90
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This offers a gorgeous nose of cassis, pineapple, coconut and minty herbs. The dry wine proves deliciously feather-weighted on the palate (it only has 9.5% of alcohol) and leaves a stunningly fresh and racy feel in the finish. Everything is nicely balanced in this triumph of a light Kabinett wine! Now-2028

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken	19 99	90
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This offers a delicately ripe nose of pear, licorice, minty herbs and fine spices. The wine is beautifully elegant and delicately creamy on the slender palate and leaves a gorgeously long feel in the smooth finish. This drinks beautifully now. Now-2028

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Trocken	35 99	87
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This hay-yellow colored Estate bottling from the Abtsberg delivers a gorgeous feel of pear, licorice and herbs on the nose. These inviting scents lead to an attractive palate with good focused presence right into the straight finish. This proves remarkably well preserved and enjoyable for a 20 year-old Estate wine. Now

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Trocken	36 99	87
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This hay-colored Liter Estate bottling from the Herrenberg delivers a restrained nose of grapefruit, hay, pear and aniseed herbs. The wine proves rather light-bodied but flavorsome on the dry palate. The finish is spicy and remarkably long for a mere Estate wine. Now

Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Thanisch)

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

1998er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese	05 99	92
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This needs just a couple of minutes in the glass to prove superbly elegant, with pineapple and coconut as well as earthy spices, orange peel, laurel and mint. It leaves a fresh and juicy feel and shows superb length. This is a beautifully zesty and complex effort by Thanisch. Now-2028



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Weingüter Wegeler

(Bernkastel-Kues / Oestrich-Winkel – Middle-Mosel / Rheingau)

1998er	Wegeler	Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	07 99	93
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This golden-hay colored wine offers a beautiful nose of mirabelle, aniseed herbs, caraway, and stewed yellow peach. The wine is deliciously silky and playful on the palate, where it develops the smooth presence of a light Auslese. The finish is all about ripe and delicately tickly acidity, juicy fruits, a hint of beeswax and lots of classy smoky elements. This great multi-layered expression of Doctor has still much life ahead! Now-2033

1998er	Wegeler	Riesling Spätlese Trocken Geheimrat J	13 99	92
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The 1998er Geheimrat J is made from a selection of grapes from the Estate' Grand Cru vineyards. The wine develops a beautiful nose of white truffle, pear, grapefruit, bergamot and smoky slate. The slender and delicacy of the nose gives way to a rather powerful feel of spices, ripe pear, camphor and wet stones on the palate. The finish is intense and beautifully long. This is a gorgeously well-aged dry Riesling to enjoy with a myriad of food. Now-2028



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Notes from the Cellar: Highlights from Past Decades

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

Of course, rare and elusive noble-sweet Riesling from the finest growers confirm that this is the style where Riesling almost rules alone. Stunning bottles by Geltz-Zilliken, Knebel, Joh. Jos. Prüm, Markus Molitor, Carl Schmitt-Wagner and von Schubert underline this nicely. Some stunning dry Riesling, mostly by the Keller Estate, underlines that mature dry Riesling is one of the – if not the – finest expression of dry white wine in the world.

Lastly, world-renowned growers are of course dominating this list (almost by definition one would think), but also great even if less celebrated growers can produce some truly classic Riesling, as does Weingut C. von Nell-Breuning, with its stunning 1995er Eiswein.

1937er	Schmitt-Wagner	Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Auslese			100
2007er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	19 09	Auction	98+
1993er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 83			98
1997er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese lange GK	03 98	Auction	97
1988er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein	03 89	Auction	97
2002er	Keller	Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG	41 03		97
2007er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** (Golden Capsule)	28 09	Auction	97
1976er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Beerenauslese lange GK	24 77	Auction	97
2002er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	18 03	Auction	97
1993er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 183			97
1993er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Eiswein	25 94		97
1938er	Geschw. Berres	Erdener Prälat Riesling feinste Auslese			96
2002er	Keller	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken Turmstück GG	39 03		96
2004er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Beerenauslese	14 05		96
1994er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese	14 95		96
1990er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Bernkasteler Johannisbrunnchen Riesling Eiswein lange GK	13 92		96
1990er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	11 92		96
1994er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	14 95	Auction	96
1997er	von Hövel	Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Spätlese	12 98		95
1993er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 43			95
2004er	Keller	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken GG	22 05		95
2007er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Auslese	10 08		95
1989er	Le Gallais	Wiltinger braune Kupp Riesling Beerenauslese	06 91	Auction	95
2007er	Markus Molitor	Niedermenniger Herrenberg Riesling Auslese ** (Golden Capsule)	31 08		95
1988er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese	27 89		95
1995er	Christoph von Nell	Kaseler Dominikanerberg Riesling Eiswein	11 96		95
2003er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GK	10 07		95



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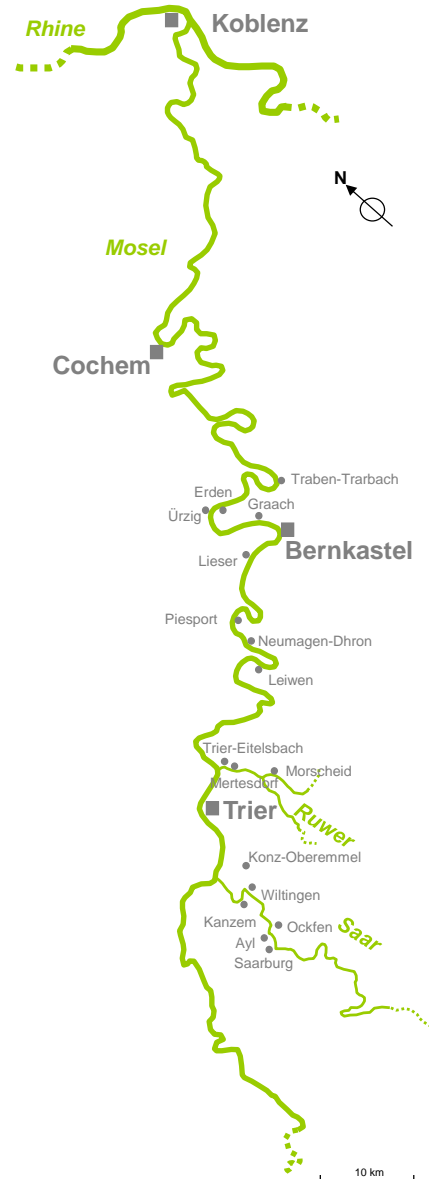
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Notes from the Cellar: Tasting Notes

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

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|--|---------------------------|
| Bastgen | <i>Osann-Monzel</i> |
| Geschw. Berres | <i>Ürzig</i> |
| Jos. Christoffel jr. | <i>Ürzig</i> |
| Clüsserath-Eifel | <i>Trittenheim</i> |
| Falkenstein | <i>Niedermennig</i> |
| Leo Fuchs | <i>Pommern</i> |
| Geltz-Zilliken | <i>Saarburg</i> |
| Fritz Haag | <i>Brauneberg</i> |
| Willi Haag | <i>Brauneberg</i> |
| Reinhold Haart | <i>Piesport</i> |
| von Hövel | <i>Oberemmel</i> |
| Karthäuserhof | <i>Eitelsbach</i> |
| Keller | <i>Flörsheim-Dalsheim</i> |
| von Kesselstatt | <i>Morscheid</i> |
| Knebel | <i>Winningen</i> |
| Le Gallais | <i>Kanzem</i> |
| P. Licht-Bergweiler Erben | <i>Brauneberg</i> |
| Schloss Lieser | <i>Lieser</i> |
| Dr. Lippold | <i>Ürzig</i> |
| Carl Loewen | <i>Leiwen</i> |
| Gebrüder Ludwig | <i>Thörnich</i> |
| Markus Molitor | <i>Wehlen</i> |
| Egon Müller | <i>Wiltigen</i> |
| C. von Nell-Breuning | <i>Kasel</i> |
| Paulinshof | <i>Kesten</i> |
| Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler | <i>Bernkastel-Kues</i> |
| Leo Pfeiffer | <i>Ürzig</i> |
| Jo. Jos. Prüm | <i>Wehlen</i> |
| Johann Peter Reinert | <i>Kanzem</i> |
| Max Ferd. Richter | <i>Mülheim</i> |
| Schloss Saarstein | <i>Serrig</i> |
| Willi Schaefer | <i>Graach</i> |
| Carl Schmitt-Wagner | <i>Longuich</i> |
| von Schubert – Maximin Grünhaus | <i>Mertesdorf</i> |
| Selbach-Oster | <i>Zeltingen</i> |
| St. Urbans-Hof | <i>Leiwen</i> |
| Vereinigte Hospitien | <i>Trier</i> |
| Wegeler | <i>Bernkastel-Kues</i> |





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Notes from the Cellar: Detailed Tasting Notes (100 Wines)



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

Weingut Bastgen

(Osann-Monzel – Middle Mosel)

2006er	Bastgen	Kestener Paulinshofberg Riesling Spätlese	10 07	Auction	88
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This offers a comparatively expansive nose of coconut, pineapple, butterscotch, poached pear, 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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 37 – Aug 2017)

Weingut Geschw. Berres

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

This founding member of the Grosser Ring was the sole owner of the Erdener Prälät, which was a brand it had registered at the end of the 19th century. The Estate was to be split up in a multitude of Geschw. Berres Erben (heir of) Estates after World War II, of which none exists anymore today. Readers can find more information on the historic Berres family and the Erdener Prälät in a detailed article published in Issue No 10 (January 2010).

1938er	Geschw. Berres	Erdener Prälät Riesling feinste Auslese			96
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Brown-copper in color, this bottle of Prälät distributed under the commercial label of the Anheuser & Fehrs winery offers a glorious mature nose with plenty of tertiary yet vivid and animating notes including leather, beeswax, tar, smoke, dried apricot, nut, coffee bean, musk, dark chocolate and cinnamon. The wine develops great presence underpinned by more oxidative notes on the apricot-infused palate. The finish proves powerful and intense. It also leaves some pungent flavors of tar, fireplace and smoke, a result no doubt of the fact that this Auslese has probably more like 10% of alcohol (instead of the nowadays usual 7-8%). These flavors persist for minutes after drinking this beautiful mature Prälät. What a great experience! Drink up

Weingut Jos. Christoffel jr.

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

1990er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Erdener Prälät Riesling Auslese ***	09 91		94
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This great wine delivers a stunning nose of cassis, pineapple, whipped cream, and minty herbs. It dances on the palate and leaves one with a gorgeous feel of herbs and fine spices in the long and vibrant finish. This is a little stunner of a wine on par with the bottle tasted in early 2017. Now-2035



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2003er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese ***	04 04	93
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Superb notes of cassis, herbs and fine spices emerge from the glass. The wine now develops an ever so slight touch of petrol which, far from being disturbing, adds complexity and freshness to the palate. One could, pushing the boat only a little bit, be fooled in believing this is a 1997 or 1998: It is that fresh and delineated. What a beauty. Now-2028

1992er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese ***	10 93	92
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This yellow-golden colored wine offers an exquisite nose made of coconut, apricot, almond and slate. The wine is nicely luscious yet remarkably focused on the palate and leaves a superbly clean feel in the long and refined finish. This is a beautiful wine at the height of its development. Now-2027

Weingut Clüsserath-Eifel

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 37 – Aug 2017)

Hofgut Falkenstein

(Niedermennig – Saar)

2004er	Falkenstein	Krettnacher Euchariusberg Riesling Auslese	03 05	93
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This wine comes from a parcel in Gross Schock, a prime south-facing part of the Euchariusberg vineyard. The wine offers a gorgeous nose of peach and pineapple, and proves nicely precise and intense on the palate. A great feeling of airy lightness comes through in the delicately exotic and nicely zesty finish. Now-2034

1995er	Falkenstein	Niedermenniger Herrenberg Riesling Kabinett Trocken	01 96	91
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This offers a gorgeous nose of bright citrusy fruits. The wine is quite structured by zesty acidity on the bone-dry palate and leaves a vibrant sensation of grapefruit, white mint and herbs in the razor-sharp finish. This is a gorgeously structured expression of light dry Riesling. Now

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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 37 – Aug 2017)



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Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

(Saarburg – Saar)

1997er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese lange GK	03 98	Auction	97
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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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 37 – Aug 2017)

1988er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein	03 89	Auction	97
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The 1988er Saarburger Rausch Eiswein was harvested at 170° Oechsle on November 22, 1988. This orange-colored wine develops a great smoky nose of black tea, wood fire, dried apricot, anise and a hint of furniture polish. The wine is racy and refined on the palate and leaves a gorgeously precise and animating feel of fruits, nut and spices in the stunningly long finish. This is a classic old-style Eiswein with focus, raciness and smoothness. What a timeless beauty! Now-2028

1997er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Kabinett	14 98		92
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Quite smoky scents driven by anise and chamomile gives way to richer notes of butter cream with airing on the nose. The wine starts off on the round side on the palate as creamy salted caramel is joined by yellow peach and pear. Yet they are all wrapped into quite some citrusy acidity which gives this Kabinett an off-dry feel in the very long and linear finish. This proves both complex and quite pure fun to drink. Now-2027

1987er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese GK	01 88	Auction	88
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The wine proves already quite advanced on the nose as fern, dried herbs, mint and herbal tea drive the aromatics. It is on the palate that the wine develops its full potential, being nicely juicy and full of ethereal scents of pear, grapefruit, lime, and herbal elements. The high acidity leads to a straight and lean finish of this very light, fresh and almost dry-tasting Spätlese. Now

Weingut Fritz Haag

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

1993er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	09 94		93
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This gorgeous mature Riesling from the Fritz Haag Estate delivers plenty of beeswax, cassis, cinnamon, smoke, candied grapefruit and a touch of smoke and honey. The wine is very delicate on the palate and shines through its lovely, smooth and creamy texture. This is all about subtlety and lightness, with however quite some complexity at play right into the long finish. It proves a magnificent effort. Now-2028

Weingut Willi Haag

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

1997er	Willi Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	13 98	Auction	94
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This delivers an absolutely stunning nose of mature Mosel Riesling with notes of beeswax, smoke, toffee, almond and butter cream, mint and grilled pineapple. The wine coats the palate with juicy flavors of grapefruit and cassis, and offers a superb presence with great intensity and length. The finish is all about refreshing cream enhanced by some citrus and lime which comes through in the after-taste. This is superbly playful without any feeling of power (despite a full 9% of alcohol). What a beautiful mature Auslese GK to drink by the bottle! Now-2027



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Weingut Reinhold Haart

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2003er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese	14 04	93
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The 2003er Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Auslese AP 14 offers a beautifully refined and complex set of aromatics including quince, almond cream, candied melon, mango, apricot and flowers. The wine is very delicate and elegant on the palate, where the creamy acidity adds to the graceful side of this magnificent Auslese. The wine is still very young and almost undeveloped since its bottling. Yet through the years, it has gained in finesse and elegance. If you like your wine on the creamy side, this is now ready but lovers of more slender mature Riesling may want to wait for another couple of years for the wine to gain in precision. 2023-2053

2004er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Domherr Riesling Spätlese	07 05	91+
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This bottle proves much more closed than the one we tasted more than three years ago. The wine appears to be still comparatively shy on the nose and only gradually reveals quite complex scents of smoke, herbs, peach, dried flowers, apricot and spices. It proves still remarkably primary and sweet on the palate. Mouthcoating ripe fruits make for quite a feeling of power and some breadth, but there is a touch of zesty freshness coming through in the finish. This behaves really like a rather big Auslese, certainly by the standards of the usually elegant and slender 2004 vintage and seems to not have reached maturity yet. The potential is however immense once the freshness will have taken over. 2024-2044

Weingut von Hövel

(Oberemmel – Saar)

1997er	von Hövel	Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Spätlese	12 98	Auction	95
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This offers a stunning nose of passion fruit, pear, grapefruit, apricot flower, elderflower, whipped cream and loads of minerals and herbs. The wine is stunningly well balanced on the palate, and its creamy texture offers so much airiness and elegance that this is a truly remarkable mature fruity Spätlese. It leaves a juicy feel in the very long and layered finish. The precision and elegance are simply awe-inspiring. Now-2027

Weingut Karthäuserhof

(Eitelsbach – Trier-Ruwer)

1993er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 43		95
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This fully mature Auslese from Karthäuserhof delivers a sumptuous and remarkably open and impressive nose blending yellow peach, mirabelle, candied orange and pineapple with cooler elements including grapefruit, lime and herbs. The wine is imposing on the palate, where it starts off on a ripe and almost powerful side but then gains in precision when an almost Eiswein-like acidity kicks in and persists right into the elegant and precise finish. This is a comparatively ostentatious Auslese, yet one which remains highly impressive. Now-2023

1988er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Spätlese	11 89	93
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This golden-colored wine delivers a beautifully classic Ruwer nose made of gooseberry, cassis, mint and flowers, as well as riper notes of beeswax, yellow peach, smoke and licorice. The wine is superbly juicy and fruity on the palate. Further notes of tar and smoke then come through and persist right into the straightforward, long and dry tasting finish. While splendid to enjoy, we would opt to drink up all remaining bottles, as the wine seems now to dry out in the after-taste. Drink up

2007er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese	17 08	88
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This offers some ripe fruits, herbs and spices. The wine is rather rich and delicately easy on the palate and leaves a slightly one-dimensional feel in the long and saturating finish. This is a bold and comparatively soft expression of fruity Auslese. Now-2027



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Weingut Keller

(Flörsheim-Dalsheim – Rheinhessen)

2002er	Keller	Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG	41 03	97
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Restrained at first the 2002er Westhofener Morstein GG quickly reveals most profound and utterly sumptuous floral and spicy notes. These are so intense that it is only gradually that the wine develops a fruity side made of yellow fruits and vineyard peach on the nose. A magnificent touch of zesty grapefruit, grilled pineapple and tangerine comes through on the palate which is superbly wrapped into a silky creamy taste of almond. The wine has a huge concentration and density which adds to the feeling of fruity sweetness. The finish is full of juice, purity and freshness. This is a breathtaking effort. Now-2037

2002er	Keller	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken Turmstück GG	39 03	96
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The 2002er Westhofener Kirchspiel GG is Keller's first dry wine made out of this *Grand Cru* and labeled as Kirchspiel (the 2001er was labeled as Riesling Spätlese Trocken R). In addition, the grapes only came from the prime parcel in the upper sector of the Kirchspiel known as Turmstück, and is the only vintage of Kirchspiel GG with this reference. It delivers a brilliant nose of mint, smoke, herbs and spices, all wrapped into some refined notes of orange blossom, pineapple, grapefruit and candied citrus. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate. Everything is there. Nothing dominates. Great flavors of fresh fruits are superbly wrapped into a most delicate touch of cream. The finish is pure, straight and very intense. This is a breathtakingly elegant dry Riesling. Now-2032

2004er	Keller	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken GG	22 05	95
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This elegant and refined dry Riesling exhibits a multi-layered nose made of white flowers, menthol, sea breeze, chamomile, white bean and a touch of herbaceous elements. An animating zesty feeling makes for a very dynamic and pure feel on the palate and gives the wine a lot of focus, energy and raciness. The finish is straight, spicy and zesty with full intensity. This remarkably youthful dry Riesling is still lively and has still plenty of years ahead. Now-2034

2001er	Keller	Riesling Spätlese Trocken S	28 02	93
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The 2001er Spätlese Trocken S was made from grapes harvested in the Westhofener Aulerde. This golden-colored wine offers a most attractive and subtly fruity nose of grapefruit, tangerine, yellow peach, apple and orange blossom wrapped into thyme, oregano and other herbs. A touch of cream and fruits blends beautifully well a mouth-watering acidity on the palate. This remarkable dry Riesling proves incredibly youthful yet profound and complex at the same time. Now-2031

Weingut Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt

(Morscheid – Trier-Ruwer)

2003er	von Kesselstatt	Josephshöfer Riesling Auslese lange GK #6		93
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Golden yellow in color, this delivers a great, ripe yet refined nose of toffee, candied fruits, banana, apricot, quince, hazelnut cream, honey and a touch of raisin. The wine offers superb presence on the palate where intense dried and tropical fruits are wrapped into quite some toffee and raisin. The mid-palate is very smooth and creamy, and the finish is intense and quite powerful. This is a gorgeous expression of a ripe and delicately baroque dessert wine. Now-2043

2001er	von Kesselstatt	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Trocken	13 04	92
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This proves quite aromatic and fruit-driven on the nose. A touch of vanilla and quince add depth and ripeness to this superbly mature Riesling. The mineral and smoky side of the wine comes through on the palate. A nice and vibrant touch of acidity adds to the very dry feel in the magnificently long finish. The after-taste is all about freshness with gorgeous notes of herbs, verbena and mint. This is a great mature dry Riesling. Now-2021



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Weingut Knebel

(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

2007er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Trockenbeereauslese	19 09	Auction	98+
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This immediately captures one's attention as it delivers mind-blowing scents of raisin, apricot, exotic fruits, honey, toast and smoke. The liqueur on the palate is simply magnificent, as it possesses all the creamy viscosity, nut oil and smoothness of immense concentrated TBA. The wine is waxy, rich and still syrupy. While this is already firing on full cylinders, it will still develop further aromatic complexity and finesse with time, so that we would opt to wait another decade, to give it time to tame its inner-richness, and this could then well turn out as a perfect wine at maturity. 2027-2087
 NB: This wine was tasted on several occasions over the last year with consistent notes.

2004er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Beereauslese	14 05		96
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This develops a beautifully aromatic and complex nose of apricot, honey, acacia, toffee, butter cream, orange blossom and honey, wrapped into a touch of saffron and cinnamon. The wine proves quite sweet and honeyed on the palate, a feeling also amplified by the flavors of almond cream, raisin and apricot. However, the finish has more freshness, complexity and dynamism. This is a terrific rich BA from the 2004 vintage. Now-2034

2007er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Auslese	10 08		95
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This is quite smoky at first with notes of tar and slate slowly giving way to most captivating exotic dried fruits, mango, strawberry, butter cream, roasted pineapple and beeswax. The botrytis presence on the palate is quite impressive as the wine shows delicate oiliness, unctuous nut paste and juicy fruits. Despite its richness, the wine has already nicely integrated its sweetness into its gracefully smooth finish. This dessert wine is quite a treat! Now-2047

2009er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Trockenbeereauslese	19 10		94+
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The 2009er Winninger Röttgen TBA is a massive wine which is starting to evolve aromatically with rich exotic fruits, nut oil, tar, dried mango, acacia honey and a touch of beeswax. It is still very youthful on the palate and dominated by a rich syrupy texture. It has power and density with Eszencia-like creamy viscosity, nut paste and ample honey. The residual sugar still dominates the wine. This wine will require at least another decade to start to fully shine, and could then turn out even more exciting than anticipated. 2029-2079

2005er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Beereauslese	08 06		94
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This delivers very pure yet deeply rich notes of apricot, pineapple, honey, mango and vanilla cream. The wine develops the richness of a TBA on the palate with still remarkably sweet and concentrated flavors of marzipan, apple jelly and baked spices wrapped into an oily texture. This smooth and complex sweetness carries over right into the very long and honey-driven finish. One almost feels the quality of the botrytis in this hugely impressive high-octane dessert wine. 2020-2055

2006er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Beereauslese	10 07		92+
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This massive BA offers tons of rich and very ripe exotic fruits, crème brûlée, honey, toffee, baked spices and strawberry all wrapped into some volatile. The wine hits the palate with opulent and sweet notes of raisin and dried exotic fruits. The finish is hugely long but also still remarkably quite saturating at this stage. This will need many more years of maturation before finding its inner balance. This baroque and rather powerful BA could then exceed our high expectations, especially if it gains in focus. 2026-2056+

Weingut Le Gallais

(Kanzem – Saar)

1989er	Le Gallais	Wiltinger braune Kupp Riesling Beereauslese	06 91	Auction	95
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This already orange-colored wine offers a most captivating nose of rich exotic fruits including mango, pineapple juice, date, papaya, passion fruit and coconut as well as some roasted pineapple, strawberry, butter cream and honey. The wine is delicately smooth and superbly creamy on the palate. Its unctuous texture is underlined by some syrupy fruits, apple jelly and baked spices. The finish shows a touch of freshness and smoke but the overall balance is that of a rich and sweet BA. This is a great dessert wine at full peak, with still several years ahead. Now-2029



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Weingut P. Licht-Bergweiler Erben

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

The P. Licht-Bergweiler Erben Estate was one of the classic Estates of the 20th century. A member of the Bernkasteler Ring, it held prime vineyards in Brauneberg, Graach and Wehlen. It was given up in the late 1990s, when some of the best growers snatched up the finest holdings. Towards the end of its life, the Estate obviously found it difficult to sell its wines, so that there are still quite some old stocks available, which regularly appear on the market. It is always an Estate to have a look at as its finest wines can be stunning.

1975er	P. Licht-Bergweiler Erben	Bernkasteler Johannisbrünnchen Riesling Beerenauslese Eiswein	22 76	94
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This BA-Eiswein (Eiswein was an attribute and not a Prädikat denomination until 1980) proves deep bronze-golden in color. The wine develops a beautiful nose made of almond, apricot, mango, baked pineapple, fine spices and a hint of earthy spices. A great kick of zesty acidity (from the fact that the grapes were frozen) enhances the richly creamy flavors of almond, licorice, date and dried apricot on the palate. The finish is juicy, light-footed and, above all, ethereally elegant. This is a little stunner of a wine with plenty of life ahead! Now-2030

1979er	P. Licht-Bergweiler Erben	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett	08 80	92
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This golden-colored wine offers a superb and gorgeously ripe nose of earl grey tea, minty herbs, beeswax and ripe apple and pear. There is none of the usual "green touch" that is so characteristic for the 1979 vintage. The slender nature of the vintage only becomes noticeable once it hits the taste buds. The wine unfolds with almost Auslese presence but also a slight hollow lightness in the mid-palate. The finish is delicately ethereal, minty and remarkably creamy and soft (it could actually well have been de-acidified). A hint of fern adds depth to the after-taste. This is a remarkable mature Riesling with Kabinett lightness and Auslese aromatic intensity. What a timeless beauty! Now-2024

1976er	P. Licht-Bergweiler Erben	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	09 77	92
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This golden-colored wine develops a beautiful nose of candied grapefruit cream, coconut, baked apple, pineapple and fine aniseed herbs. The wine is comparatively slender and remarkably zesty for a 1976 on the palate and leaves a focused and racy feel (more akin to that of a wine from the 1975 vintage) in the long and superbly mouth-watering finish. This is a gorgeous and remarkably youthful Auslese to enjoy over the coming decade ... and possibly more. Now-2026

1983er	P. Licht-Bergweiler Erben	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	14 84	91
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This golden-colored wine develops a slightly reduced nose of mirabelle, baked pineapple, mango and smoke as well as already some fern. The wine proves nicely light-weighted with good balance between ripe acidity and beeswax creaminess on the palate. The finish is smooth and nicely direct in a satisfying and easy style. This is a nice mature Riesling to enjoy at the aperitif or on its own. Now-2023

1975er	P. Licht-Bergweiler Erben	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	07 76	91
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This deep bronze-colored wine was obviously made from fruit which had been affected by botrytis as scents of apricot, honey, date, almond and smoky herbs emerge from the glass. The wine is delicately baroque and shows a light BA presence on the palate where beeswax and dried exotic fruits are enhanced by a zesty and ethereal side (the latter from a hint of fern). The medium-long finish is packed with hearty flavors. We would opt to finish the remaining bottles in the coming years. Now-2020

1989er	P. Licht-Bergweiler Erben	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Beerenauslese	03 91	90
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This beautifully golden-colored wine is marked by a whiff of volatile acidity and furniture varnish at first. This then gradually gives way to delicately baroque flavors of apricot, raisin, baked apple, date, licorice, camphor and earthy spices. The wine develops a rather slender body but compensates this by quite some aromatic power on the palate and, above all, in the long finish. This is a very nice mature wine which now tastes more like an off-dry wine than a fully sweet BA. Now-2024



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Weingut Schloss Lieser

(Lieser – Middle Mosel)

1997er	Schloss Lieser	Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Auslese ***	10 98	93
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The 1997er Lieserer Niederberg Helden Auslese *** AP 10 (there were several separate bottlings in that vintage) was made from clean fruit. This shows immediately through as the wine offers a ripe and beautifully mature nose of cassis, beeswax, apple, elderflower and smoke. The wine is juicy, creamy and smooth as it unfolds superbly refined flavors of honey and beeswax on the palate. Yet where this shines is on the mid-palate and in the finish as it gains significantly in finesse. The finish is very delicate, comparatively light and full of freshness thanks to most animating zesty fruits. This is a superb mature Auslese. Now-2027

Weinbau Dr. Lippold

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2010er	Dr. Lippold	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Beerenauslese Alte Reben		94
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The 2010er Ürziger Würzgarten BA Alte Reben develops a beautiful nose of mint, gooseberry, white peach, pineapple, coconut and quite some earthy spices. The wine is beautifully playful and elegant on the palate, with the presence and raciness of a high-end Auslese. The finish is beautifully lively and has the depth and the great elegance of a fruity Eiswein. This is a gorgeous wine made in a slightly sturdy but no less satisfying style. Now-2030 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2003er	Dr. Lippold	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese Alte Reben vom Weltersberg	02 04	92
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This offers a gorgeous nose of cassis, herbs and smoke. The wine is beautifully elegant and refined on the palate and leaves a gorgeously smooth feel of melon, cassis, slate and herbs in the surprisingly elegant refreshing finish. This is a great success! Now-2028 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2010er	Dr. Lippold	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese Alte Reben	03 14	91
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The 2010er Ürziger Würzgarten Auslese Alte Reben develops a surprising nose of camphor, gooseberry, mint, underbrush and herbs. The wine is slightly bold with minty herbs and sharp acidity on the palate but this is nicely balanced by a touch of whipped cream and mirabelle. The finish is precise and quite refreshing, with gooseberry mingling with riper flavors of greengage and some spices. This is nicely made in a sharp and delicately restrained style. Now-2025+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

Weingut Carl Loewen

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

1996er	Carl Loewen	Leiwener Laurentiuslay Riesling Spätlese Trocken	14 97	90
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This golden-colored wine develops a ripe nose of fruits, a hint of camphor, some laurel and spices. The wine is delicately smooth yet vibrant on the palate and leaves a gorgeously elegant feel in the medium long finish. This 20 year-old wine remains so incredibly fresh and lively. Now-2021

Weingut Gebrüder Ludwig

(Thörnich – Middle Mosel)

2001er	Gebrüder Ludwig	Thörnicher Ritsch Riesling Auslese	01 02	91+
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This yellow-colored wine develops some attractive scents of yellow fruits as well as a hint of Limoncello. The wine is quite focused and intense on the palate, with still a rather tart feel of almond and earthy spices driving the aromatics. As remarkable as it seems, this Auslese has not yet fully reached its maturity. There is also still quite some upside potential here. 2021-2041



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Weingut Markus Molitor

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2007er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** (Golden Capsule)	28 09	Auction	97
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This stunning noble sweet wine (which was first offered at the Bernkasteler Ring Auction in 2009) delivers a simply stunning nose made of yellow peach, mango, herbs and spices including cinnamon. The wine develops the full unctuous oily side of a BA on the palate and despite still being saturating and sweet already starts to develop a beautifully balanced and elegant feel with great creaminess right into the long and sweet finish. The after-taste is intense and truly remarkable. As impressive as the wine is now, this will really need a good decade more to fully integrate and develop its magnificent potential. 2027-2067 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2007er	Markus Molitor	Niedermenniger Herrenberg Riesling Auslese ** (Golden Capsule)	31 08		95
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This noble-sweet Riesling offers a stunning nose made of candied grapefruit, pineapple, herbs and spices. The wine seduces one with a stunning feel of backed pineapple, mango, apricot, and candy floss on the creamy yet zesty palate. The finish is simply beautifully long and refined and one is left with a glorious multi-layered feel of honeyed exotic fruits, fine spices and herbs. Now-2047 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2007er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Golden Capsule)	22 08		92
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This fruity-styled Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese develops a beautiful nose of caramel, pear, passion fruit and spices. The wine proves superbly juicy on the palate and leaves a mouth-watering feel in the great, delicately ample but very playful finish. This is a gorgeous wine made in a light Auslese style to enjoy over the coming decades. Now-2037 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2007er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese ** (White Capsule)	61 08		91+
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This offers a gorgeous nose of candied grapefruit, fresh herbs, spices and a hint of licorice. The wine is quite firm and delicately assertive on the palate, where the herbal side still dominates the aromatic profile. The wine proves still rather backward, slightly ample in the long and juicy finish. This is not yet fully mature but should prove a gorgeous wine in a few years' time. 2022-2032 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2007er	Markus Molitor	Niedermenniger Herrenberg Riesling Auslese ** (White Capsule)	43 08		90
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This develops a fascinating and complex nose of caramel, fine herbs and spices. The wine is juicy and fresh on the palate, and offers a nicely direct feel in the long and well-balanced finish. This is an outstanding dry Riesling to enjoy over the coming years. Now-2027 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

Weingut Egon Müller zu Scharzhof

(Wiltingen – Saar)

1994er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese	14 95		96
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This displays an absolutely gorgeous mature nose full of complexity with notes of eucalyptus, pine, menthol and camphor giving slowly way to quite fascinating botrytis-driven scents of apricot, mirabelle and dried pineapple. The wine offers superb concentration on the palate where some richer flavors of honey and candied apricot are superbly balanced out by grapefruit zest and lime. The sweet-sour tension is quite remarkable. This fully mature Spätlese is quite impressive. Now-2024

1988er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese	27 89		95
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This bottle of Auslese offers a stunning nose of pear, grapefruit, minty herbs, beeswax and fine spices. The wine possesses a gorgeous smooth and delicately zesty texture on the palate and leaves a hugely complex and refined feel of minty herbs, succulent ripe fruits and a touch of almond in the incredibly long and refined finish. What a stunning beauty! Now-2028



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2007er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese	09 08	92
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This still proves rather reduced on the nose and only reveals its true elegance on the palate, where passion fruit, ripe pear and grapefruit mingle with some herbs and almond. The finish is beautiful and playful. This needs still a full decade to show all its complexity and beauty. 2027-2047

Dominikaner Weingut C. von Nell-Breunig

(Kasel – Trier-Ruwer)

NB: The wines tasted here were commercialized under the Estate's previous (and related) name, Weingut Christoph von Nell.

1995er	Christoph von Nell	Kaseler Dominikanerberg Riesling Eiswein	11 96	95
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This shows a magnificently refined nose of candied grapefruit, orange peel, tangerine, apricot, almond cream and anise. The wine is gorgeously present on the palate with enough sugar to balance the zesty and lively acidity running through the wine. The finish is playful, elegant and refined, and its juicy-zesty balance makes one beg for another glass. This stunning dessert wine is quite a treat! Now-2030

1989er	Christoph von Nell	Kaseler Dominikanerberg Riesling Beerenauslese	04 90	92
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Already golden-orange in color, this BA offers a gorgeous and delicate nose of beeswax, quince jelly, orange, candied grapefruit, acacia, licorice and a touch of green herbs. It proves juicy, fruity and creamy on the comparatively soft and sweet palate, where further notes of fruit jelly and beeswax drive the flavor profile. The finish is superbly long and persistent thanks to a touch of power emerging in the after-taste. This fully mature and light-bodied BA is remarkably easy to drink. Now-2029

Weingut Paulinshof

(Kesten – Middle Mosel)

1987er	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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 37 – Aug 2017)

Weingut Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2003er	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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 37 – Aug 2017)

1990er	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+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 37 – Aug 2017)



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Weingut Leo Pfeiffer

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

The Weingut Leo Pfeiffer was a small but fine Estate in Ürzig with some fine old vines in the prime sector of the vineyard situated downriver from the village. Leo's son Benedikt runs the Estate today (now called Weingut Benedikt Pfeiffer which handles, among others, the wines of the Dr. Lippold also featured in this Issue).

1967er	Leo Pfeiffer	Ürziger Würzgarten feine Auslese		89
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This delivers a very delicate bouquet of apple, cinnamon, tangerine and orange zest, and quickly gains in riper and tertiary notes of smoke, incense, leather and white mushrooms. The wine starts off on a delicate and smooth side, whereby the smoky flavors dominate the finish which shows more presence and even a hint of power with some herbal nuances. This has now passed its optimal drinking window and is fully in its "mystic" phase. Drink up

Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

1976er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Beerenauslese lange GK	24 77	Auction	97
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This develops a stunning nose of almond, tangerine, slate, whipped cream, toffee and pear. The wine lives from superb freshness on the palate, and leaves a great touch of apricot, more almond and fine herbs in the superbly pure and long finish. The feeling of sweetness has now fully merged into the wine, which adds to the overall elegance and lightness of this beautiful "drinking" BA. Now-2026

2002er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	18 03	Auction	97
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This delivers a most beautiful fresh and hugely complex nose of white peach, lily flowers, herbs, smoke and spices. The wine is stunningly airy on the palate yet develops great depth while retaining an incredible sense of purity. The wine is as light as water and is drinking gorgeously well, and could even at first seem to "easy." The sappy acidity and graceful creamy touch coming through are just breathtakingly good. This stunning Spätlese is a tribute to the greatness of this airy yet complex style which has made the success of the Joh. Jos. Prüm Estate over the years. Now-2042

1990er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Bernkasteler Johannisbrunnchen Riesling Eiswein lange GK	13 92	Auction	96
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This deep-colored wine offers a great nose of date, raisin, orange peel and smoky slate. The wine proves still remarkably sweet on the palate but the sweetness is beautifully lifted up by tickly acidity which makes for a vivid tension in the finish. This old-fashioned and slightly more oxidative Eiswein is simply remarkable. Now-2028

1990er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	11 92		96
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This offers a beautiful nose of candied grapefruit, pineapple, whipped cream and smoky slate. The wine is stunningly well delineated and precise on the palate, where a stunning touch of almond and pear comes through which lead to a great and elegant feel in the finish. This is a stunner of a wine. Now-2030

2003er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GK	10 07		95
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This hay-colored wine offers a stunning nose of melon, pear puree, star fruit and pineapple, all wrapped into gorgeous beeswax, herbs and a hint of wet slate. The wine is delicately creamy on the palate, where a nice touch of acidity lifts up the flavors of pear, pineapple and laurel on the palate. The finish is impeccably balanced and leaves on with airy feel of tangerine, pear and fine herbs. The sweetness, while still there, has beautifully mellowed away into the wine. This is a gorgeous dessert wine to enjoy over the coming decade. Now-2043 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2003er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese	01 05		94
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This proves remarkably fresh on the nose, with minerals and a hint of cream only gradually giving way to the more classic melon-based scents on the nose. The wine proves stylish and refined on the palate and leaves a remarkably fresh feel in the long and refined finish. This truly transcends the 2003 vintage. Now-2023



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2006er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese	01 08	93+
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This develops a ripe nose of creamy melon, coconut, pineapple and herbs. The wine proves quite creamy on the palate and leaves a superbly elegant and juicy feel in the long finish. This is far from being ready but shows already huge potential. 2026-2046

1993er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Auslese	30 94	93
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This delivers a beautifully elegant and refined nose of cassis, elderflower, herbs and smoke. The wine is pure silk yet also grace and charm on the palate and leaves a gloriously subtle feel in the long finish. Now-2028

1995er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese	14 96	93
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This offers a beautifully nose of slate, grapefruit, mirabelle, almond and herbs. The wine is vivid but also delicately smooth as ripe acidity just lifts up great flavors of fruits. The finish is lively and full of presence. Now-2025

1999er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese	08 02	93
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This offers a beautiful nose of canned peach, whipped cream, smoke and herbs. The wine develops a gorgeously creamy side on the palate and leaves an elegant medium-bodied feel in the long and suave finish. This remains one of the gorgeous successes in the Mosel in 1999. Now-2029

2002er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese	17 03	93
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This delivers a beautiful nose of peach, herbs and flowers. The wine develops an attractive creamy side on the palate and leaves a superbly zesty feel driven by grapefruit and smoky in the finish. This is a plain delicious Auslese with plenty of years ahead. Now-2032

2003er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	03 05	93
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This hay-colored wine offers a beautifully refined nose of mirabelle, melon, apricot blossom, star fruit, beeswax and a hint of smoky slate. The wine is nicely elegant and silky on the palate and leaves a gorgeously pure and elegant feel of melon and a hint of honey in the long and waxy finish. A gorgeous touch of ripe acidity adds a touch of juiciness to the after-taste. This is a beautiful mature Auslese made in the timelessly elegant style of the Joh. Jos. Prüm Estate. Now-2033 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2009er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese	06 11	92+
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This offers a beautiful nose of mirabelle, white peach, laurel and fine herbs. The wine is nicely smooth and delicately creamy on the palate, where a mouth-watering touch of ripe acidity lifts up the succulent but ripe flavors of white melon, star fruit and earthy spices. Far from being weighty, this Auslese retains the graceful lightness and finesse of the Joh. Jos. Prüm Estate and leaves one with an airy and delicately flowery feel of mirabelle, herbs and fine spices in the long and smooth finish. While already approachable now, this will certainly still develop over the coming years as the sweetness will recede with age. 2021-2041 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

1985er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Spätlese	18 86	91
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This offers a stunning nose of cassis, elderflower and smoke. The wine is vivid and racy on the palate, with however just a hint of creaminess to add depth. The finish is racy, fresh and elegant. This is a stunning mature Spätlese which would easily be considered as a crisp Kabinett by today's standards. Now-2025

Weingut Johann Peter Reinert

(Kanzem – Saar)

2002er	Johann Peter Reinert	Wiltinger Klosterberg Riesling Auslese	18 03	<i>Auction</i>	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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 37 – Aug 2017)



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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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 37 – Aug 2017)

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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 37 – Aug 2017)

Weingut Max Ferd. Richter (Mülheim – Middle Mosel)

1982er	Max Ferd. Richter	Mülheimer Helenenkloster Riesling Kabinett	31 84		91
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This beautiful wine develops a stunning nose of cassis, grapefruit, mint and white minerals. It is superbly well balanced on the palate, with great silky and waxy elements providing the right counterpart to zesty and mouth-watering mineral and fruity flavors. The finish is simply to die for. How it is possible to produce such a stunning Kabinett out the high-yielding 1982 vintage is quite mesmerizing. Now-2022

Weingut Schloss Saarstein (Serrig – Saar)

2007er	Schloss Saarstein	Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Auslese	11 08		93
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This starts to enter its maturity window as it offers a great and superbly open nose with fine ripe fruits, peach, spices, pineapple, almond cream, pear and smoke. The wine is delicately juicy and still loaded with quite some residual sugar on the mid-palate yet the finish is pure zest and freshness. This is a lovely Auslese from the 2007 combining the usual ripeness of fruits with a most animating acidity. Now-2037

Weingut Willi Schaefer (Graach – Middle Mosel)

1994er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	14 95	Auction	96
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This delivers a quite breathtaking nose with still quite some fruits ranging from candied grapefruit and apricot to greengage and mirabelle. They are joined by some secondary evolution notes including thyme, sage, beeswax and a touch of tar, all wrapped into some superbly fresh mint. The wine starts off on the juicy and honeyed side with more beeswax, apricot juice and candied grapefruit on the palate. However what sets this into a class of its own is the beautifully zesty side which adds layers upon layers of complexity to this refined Spätlese. The finish is long and remarkably pure. This playful wine is a great tribute to mature auction Spätlese. Now-2029



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Weingut Carl Schmitt-Wagner

(Longuich – Middle Mosel)

1937er	Carl Schmitt-Wagner	Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Riesling Auslese	100
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A whiff of volatile acidity gives way to stunning notes of date, herbs and spices as well as a touch of candied orange, not found in the bottle tasted last year. The remarkable acidity comes through on the palate and leaves a stunning feel of herbs, spices and smooth oiliness in the long and stunningly vibrant finish. This is (again) a perfect mature Riesling! Now

Weingut von Schubert – Maximin Grünhaus

(Mertesdorf – Trier-Ruwer)

1993er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 83	98
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The Abtsberg Auslese Nr. 83 is an absolutely stellar wine not because of over-ripeness or massive botrytis impact, but because of an absolutely mind-boggling set of multi-layered and highly complex aromatics which are all about refinement, delicacy and freshness. The wine starts off with sublime flowery notes interplaying with mint, cassis, gooseberry, white peach, anise, spices, herbs and smoke. It delivers tons of flavors on the palate and possesses a beautiful balance between fine cream and brilliant acidity adding freshness and purity. The finish is ethereally long and refined. This is still incredibly youthful and does evolve (in bottle but also in the glass) at a very slow if not glacial pace. What a graceful prima ballerina! Now-2043

1993er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 183	97
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The Herrenberg Auslese Nr. 183 offers an absolutely stunning and still youthful nose including herbal tea, fresh mint, gooseberry, raspberry, mint, grapefruit, white flowers, spices and prune, and much more with airing as the wine continues to deliver myriads of nuances. On the palate it shows deep complexity and presence yet without any undue weight as the residual sugar is superbly integrated and adds smoothness and delicacy to this very delightful and elegant wine. The sensation in the finish is just off-dry in taste thanks to a most refined zesty acidity. This is quite a treat and an admirable Grünhaus Auslese at maturity. Now-2033

NB: This wine was tasted on multiple occasions over the last year with consistent notes.

1993er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Eiswein	25 94	97
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This offers an absolutely stunning nose of mango, cassis and backed pineapple. The wine is superbly well balanced on the palate and leaves a great feel of more juicy fruits and fresh herbs in the long and elegant finish. This is a plain gorgeous effort! Now-2026

1988er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 67	94
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This fully mature Grünhaus Auslese, with some golden-orange reflections in the glass, delivers a rich yet elegant nose of smoke, mint, grapefruit, herbal tea, lime, gooseberry and cinnamon. The wine is superbly precise on the palate and comes over as light as mineral water, as if it was a delicately mature Kabinett, with little extract yet complexity of taste and persistence. The finish is now almost dry-tasting in style, so that this beauty is best enjoyed sooner rather than later. Now-2023

1997er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Trocken	14 98	94
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This magnum is absolutely singing. It screams both Ruwer and Grünhaus as stunning notes of minty herbs, gooseberry, anise, cassis, white peach, smoke and citronella as well as some beautiful floral nuances emerge from the glass. Superb flavors of mint and cassis come through on the weightless and graceful palate. The finish is intense, focused, racy and bone dry. This is a great refined, deeply complex and precise dry Riesling which will age effortlessly for many more years to come. What a beauty! Now-2032

1996er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese	19 97	93
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This light golden-colored wine shows a stunning nose of white flowers, gooseberry, cassis, mint and herbs. It proves very animating on the palate with a most vibrating acidity giving precision and focus. Yet the wine is also rather complex as a light residual sugar feeling adds depth to the mid-palate. The finish is all about freshness and incredible zest (one would be forgiven to believe that there is Eiswein at play here). What a beauty to drink by the bottle! Now-2031



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1992er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese	13 93	92
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Light golden in color, this develops a gorgeous nose made of chamomile, anise, yellow peach, smoke, spices and candied grapefruit. The wine develops remarkable presence underpinned by plenty of ripe creamy fruits and still some residual sugar on the palate. The finish is very subtle, elegant and airy. This refined Spätlese has still plenty of years ahead. Now-2027

1986er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese	06 87	92
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This offers an attractive nose of white and yellow peach, some fine herbs as well as a touch of saffron. The wine is beautifully smooth and inviting on the palate and leaves a subtle feel of flowers, minerals, tea and peach in the medium-long and just off-dry finish. Now

Weingut Selbach-Oster

(Zeltingen – Middle Mosel)

1992er	Selbach-Oster	Zeltinger Schlossberg Riesling Spätlese	22 93	94
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This offers a gorgeous nose of cassis, white peach, minty herbs, some laurel and waxy elements. The wine is deliciously spicy and creamy on the palate and leaves a great long mellow feel of spicy fruits in the finish. This is a great success in the comparatively difficult 1992 vintage. Now-2027

1990er	Selbach-Oster	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	07 91	91
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This wine came from a parcel in the former Schlossberg sector of the vineyard planted with 70 year-old un-grafted vines. It offers a gorgeous nose of cassis, pear, herbs and waxy elements. It exhibits a nicely creamy and elegant feel on the palate and in the long and remarkably smooth finish. Now-2020

Weingut St. Urbans-Hof

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

1997er	St. Urbans-Hof	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Auslese	04 98	92
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The 1997er Ockfener Bockstein Auslese shows a quite delicate and refined nose of smoke, anise, quince and some flowery elements. The wine is elegant and mid-weighted on the palate. The finish is beautifully persistent, flowery and smoky. This wine shines through its finesse and lightness rather than raw power. Now-2027

2007er	St. Urbans-Hof	Leiwener Laurentiuslay Riesling Spätlese	28 08	87
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This Spätlese is made in an off-dry style (it does exhibit 11% of alcohol). It offers a big nose of ripe fruits, spices and herbs. The wine is bitter and broad on the palate and in the finish. This will please lovers of ostentatious and forceful fruit-driven off-dry Riesling. Now-2027

Stiftungsweingut Vereinigte Hospitien

(Trier – Trier-Ruwer)

1987er	Vereinigte Hospitien	Erdener Prälat Riesling Spätlese	05 88	89
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This offers a rather advanced nose with fern dominating the aromatics at first. The wine takes a few minutes before it reveals a delicate touch of grapefruit, herbs and spices. It is however superbly lively and playful on the palate, where the fruity side merges with some fine elements of mushroom. The finish is lively and fresh. This is already far advanced in its evolution and will please lovers of Mosel wines in their "mystic" phase (see our article on how Mosel wine ages). Drink up



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Weingüter Geheimrat J. Wegeler

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

1997er	Wegeler	Winkeler Jesuitengarten Riesling Vintage Collection	07 98	93
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This 1997er Winkeler Jesuitengarten Vintage Collection is a late-release (Fall 2017) set of bottles which have aged in the cellars of the Rheingau Estate owned by Wegeler. This golden-colored wine delivers a beautiful nose almond, apricot, aniseed herbs and fine spices. It proves luscious and elegant on the palate and leaves a gorgeously dry and smooth feel in the gorgeous finish. This is now a perfect food wine for instance for game dishes. Now-2027 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2007er	Wegeler	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Vintage Collection	21 11	92
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The 2007er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese Vintage Collection is a late-released (Fall 2017) set of magnums bottled late (hence the 2011 AP number) which have aged in the Estate cellars. This bright white-hay colored wine develops a beautiful nose of pear, star fruit, greengage and fine herbs. It still proves remarkably vibrant and mouth-watering on the palate and leaves a beautifully juicy and delicately creamy feel in the long finish. This is in a superb place now but will certainly provide much pleasure for the coming decades as well. Now-2037 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2007er	Wegeler	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett Vintage Collection	19 08	90
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The 2007er Bernkasteler Badstube Kabinett Vintage Collection is a late-released (Fall 2017) set of bottles which have aged in the Estate cellars. The wine develops an attractive nose of quince, mirabelle, spices and a hint of slate. It proves beautifully precise on the palate and leaves a pure and zesty feel of pear, laurel and Provence herbs in the delicately intense finish. Now-2027 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)



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"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Keller G-Max | A Full Vertical Review of the Most Iconic German Dry Riesling



Keller G-Max | The Unlikely Genesis of a Cult Wine

Julia and Klaus-Peter Keller have two sons: Felix, born in 1997, and Maximilian (Max), born in 2000. As both Julia and Klaus-Peter are lovers red Burgundy (Klaus-Peter even did an apprenticeship at Domaine H. Lignier), the couple named their top-end Spätburgunder after their first son Felix. After the birth of their second son Max, they logically turned to Riesling for baptizing a wine after him.

Instead of adding the name Max to a Grand Cru site (as they did for Felix), they created a special wine made from very old vines in an unspecified site. The G-Max was born. At first, the Kellers intended this wine to be for their personal consumption only, i.e. to be a sort of "family reserve." This came in handy as these very old vines only yields a few hundred bottles anyway. This is not of such "family reserve" wines that the Kellers have produced so far. There were others in the past as well, incl. for instance a 1995er Kaseler Kehrnagel (made by Klaus-Peter's parents) and a 1996er Rüdesheimer Berg Rottland (the first out the 3 vintages made by Klaus-Peter during his studies at Geisenheim).

As the Kellers like to share good bottles, when they did that with their first G-Max, the 2001, friends and customers immediately wanted to buy some bottles. Klaus-Peter recalls the story: "Of course we did not want to sell any bottle, but as these people kept on insisting and I didn't want to appear too harsh, I simply put what looked to be an incredible and unheard-off price for a German Riesling at the time: €50! What I didn't expect is that customers readily said: ok, this is so good, we want to buy some! This is how the G-Max ended up being commercially released."

The G-Max rapidly grew a reputation and a following, but this was driven by wine lovers and freaks rather than by the press. But even without much press coverage, the followership quickly became so intense that Klaus-Peter Keller had to recourse to create "mixed cases" (a bit like Domaine de la Romanée-Conti) as of the vintage 2011 to try to satisfy his customers' demands. Not even this drastic measure did eventually tame the commercial interest. Bottles of G-Max can easily fetch €1,000 on the secondary market today, even for young vintages. This makes it not only the most expensive dry Riesling, but overall one of the priciest wines in the world.

Finally, some insiders may have heard or seen a picture of a 1999er and 2000er G Riesling by Keller. As Klaus-Peter explained, this is completely unrelated: "This wine was produced for a customer of a family back then, and some bottles have made it later on the market. Yet the G Riesling has nothing in common with the G-Max, be it in terms of style, provenance or quality."



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Keller G-Max / The Wine

The G-Max is a dry Riesling (the official back-label only mentions "Riesling Trocken"). As we mentioned above, it comes from an undisclosed site. Klaus-Peter Keller remains rather secretive about it, and only says as much: "We are talking of very old vines on great limestone rock soil, with a lot of *millerandage* [NB: also known as shot berries] and, consequently, very low yields. The grapes are often very loose which allows for airing and prevents the development of botrytis. We always harvest very clean and highly concentrated berries here."

The wine is made from ripe but not over-ripe fruit, which reflects in the vineyard management, as Klaus Peter explained, while admitting that this is a journey: "One has to learn to understand nature, you have to understand that everything changes and then try to make the right decisions, which proves always particularly tricky when dealing with old vines as for the G-Max, as these grapes automatically bring a natural concentration. We have for instance changed the canopy height, adapted the leaf/fruit ratio so that we could somewhat delay maturity. After all, a perfect Riesling grape needs the cool nights during fall and not too warm days, in order to develop the finest of flavors. It is the sum of all these small things which, in the end, make out the quality of the wine."

The G-Max is fermented with ambient yeasts in a combination of oak and stainless steel, although Klaus-Peter Keller leaves this open for the future as well: "I love concrete tanks for dry Riesling. Also Clos Ste Hune is partially made in concrete tanks. At the moment none of my tanks are small enough for the G-Max but this would definitely be worth a thought for the future."

Stylistically, the G-Max, as all other dry Riesling from Keller, has also undergone a slight evolution over the years: "10 years ago, our dry Riesling all had 5-6 g/l of residual sugar. We have lowered these levels over the years and our dry Riesling usually have more like 1-3 g/l of residual sugar today. But our objective has remained the same: make a grand wine ... which remains utterly enjoyable and drinkable and where you can also finish the bottle."

Keller G-Max / Vertical Conclusions

We had the immense privilege to taste ALL the G-Max ever made in the last few months, many of which several times. This includes a full vertical of all 16 vintages of G-Max ever produced as well as another event (the Coche-Dury tasting on which we report separately in this Issue, at which Klaus-Peter Keller show-cased six of the finest vintages of G-Max as well). We also had the chance to taste a cask sample from the 2017er G-Max in March. Although still an unmade wine, we decided to exceptionally add this tasting note as well, for completeness and reference purposes.

The immediate conclusion is quite obvious: Believe the hype! The G-Max is a truly iconic wine. The 2001er G-Max is, so far, our only perfect German dry Riesling (the other dry Riesling which we rated a perfect score was Trimbach's magical 1975er Clos Sainte Hune). All other G-Max are all classics, worthy of the Hall of Fame of Riesling, with the 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2015 all flirting with perfection as well. Clearly, the wine excels in vintages with firmer acidity and slender body. But even in the riper and freakish 2006 vintage, the G-Max fully shows its class (see our retrospective of the 2006 vintage in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 30 – Mar 2016).

Our tastings have also shown a stylistic evolution over the years. The first few vintages (from 2001 to 2004, 2003 being a truly atypical vintage as everywhere else in Europe) have magnificently evolved and show quite some purity, elegance and focus. A trend toward fuller and more opulent wines is then clearly noticeable from 2005 to 2011 (something of course also the result of the riper and full-bodied nature of many of these vintages). As of 2012 the wines distinctively offer more finesse and purity and drier, which makes them racy and focused without losing their magnificent intense and complexity.

If one carefully reads our tasting notes (especially the drinking window provided at the end), there is an obvious comment about the aging of the G-Max: 10 years is the minimum you should wait to get the quintessence of any G-Max bottle, and 20 years would be better. Anyone still having the 2001er G-Max is in for a great moment and, if properly stored, there is absolutely no rush to open it. This also applies to other vintages, and even if some "special" vintages such as 2003 and 2006 are at full maturity, they will hold for another couple of years at this high level.

This is a truly iconic wine and one which ranks among the finest wines of the world.



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Keller G-Max / Detailed Tasting Notes



2017er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	N.A.	(97-100)
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This cask sample of the 2017er G-Max proves almost non-saying at first and actually needs quite some time to reveal some potentially hugely complex and delicate notes of anise, yellow peach, grapefruit, spices, tobacco and flowery scents. The wine develops great balance on the palate, where a very delicate texture pairs beautifully well with some perfectly ripe but zesty acidity. This is really at a very primary stage but the potential is immense. In fact, this could easily turn out as one of the finest G-Max ever produced, alongside the glorious 2004 and 2001. It is that impressive! 2032-2047

2016er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	36 17	96
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The 2016er G-Max proves gorgeously backward and restrained, and only gradually reveals a beautifully aromatic and fresh nose of sage, white pear, candied lemon, floral elements and fine herbs. The wine is pure silk and yet stunningly precise on the palate and leaves a refined feel of chalky minerals in the long and smooth finish. It is seemingly light but the presence and intensity in the after-taste are proving this wrong. This only needs time to shine. 2026-2041 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 39 – January 2018)
NB: A more recently tasted bottle proved from equal quality.

2015er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	53 16	97+
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The 2015er G-Max is still fully open for business and develops a most attractive and amazingly aromatic nose of herbs, orange blossom, mint and a touch of passion fruit. The wine starts off on the light and zesty side on the palate, yet gains immensely as it unfolds its density with quite some extract and even a touch of power. All these goodies are beautifully wrapped into some whipped cream and a refreshing sense of acidity. The finish is straight, pure and intense, and lasts for minutes. This is still pretty much work in progress on the palate, and do not hope this to be fully ready before 10 years after the vintage. There is anyway great upside potential in this fascinating dry Riesling. 2025-2050

2014er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	44 15	96
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The 2014er G-Max proves superbly complex and pure on the nose with some superb notes of mint, white flowers, white peach, grapefruit and a touch of coconut. The wine is however still pretty much restrained on the palate, as it comes over as intense and compact. The energy of the wine comes through in the very long, great and zesty finish driven by lime and grapefruit. Quite some herbaceous tartness in the after-taste makes one salivate and magically go for more. This tartness is still in need for integration, but the sheer intensity and complexity of this wine already preludes a great G-Max to come, in a big decade or so. 2029-2049

2013er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	41 14	98+
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The 2013er G-max has now entered its muted phase as the aromatics are almost non-saying at first. It is only after quite some airing that it reveals an incredibly multi-layered and refreshing nose with plenty of mint, cassis, violet and zesty fruits as well as quite some spices. Its breathtaking and sheer elegance comes true on the palate where the wine combines density and power with superbly refreshing minty and yuzu-driven flavors. The wine retains a most impressive and almost austere side at the moment, and will only fully blossom at maturity, which is not expected to be reached before another solid decade. The endless finish is packed with intensity and salty elements. This extraordinary effort is a magnificent dry Riesling in the making. 2028-2048



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2012er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	40 13	96
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The 2012er G-Max has always proved to be a great charmer since the start and never really closed down. The wine literally burst out of the glass and fills the room with exquisite and gloriously perfumed scents of orange blossom, coconut, bergamot and vineyard peach. The wine initially appears slightly sweet and ripe on that palate as the density and creamy feeling make for a quite rich experience. However make no mistake, there is a lot of finesse at play here as the wine unfolds its full potential in the very long, spicy and candied grapefruit-infused finish. A touch of power in the after-taste adds depth and length. While this wine seems already quite expressive and hence ready to enjoy on the nose, its palate is still in need of integration, and we do not expect this G-Max to peak before quite a few years. 2022-2037

2011er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	56 12	96
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The 2011er G-Max delivers a quite aromatic and expressive nose blending fine minty and floral elements with riper notes of grapefruit, peach, coco and dried pineapple, all wrapped into some tobacco. The wine is still compact, structured and intense on the palate and leaves a powerful and spicy feel in the minute-long finish. This highly complex dry Riesling is still too young to fully shine, but its sheer complexity and magnificent intensity are really compelling. This will need a couple more years to start to shine. 2021-2041

2010er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	47 11	97
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This needs quite some time in the glass to some primary, crisp yet very pure scents of fruits enhanced by fresh notes including lime, herbs, bergamot, grapefruit, yuzu and coco. The power and intensity of this wine are superbly wrapped into a laser-sharp acidity which tightens up the whole experience. The finish is straight, zippy and marked by a most animating tartness as well as some salty elements. This bone-dry tasting G-Max is quite a treat, but also one which definitely needs more aging to fully shine. 2025-2040

2009er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	48 10	97+
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The 2009er G-Max proves still slightly reductive and almost stinky at first and only gradually reveals a mind-blowingly great nose, which is both profound and absolutely amazingly fresh regarding the vintage. Smoky, very primary and floral elements enhanced by notes of minty herbs, yuzu and chalky minerals are superbly wrapped into some spontaneous fermentation residues. The wine develops great focus and energy on the palate. It is straight and almost razor sharp, and has outstanding density. The finish proves feather light and sublimely airy. This defies all the rules of a "hot" vintage, and has even upside potential as it will slowly reach its maturity window. What a stunner! 2029-2049

2008er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	48 09	97
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The 2008er G-Max offers a gorgeous nose with plenty of herbaceous notes, smoke, tobacco, coco, candied grapefruit, mint and fennel, all wrapped into a hint of volatile acidity which adds presence and intensity to the nose. The wine proves deep, concentrated and even a tad powerful on the palate, yet always maintains a tremendous sense of freshness. The hugely long finish is all about lime, spices and citrusy fruits. This beautiful and structured G-Max is still pretty much work in progress and we would ideally wait for another couple of years to reach its maturity window. 2023-2043

2007er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	53 08	93
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The 2007er G-Max displays a fruit-driven nose with some exotic accents of pineapple and passion fruit as well as apricot, tangerine, a touch of almond and creamy yellow fruits. They are gradually joined by fresher spicy scents which add depth. The wine delivers a round feeling of smooth fruits on the palate yet the finish is beautifully focused, tart and spicy. This delicate and creamy G-Max continues to be a real charmer. Now-2027

2006er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	43 07	92
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The 2006er G-Max is a quite mighty dry Riesling underpinned by ripe notes of ginger-driven spices, paprika, mango, pineapple, orange peel, candied grapefruit and bergamot as well as sage. The wine proves quite structured and intense, which gives it a powerful side on the palate. The zesty side in the finish is wrapped into quite some vigorous hot spices. This needs some food to buffer its presence, and is one of the very few G-Max which is marked by the ripeness of its vintage. Now-2026

2005er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	40 06	94
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The 2005er G-Max is now fully mature and delivers a great, explosive and aromatic nose of smoke, orange, raspberry, violet, orange blossom and tar all wrapped into quite some spices. It is however not showing any signs of over ripeness or tiredness as it even gains in finesse and freshness as it evolves in the glass. The wine is creamy, powerful and quite structured and loaded with minty herbs and pineapple juice on the palate. Some really enticing notes of bergamot come through with air and add to the multi-layered feel of this comparatively ostentatious expression of dry Riesling. Now-2030



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2004er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	25 05	99
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The 2004er G-Max has evolved at a glacial pace over the years and, still today, displays a myriad of ultra-fresh notes including white flowers, mint, cassis, sea breeze, lime, yuzu and spices. With more airing some orange peel, coco and white peach join the party. The wine is packed into a stunningly elegant and razor-shape structure. This could be summarized by "power without weight". Yet, there is so much going on that this stunningly complex expression of cool dry Riesling is just adding layers upon layers of new flavors and sensations at each sip. The finish is immensely long and bone dry. This is a masterpiece of focused Riesling, which is just at the early stage of its life. Now-2054

2003er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	31 04	93
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A first whiff of smoke and mint gives way to a richer array of aromatics including apricot, orange and mango as well as almond and buttercream. This gives the 2003er G-Max a definitively Burgundian side. The wine coats the palate with superb creamy and juicy flavors as well as honeyed fruits and some toffee. There is a feeling of power and presence yet the wine remains elegant and delightful. This is really very impressive for a dry white wine from the super-hot 2003 vintage which, far from being tired or going downhill, still has quite some years ahead. Now-2023

2002er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	36 03	96
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This offers a great and aromatic nose with exquisite and riper notes of pineapple, gingerbread, apricot, poached pear, spices and smoke, wrapped into herbal and minty elements. There is a feeling of sweetness on the palate reinforced by some exotic fruits and a refined creamy structure. This comparatively softness is however gorgeously integrated into a glorious and delicious finish. This remains elegant and refined and is a marvelous expression of aromatic and mature dry Riesling. Now-2032

2001er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	35 02	100
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The 2001er G-Max truly shines thanks to multi-layered complexity offering myriads of nuances as the wine slowly develops in the glass. There are pure and fresh notes of freshly cut herbs, bergamot, mint, grapefruit, cassis, yuzu, fine spices, tobacco leaf and much more. Despite its age, the wine is still comparatively restrained on the palate where it exhibits a sublime combination of density, presence and finesse. The finish is all about salty elements, herbs and zesty fruits. The after-taste is admirably long and bone dry in taste. The 2001er G-Max is very harmonious and a glorious dry Riesling. This has now (and only very slowly) reached its drinking window where it will remain for quite some years and even decades. This is a reference wine for dry Riesling, and a real legend by now. Now-2041



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Coche-Dury Corton-Charlemagne | 1999-2009 Vertical

Riesling is our passion. It produces so many versatile wines, be they dry, off-dry, fruity or noble-sweet. There is little not to enjoy when Riesling sings. But white Burgundy can be equally fascinating, certainly at the hands of its finest terroirs and most gifted growers. Corton-Charlemagne from Coche-Dury is such an icon. We had the chance to participate to a unique vertical tasting. The conclusions were fascinating.



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The Independent Mosel Review

Coche-Dury Corton-Charlemagne | The Wine

Domaine Coche-Dury is probably one of the most mythical wine Estates in the world. Its wines fetch stratospheric levels on the secondary market (much to the regret of the Coche family, who sells its wines at more than reasonable prices ex-cellar). Yet, the family started on a much more humble footing. Léon Coche set up his wine business in the 1920s, which his son Georges took over in 1964. The true ascent to international fame came only later, with Georges' son, Jean-François. He officially started in 1973, and married Odile Dury in 1975, who brought vineyards into the marriage. As is the custom (also in the Mosel by the way), the Estate then takes the name of both families. Coche became Coche-Dury. Whoever had the chance of tasting older Coche-Dury wines from the 1980s or 1990s will just know of the incredible quality and age worthiness of the wines of Jean-François Coche Dury. He was joined by his son Raphaël part-time as of the 1997 vintage and full-time as of 2001. Raphaël first focused on the red wines (the hidden secret at Coche-Dury) and progressively took over from his father until 2010, when Jean-François officially retired. Even though the hand-over was much anticipated (as early as 2003), the official name of the Domaine only changed on the labels with the 2008 vintage (released in 2010), from "J.F. Coche-Dury" to "Domaine Coche-Dury – C. & R. Coche".

The Coche-Dury Corton-Charlemagne is one of the world's most iconic white wines. And yet, the Coche family only farmed it since 1986, when they were able to lease a 0.33 ha parcel from a member to an old and long-established Burgundy family. This 0.33 ha vineyard was already planted to Chardonnay when the Coches took it over. In 2012, the Coche were able to buy the leased parcel as well as to lease an adjacent parcel from the same family, and the total surface under management is now 0.88 ha. This parcel was partly planted to Pinot Noir (the Coche produced a red Corton from this new plot in 2013) before the vines were torn up and replanted to Chardonnay (the amount of Corton-Charlemagne bottles produced by the Domaine is only expected to rise as of the 2017 vintage).



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The Coche are particularly focused on vineyard management. They are true believers that this is the base for great wines. When we last met the Coche, they took some time to explain their approach. Pruning is done the old traditional way, according to the vegetative strength of each vine. De-budding is severe and there is no green harvesting. Harvest is done manually in small baskets and carefully sorted out if needed. Grapes are "sufficiently" pressed however without damaging the stems. As Jean-François mentioned, "this enables to have terroir wines rather than grape variety wines."

The Corton-Charlemagne is handled as every other white wine from the cellar, and is matured in traditional oak barrels, of which approximately one quarter is renewed every year. The wines are first racked a few weeks after they completed their malolactic fermentation. The Coche then keep up the maturing process for as long as 20 months (the wines are generally bottled in April two years after harvest), and like to do several other racking in order to progressively clarify the wines. The Corton-Charlemagne is bottled by hand, using traditional methods. Back when Jean-François was at the head of the operations, we remember late evening tastings in his cellar despite him being exhausted from very long days in the vineyards. Raphaël is at least as hard a worker as his father, who despite having officially gone into retirement, still helps his son with the daily work.

Coche-Dury Corton-Charlemagne | Vertical Conclusions

Right at the start of our tasting, Jean-François and Raphaël mentioned climatic change as a game changer: "2003 marks a transition. We will never find again the vintages we had before. We saw the impact of increased temperatures from global warming in the vineyards: This has played an important role on the vineyard management and harvesting approach ever since. This climate change has had a major impact on some vintages, in particular 2006 and 2009."

We noticed the impact of climate change in the tasting results. The wines after the 2003 vintage are indeed slightly bigger (even if everything is relative as the 2008 vintage for instance was much lighter and quite closer in style to that of the 1990s).

Even though the climatic drift since 2003 is undeniable, the wines generally showed a common thread with aging, namely power and finesse. Overall, the Corton-Charlemagne from Domaine Coche-Dury is a wine of presence, intensity and energy. It often impresses through mouth-coating exuberance and power with a touch of phenolic, huge dry extract and even a feeling of tannins. In many ways, it comes over as a blend between a white wine and a red wine. Such is its presence.

These wines need patience to fully develop, both aromatically and to significantly gain in finesse. For Jean-François Coche-Dury, "drinking a Corton-Charlemagne at under 10 years old is actually not worth it." This was amply confirmed by our tastings: The 1999, almost aged 20, was as vibrant as can be and one of the finest Chardonnay ever. Several wines tasted at the vertical have yet to reach their maturity window. It is therefore understandable that the Domaine purposefully delays the commercialization of its Corton-Charlemagne way beyond the usual two years after the harvest, as it was the case for the 1996, 2005 and 2010.

We cannot finish this unique vertical tasting without mentioned one fact about the Corton-Charlemagne: Do not expect what is usually referred to as the usual "Coche reduction" on the nose of a Corton-Charlemagne, the aromatics are more about floral nuances, a hint of butter cream, almond and a touch of fine honey, often wrapped into a good hint of freshness.



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Coche Dury Corton-Charlemagne | Detailed Tasting Notes



We adhere here to the official labelling of the Coche-Dury Estate, which was J.-F. Coche-Dury until the 2007 vintage and "Domaine Coche-Dury – C. & R. Coche" as of the 2008 vintage), in reference to Charline (Raphaël's wife) and Raphaël after Jean-François officially retired in 2010, the year the 2008s were commercialized.

2009er	Coche-Dury – C. & R. Coche	Corton-Charlemagne	95
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This immediately displays the sunny nature of the 2009 vintage as hugely impressive notes of juicy yellow fruits, pineapple, vineyard peach, coconut, almond milk, honeysuckle and acacia emerge from the glass. With more airing, a touch of wood presence, spices and toffee join the party. The wine is fully imposing on the palate where more juicy fruits, butter cream and almond make for a bold and quite massive impression. This is a profoundly forceful Corton-Charlemagne with depth and power as well as a great feeling of smoothness running through the wine, and which is in its definition has quite some common points with wines from the Montrachet hill. This is still very youthful and in need of further aging to gain even more in complexity and finesse. 2021-2039

2008er	Coche-Dury – C. & R. Coche	Corton-Charlemagne	98+
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The 2008 Corton-Charlemagne is a truly magnificent white Burgundy offering layers upon layers of fresh scents of mint, smoke and white flowers blended into a subtle touch of butter cream and spices. Also on the palate, it impresses through the inter-play between freshness and tension and deep concentration, density and even power from dry extract. Zesty acidity makes for a hugely long, spicy and crisp feel in the finish. This stunning wine has not yet reached maturity. We would not be surprised if it will eventually warrant a perfect rating: It is that stunning! 2023-2048

2007er	J.-F. Coche-Dury	Corton-Charlemagne	NR
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Unfortunately, this bottle was not 100% clean, a fact confirmed by the Coche.

2006er	J.-F. Coche-Dury	Corton-Charlemagne	93
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This immediately shows the vintage impact as almost exuberant and intense notes of exotic fruits including mango, banana flambé, pineapple as well as some praline, sweet almond, baked apple and leather emerge from the glass. The wine does not come over as hugely concentrated and extracted on the palate, yet the richness of the fruit flavors gives the wine all the power and intensity of a Corton-Charlemagne. Some honeyed and buttery accents make for a smooth and broader feeling in the long finish. This is hugely impressive. Now-2031

2005er	J.-F. Coche-Dury	Corton-Charlemagne	97+
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This immediately captures one's attention with an absolutely outstanding and expressive nose of smoke, white flowers, yellow peach, lemon curd, orange zest and a touch of acacia honey. The texture on the palate is quite majestic as there is some viscosity and density rarely found in white Burgundy. The extract and power of this Corton-Charlemagne are really impressive and breathtaking, even though the tannic structure of the wine makes them still somewhat overwhelming at the moment. As strange as it may be, this is still a bit too young and there is even some upside potential if this little masterpiece gains in finesse over the coming years. 2025-2055

2004er	J.-F. Coche-Dury	Corton-Charlemagne	94
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The 2004 Corton-Charlemagne offers a superbly fresh and complex nose of white flowers, peach, green apple, sea breeze and green almond as well as a light touch of fennel. This lives from its tension and has rather mid-weight intensity on the palate. There is just a feeling of power and orchard fruits joining the party, yet the finish is all about minerals, saline notes and a hint of root vegetable. The length is superb and the after-taste is beautifully fresh and clean with some zesty fruits. This is an amazingly fresh and lively Corton-Charlemagne. Now-2031



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2003er	J.-F. Coche-Dury	Corton-Charlemagne	94
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This offers a gorgeous nose of candied citron, pineapple, ginger, a hint of exotic fruits with mango and banana flambé as well as quince jelly. The wine is rich and powerful at first on the attack but this gives way to more refined yet soft and round side on the palate. It combines a certain smoothness to intense and even power in the very long and superbly balanced finish. There are some hints of the 2003 vintage in here yet the overall feeling is that of an impeccably intense and balanced wine, with at no point any of the heat or cooked flavors usually associated with the vintage. This is a truly remarkable effort and definitely among the very best white wines of the vintage. Now-2028

2002er	J.-F. Coche-Dury	Corton-Charlemagne	97
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This offers a most fascinating and elegant nose with plenty of floral nuances (including lily, honeysuckle and may tree), almond, stone fruits as well as a touch of leather and honey. The wine is creamy and dense on the palate where juicy yellow fruits are beautifully packed into an animatingly and smoky structure. The finish is vigorous and superbly long. The after-taste is pure, clean and mouth-wateringly good. This is now at full peak and drinking magnificently well, with plenty of years ahead. Now-2032

2001er	J.-F. Coche-Dury	Corton-Charlemagne	96
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This displays a magnificent and complex nose with some struck match, toast, creamy fruits, pineapple, honey, hazelnut, tangerine zest and blood orange. The wine has weight and intensity on the palate with beautiful flavors of toasted bread, grapefruit and almond cream. The wine seems almost broad and painfully intense in the long finish. There is just a hint of power with a light touch of alcoholic presence in the after-taste. This is a mighty rendition of Corton-Charlemagne, but one of stunning presence and persistence. Now-2031

2000er	J.-F. Coche-Dury	Corton-Charlemagne	95
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The 2000 Corton-Charlemagne offers a splendid mature and superbly aromatic nose of almond cream, fresh milk, praline, lemon curd and honey. Floral nuances join the party after a while and add a feeling of finesse. The wine proves very pure and almost straight on the palate where some beautifully and animating acidity makes one beg for the next glass. However the wine gains in weight as of the second glass to show more energy and deep complexity in the very long and elegant finish. This is a beautiful mature Corton-Charlemagne. Now-2030

1999er	J.-F. Coche-Dury	Corton-Charlemagne	98
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The 1999 Corton-Charlemagne immediately shows its stature as it displays immense complexity and everything one waits in a great mature white Burgundy. There are amazing notes of toast, flinty smoke, creamy and honeyed yellow fruits, white truffle, hazelnut, anise and menthol. This breathtaking effort combines richness, opulence and density on the palate with most delicate honeyed flavors of almond cream, pineapple and flowers. The finish is hugely long, intense and pure, with a comeback of those toasted flavors of hazelnut and almond cream. This is a magnificent mature Corton-Charlemagne! Now-2034



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Mature Riesling Commercially Available at the Estates and Featured in this Issue

Mature Riesling is one of the greatest pleasures in the world of fine wines and we have been on air to encourage readers to enjoy more mature Riesling. One of the common issues faced by wine lovers or importers is access to such mature bottles. The great thing is that many Estates regularly release mature Riesling from their cellars.



This Issue No 40 features 20 mature Riesling still commercially available ex-cellar from the following Estates:

von Kesselstatt

Morscheid

Ruwer

Dr Lippold

Ürzig

Mosel

Markus Molitor

Wehlen

Mosel

Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wehlen

Mosel

Wegeler

Bernkastel-Kues

Mosel

Wegeler

Oestrich-Winkel

Rheingau

We encourage you to contact the Estates, their agents or importers in your country should you be interested.



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Mature Riesling Commercially Available at Estates: Detailed Tasting Notes (20 Wines)

We provide here the tasting notes of wines still commercially available at the Estates and which we published in this Issue.

NB: Riesling needs time. Some of the mature Riesling featured here may still benefit from further aging. This will be reflected in the tasting note and the estimated drinking window.

Weingut Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt

(Morscheid – Trier-Ruwer)

2003er	von Kesselstatt	Josephshöfer Riesling Auslese lange GK #6		93
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Golden yellow in color, this delivers a great, ripe yet refined nose of toffee, candied fruits, banana, apricot, quince, hazelnut cream, honey and a touch of raisin. The wine offers superb presence on the palate where intense dried and tropical fruits are wrapped into quite some toffee and raisin. The mid-palate is very smooth and creamy, and the finish is intense and quite powerful. This is a gorgeous expression of a ripe and delicately baroque dessert wine. Now-2043

2001er	von Kesselstatt	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Trocken	13 04	92
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This proves quite aromatic and fruit-driven on the nose. A touch of vanilla and quince add depth and ripeness to this superbly mature Riesling. The mineral and smoky side of the wine comes through on the palate. A nice and vibrant touch of acidity adds to the very dry feel in the magnificently long finish. The after-taste is all about freshness with gorgeous notes of herbs, verbena and mint. This is a great mature dry Riesling. Now-2021

Weinbau Dr. Lippold

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2010er	Dr. Lippold	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Beerenauslese Alte Reben		94
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The 2010er Ürziger Würzgarten BA Alte Reben develops a beautiful nose of mint, gooseberry, white peach, pineapple, coconut and quite some earthy spices. The wine is beautifully playful and elegant on the palate, with the presence and raciness of a high-end Auslese. The finish is beautifully lively and has the depth and the great elegance of a fruity Eiswein. This is a gorgeous wine made in a slightly sturdy but no less satisfying style. Now-2030 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2003er	Dr. Lippold	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese Alte Reben vom Weltersberg	02 04	92
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This offers a gorgeous nose of cassis, herbs and smoke. The wine is beautifully elegant and refined on the palate and leaves a gorgeously smooth feel of melon, cassis, slate and herbs in the surprisingly elegant refreshing finish. This is a great success! Now-2028 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2010er	Dr. Lippold	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese Alte Reben	03 14	91
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The 2010er Ürziger Würzgarten Auslese Alte Reben develops a surprising nose of camphor, gooseberry, mint, underbrush and herbs. The wine is slightly bold with minty herbs and sharp acidity on the palate but this is nicely balanced by a touch of whipped cream and mirabelle. The finish is precise and quite refreshing, with gooseberry mingling with riper flavors of greengage and some spices. This is nicely made in a sharp and delicately restrained style. Now-2025+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Markus Molitor

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2007er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** (Golden Capsule)	28 09	Auction	97
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This stunning noble sweet wine (which was first offered at the Bernkasteler Ring Auction in 2009) delivers a simply stunning nose made of yellow peach, mango, herbs and spices including cinnamon. The wine develops the full unctuous oily side of a BA on the palate and despite still being saturating and sweet already starts to develop a beautifully balanced and elegant feel with great creaminess right into the long and sweet finish. The after-taste is intense and truly remarkable. As impressive as the wine is now, this will really need a good decade more to fully integrate and develop its magnificent potential. 2027-2067 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2007er	Markus Molitor	Niedermenniger Herrenberg Riesling Auslese ** (Golden Capsule)	31 08		95
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This noble-sweet Riesling offers a stunning nose made of candied grapefruit, pineapple, herbs and spices. The wine seduces one with a stunning feel of backed pineapple, mango, apricot, and candy floss on the creamy yet zesty palate. The finish is simply beautifully long and refined and one is left with a glorious multi-layered feel of honeyed exotic fruits, fine spices and herbs. Now-2047 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2008er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Schlossberg Riesling Auslese ** (Golden Label)	48 09		94
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This bright yellow-colored wine develops a hugely subtle nose made of mirabelle, cassis, greengage, under-ripe pineapple and whipped cream. This sense of finesse continues on the palate, where the wine proves subtle, not overly concentrated, playful and elegant. The finish is a delight as a hint of honey brings the right touch of depth to the overall remarkably fresh flavors. Everything is so beautifully in balance here. Far from being a powerhouse, this plays on subtlety and finesse. What a wine (which, incidentally, we featured as [wine of the month](#) upon release). Now-2038

2008er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese ** (White Label)	42 09		94
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The dry 2008er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Auslese ** immediately draws one's attention through its beautiful white-yellow color. The wine develops a complex and quite fruit-driven nose made of mirabelle, greengage, pineapple, a hint of beeswax and plenty of aniseed herbs, all wrapped into some smoky slate. The wine is delicately smooth and intense on the palate and leaves a big, complex and multi-layered feel of minerals, apple, mint, greengage and herbs in the long and silky finish. This gorgeously complex wine screams for hearty food. This beauty still gains significantly from airing, so do not hesitate to open half a day in advance, if you can. 2023-2033

2008er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Golden Label)	23 09	Auction	93
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The fruity 2008er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese Auction develops a stunning nose of pear, mint, whipped cream, caraway and slate. The wine is beautifully airy, precise and juicy on the delicately creamy yet zesty palate. Here, flavors of ripe pear blend into some earthy herbs right into the lingeringly long finish. The wine has the precision of a Spätlese with the presence of an Auslese. But what a terrific effort! Now-2038

2007er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Golden Capsule)	22 08		92
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This fruity-styled Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese develops a beautiful nose of caramel, pear, passion fruit and spices. The wine proves superbly juicy on the palate and leaves a mouth-watering feel in the great, delicately ample but very playful finish. This is a gorgeous wine made in a light Auslese style to enjoy over the coming decades. Now-2037 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2007er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese ** (White Capsule)	61 08		91+
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This offers a gorgeous nose of candied grapefruit, fresh herbs, spices and a hint of licorice. The wine is quite firm and delicately assertive on the palate, where the herbal side still dominates the aromatic profile. The wine proves still rather backward, slightly ample in the long and juicy finish. This is not yet fully mature but should prove a gorgeous wine in a few years' time. 2022-2032 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2007er	Markus Molitor	Niedermenniger Herrenberg Riesling Auslese ** (White Capsule)	43 08		90
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This develops a fascinating and complex nose of caramel, fine herbs and spices. The wine is juicy and fresh on the palate, and offers a nicely direct feel in the long and well-balanced finish. This is an outstanding dry Riesling to enjoy over the coming years. Now-2027 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2003er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GK	10 07	95
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This hay-colored wine offers a stunning nose of melon, pear puree, star fruit and pineapple, all wrapped into gorgeous beeswax, herbs and a hint of wet slate. The wine is delicately creamy on the palate, where a nice touch of acidity lifts up the flavors of pear, pineapple and laurel on the palate. The finish is impeccably balanced and leaves on with airy feel of tangerine, pear and fine herbs. The sweetness, while still there, has beautifully mellowed away into the wine. This is a gorgeous dessert wine to enjoy over the coming decade. Now-2043 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2003er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	03 05	93
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This hay-colored wine offers a beautifully refined nose of mirabelle, melon, apricot blossom, star fruit, beeswax and a hint of smoky slate. The wine is nicely elegant and silky on the palate and leaves a gorgeously pure and elegant feel of melon and a hint of honey in the long and waxy finish. A gorgeous touch of ripe acidity adds a touch of juiciness to the after-taste. This is a beautiful mature Auslese made in the timelessly elegant style of the Joh. Jos. Prüm Estate. Now-2033 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2009er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese	06 11	92+
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This offers a beautiful nose of mirabelle, white peach, laurel and fine herbs. The wine is nicely smooth and delicately creamy on the palate, where a mouth-watering touch of ripe acidity lifts up the succulent but ripe flavors of white melon, star fruit and earthy spices. Far from being weighty, this Auslese retains the graceful lightness and finesse of the Joh. Jos. Prüm Estate and leaves one with an airy and delicately flowery feel of mirabelle, herbs and fine spices in the long and smooth finish. While already approachable now, this will certainly still develop over the coming years as the sweetness will recede with age. 2021-2041 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

Weingüter Geheimrat J. Wegeler

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

1997er	Wegeler	Winkeler Jesuitengarten Riesling Vintage Collection	07 98	93
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This 1997er Winkeler Jesuitengarten Vintage Collection is a late-release (Fall 2017) set of bottles which have aged in the cellars of the Rheingau Estate owned by Wegeler. This golden-colored wine delivers a beautiful nose almond, apricot, aniseed herbs and fine spices. It proves luscious and elegant on the palate and leaves a gorgeously dry and smooth feel in the gorgeous finish. This is now a perfect food wine for instance for game dishes. Now-2027 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2007er	Wegeler	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Vintage Collection	21 11	92
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The 2007er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese Vintage Collection is a late-released (Fall 2017) set of magnums bottled late (hence the 2011 AP number) which have aged in the Estate cellars. This bright white-hay colored wine develops a beautiful nose of pear, star fruit, greengage and fine herbs. It still proves remarkably vibrant and mouth-watering on the palate and leaves a beautifully juicy and delicately creamy feel in the long finish. This is in a superb place now but will certainly provide much pleasure for the coming decades as well. Now-2037 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2008er	Wegeler	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Spätlese Vintage Collection	08 13	91
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The 2008er Bernkasteler Badstube Kabinett Vintage Collection is a late-release from the Estate's cellars in 2018. The wine is still rather reduced and only gradually reveals its beautiful nose made of apple, conference pear, laurel and smoky slate. The wine proves nicely playful on the palate as a delicately creamy sense of fruitiness is nicely pepped up by some tickly acidity. It leaves one with a nicely fruity and zesty feel in the medium-long finish. Now-2028



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2007er	Wegeler	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett Vintage Collection	19 08	90
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The 2007er Bernkasteler Badstube Kabinett Vintage Collection is a late-released (Fall 2017) set of bottles which have aged in the Estate cellars. The wine develops an attractive nose of quince, mirabelle, spices and a hint of slate. It proves beautifully precise on the palate and leaves a pure and zesty feel of pear, laurel and Provence herbs in the delicately intense finish. Now-2027 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 38 – Oct 2017)

2008er	Wegeler	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett Vintage Collection	06 09	90
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The 2008er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett Vintage Collection is a late-release from the Estate's cellars in 2018. The wine develops a beautiful nose of cassis, candied grapefruit, pear, mint and chalky minerals. The wine proves beautifully playful and remarkably present for a Kabinett on the palate. There is still quite some sweetness, but it is perfectly wrapped into zesty acidity. This outstanding effort has still plenty of life ahead. Now-2033



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Upcoming Mosel Fine Wines Issues: Topics to be Covered

Here is an *avant-gôût* on what will be covered in the upcoming Issues in 2018:

June-October 2018	2017 Vintage Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Vintage Conditions▪ The Wines▪ Buyer's Guide▪ The Vintage Card▪ Detailed Estate Reviews▪ Other Noteworthy Wines
August-September 2018	Auction Guides <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introduction to the Annual Trier Wine Auctions (history, how to participate, etc.)▪ Detailed Tasting Notes (Bernkasteler Ring and Grosser Ring / VDP)
In Addition	Other Topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dry German Riesling in General (GGs & Equivalents)▪ Mosel Perspectives (Estates, Vineyards, Regulation, History, etc.)
In Parallel	Regular Postings on our Website and Social Media , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ News▪ Wines of the Month▪ Vintage Highlights▪ 2018 Growing Conditions▪ Updates of our TN database (via CellarTracker)▪ Interesting Articles from other Sources

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