



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Issue No 42 – August 2018

Vade-Mecum to the Bernkasteler Ring Auction 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.

Table of Contents – 2018 Bernkasteler Ring Auction

<u>2017 Mosel Vintage</u>	The Vintage in a Nutshell	4
<u>2018 Bernkasteler Ring Auction</u>	Event at a Glance	5
	Tasting Notes (40 Wines)	6
<u>Upcoming Issues</u>	Topics to be Covered	15

Contact Information

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Understand Our Tasting Notes

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

2015er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	13 16	Auction	97
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This wine immediately stands out as the airy precision of its elegant nose of white peach, a hint of cassis, herbs and spices is simply mind-boggling. The wine then delivers a gorgeous array of orchard and delicately exotic fruits on the zesty palate and leaves one with an explosion of minerals and herbs in a hauntingly deep and elegant finish. This is an epic effort on par with the best at this Estate. 2025-2055

1. NOMENCLATURE: For simplicity, consistency and clarity, we rely on the following to define a wine:

- We stick to the traditional "Village + Vineyard" denomination even for wines from VDP classified vineyards (where only the vineyard name appears on the consumer side of the label).
- No Prädikat in the name means that the wine was bottled as QbA.
- GG stands for "Grosses Gewächs" and EG for "Erstes Gewächs."

You can find more information on how to decipher German wine labels in the article "Deciphering the modern German wine label" [here](#).

2. AP NUMBER: The AP Number is the unique number associated with any lot of German quality wine. We systematically provide this information (actually the last 4 or 5 "meaningful" digits of the AP) as wine growers sometimes differentiate between wines only through this AP Number. You can learn more about AP numbers [here](#).

3. AUCTION: We add the mention "Auction" for wines sold via the annual Auctions held in September as they are different from the ones sold via traditional channels. You can learn more about the annual Trier wine Auctions and these particularly fine expressions of Riesling [here](#).

4. DRINKING WINDOW: Mosel Riesling has a long development cycle and can be enjoyable for 20 years and more. Like other great wines from this world, Mosel Riesling usually goes through a muted phase before reaching maturity. At the end of each tasting note, we therefore provide a drinking window, which refers to our estimation of the maturity period for the wine. This maturity period is based on the following principles:

- It consists of the "fruit" and "terroir" phases as defined in our review of Maturing Mosel.
- It does not explicitly mention the additional drinking window for fruity-styled wines which typically lasts for 1-3 years after the vintage.

You can find more about the different maturing phases of Mosel Riesling [here](#).

5. SCORE: The use of scores to evaluate wines has advantages (clearly communicating a perspective) and disadvantages (over-simplifying such a complex matter as wine). We believe the advantages prevail as long as a rating is put into the perspective of a tasting note. Here our principles:

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

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

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

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



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Background Information

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

Theme	Topic	Issue	Website
Region	Mosel Visiting Guide	Mosel Visiting Guide 2018	-
Vineyards	Ruwer on the Up Large Solely-Owned Vineyard in New Hands	Issue No 42 (Aug 2018)	Click Here
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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2017 Mosel Vintage – Small but Beautiful

After a brilliantly vibrant 2015 and a gorgeously sensual 2016, can the Mosel hit the bull's eye three times in a row? It seems so, despite (or thanks to) the fact that 2017 was hit by some devastating yield-reducing frost. The finest of the 2017 wines are simply amazing ... and there is perfection at the top! How come? Here the key fact in a nutshell.

2017 Vintage – The Vintage in a Nutshell

Vintage Conditions	<p>The vintage started at high speed, with bud break well ahead of long-term average. Unfortunately, frost hit the region around April 20 and affected the finest vineyards particularly hard, where the young shoots were the most developed. Overall, the yields were contracted by 30-40%, the highest losses since the 1991 vintage.</p> <p>The weather proved fortunately dry and warm for the remainder of the spring, allowing for a perfect and early flowering and a disease free growth. The much needed rain then came in July and August, which were actually quite wet and furthered growth. Unfortunately, Graach and Traben-Trarbach were hit hard by a devastating hailstorm.</p> <p>September proved wet but fortunately cool, and gave the growers a bit of stress as botrytis, and sometimes rot, developed fast and early. The advance of nature led many Estates to start their Riesling harvest already in September, a first for many growers. The weather cooled down which limited the development of botrytis and gave growers some time to make the necessary selections. Botrytis developed early and then late, which gave the opportunity to also make some high-end botrytized selections. The low yields and the possibility for botrytis selections meant that there was little incentive to gamble for Eiswein: None was eventually produced.</p>
The Wines	<p>Many 2017 wines combine the ripe delicacy of 2011 with the zesty presence of 2015. The wines have quite some concentration, a byproduct of the low yields, which gives them an imposing side. Tucked among its midst, there are wines that are among the finest we have tasted in 25 years of Mosel visits. The musts came in at rather high levels of sugar and high levels of acidity. 2017 saw plenty of botrytized selections (Auslese, BA and TBA). Overall, the Saar and Ruwer wines prove fresher and more playful than the Mosel, but there are many stunning exceptions. The true downside of this vintage are the yields: They are down significantly, and often little or no Estate wines was produced.</p>
Buyer's Guide	<p>There are few "light" Kabinett but lovers of elegantly vibrant Spätlese and Auslese should consider the 2017 Kabinett and Spätlese on offer. Whoever is partial to vibrant and pure BA and TBA should have a close eye on the finest 2017 offerings: They are stunning. Some truly great dry and dry-tasting Riesling was possible when mastering the power and acidity of the vintage. Readers should keep a close eye on the unusual complexity and elegance of Estate wines. Furthermore, 2017 is a vintage in which the "second tier" growers did outstandingly well: There are many bargains and discoveries to be made.</p> <p>In summary, the vintage is a stunner at the top and generated some of the finest Riesling ever made. However Quality is not uniform and there has been some heavy declassification: More than ever, tasting or following advice is critical.</p>

Note: A comprehensive report on the 2017 growing conditions, wines and buying guide was published in Issue No 41 (June 2018)



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2018 Bernkasteler Ring Auction – The Event at a Glance

The Auction is open to the public and professionals.

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

<u>Place:</u>	Tagungszentrum der IHK Herzogenbuscher Strasse 12 54292 Trier	<u>Timing:</u>	September 22, 2018 09.00-11.00: Pre-tasting 13.00 onwards: Auction
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In general, only special casks of the finest wines (not sold via traditional sales channels) are brought to the Auction.

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

- Only special wines from special casks (i.e. with a distinct AP number) are brought to the Auction. These wines are therefore not available via traditional sales channels.
- The dry and off-dry wines as well as the fruity-styled Kabinett, Spätlese or Auslese brought to the Auction are likely to be from the latest vintage (i.e. from the 2017 vintage for the Auction to be held this year).
- The practice varies more widely what concerns Eiswein, BA or TBA bottlings. Some Estates tend to bring them to the Auction immediately or soon after the minimum two years period, whereas others prefer to let them mature somewhat in their cellars before bringing them to the Auction.
- Most wines are fruity-styled even though an increasing number of producers propose some off-dry (Feinherb) or dry (including GGs) wines as well.
- In addition, some Estates may bring some mature rarities from wines which were sold via regular channels.

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

Technically speaking, only the accredited commissioners are actually allowed to bid at this Auction. However, anyone who wishes to acquire some bottles at this Auction can do so by placing bids with their wine merchant / importer (if they offer this service) or by contacting directly one of the accredited commissioners. Bids are put in the form of "I want X bottles of wine so-and-so for up to €Y hammer price per bottle." (Important notice for the Bernkasteler Ring: a bid price is traditionally expressed in terms of the equivalent 75cl bottle, even other format bottles are auctioned). After the Auction, the commissioners will contact the successful bidders for payment and shipment. As far as we know, commissioners can ship directly to any resident within the European Union (wine lovers may still choose for easiness to work via a wine merchant / importer to avoid the logistics hassle). For bidders from outside the EU (and in particular from North America or Asia), particular shipping / importing restrictions may apply and it is advisable to contact a commissioner or your wine merchant / importer to check how this is best organized. After the Auction, the commissioners have a bid of logistics to handle with each Estate to make sure that they are sent the bottles for each of their clients. As a consequence, the bottles are typically only become available for shipping or collection a few weeks after the Auction.

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

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

Bidding occurs through registered commissioners.

Any bidding will occur through a set of accredited commissioners who handle the bids on behalf of the individuals or professionals. We provide here below the list of the accredited commissioners to the Auction as per the website of the Bernkasteler Ring (capture – August 2018):

Elmar Bergweiler Weinkommission	Karl A. Ress GmbH
Berres-Gessinger GmbH	J. & H. Selbach
Dünweg, W.	

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

**A full introduction (history, what is being offered, how to participate, etc.)
to the annual Trier wine Auctions can be found in Issue No 42**



Mosel Fine Wines

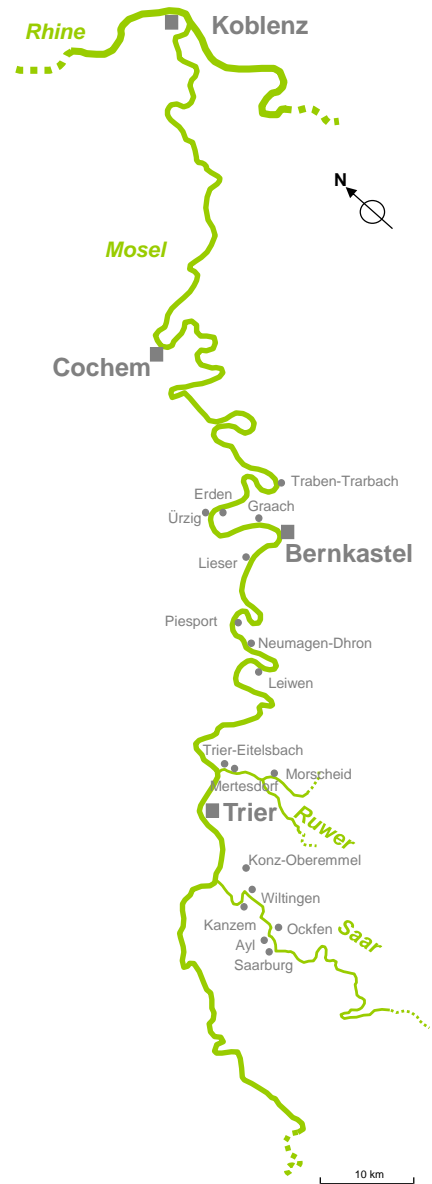
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2018 Bernkasteler Ring Auction – Tasting Notes

We provide here a review of recommended wines that will be auctioned off by the Bernkasteler Ring on September 22, 2018 and that we can recommend on quality grounds. This includes wines from the following Estates (presented in alphabetic order).

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





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Weingut Bastgen

(Osann-Monzel – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Bastgen	Kestener Paulinshofberg Riesling Auslese	12 18	Auction	95
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The 2017er Kestener Paulinshofberg Auslese offers a superbly elegant nose of whipped cream, pear, vineyard peach, quince and anise. The wine flirts with BA presence on the palate as some honeyed notes of dried fruits and a hint of raisin give a viscous and quite sweet side to the wine at this stage. Where this wine completely takes off is in the finish, which manages to be gloriously refined and playfully light despite the overall ripeness of this Auslese. What a sublime dessert wine in the making! 2032-2067

2017er	Bastgen	Kestener Paulinshofberg Riesling Spätlese R	11 18	Auction	92
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The 2017er Kestener Paulinshofberg Riesling Spätlese R offers a quite aromatic and attractive nose of candy floss, white peach, vanilla pod, coconut, earthy spices, whipped cream, and smoky slate. The wine develops the sweet and creamy presence of an Auslese GK on the palate. The finish is beautifully long, a tad earthy, and, above all, nicely fresh thanks to some grapefruit-driven acidity. 2027-2047

Weingut Bauer

(Mülheim – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Bauer	Mülheimer Elisenberg Riesling Spätlese	14 18	Auction	91
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The 2017er Mülheimer Elisenberg Spätlese offers a beautiful nose of white peach, grapefruit, passion fruit, almond cream, vanilla, herbs, spices and slate. A citrusy acidity cuts through the smooth creaminess of the rich and candy floss infused palate and makes for a massively satisfying feel in the direct finish. This is nicely made in the style of a light Auslese. 2027-2042

2017er	Bauer	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese	16 18	Auction	90
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The 2017er Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese offers an attractively direct nose of apple juice, grapefruit, honey, herbs and spices. The wine develops a feel of backed apple, citrusy elements and whipped cream on the palate. The finish is rather direct and powerful but quite outstanding as minerals, citrusy fruits and fine herbs come through in the after-taste. 2027-2047

Weingut Erben von Beulwitz

(Mertesdorf – Trier-Ruwer)

2016er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Beerenauslese Alte Reben	02 17	Auction	95
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The 2016er Kaseler Nies'chen BA Alte Reben is initially massively reduced, and still marked by quite some sulfur. After some extensive airing, it delivers a beautifully rich and exotic nose of candy floss, melon, apricot, mirabelle, passion fruit and honey. The wine has great presence and aromatic precision on the palate, where all the elements from the nose are blended into canned yellow peach and quince. This beauty will need more than a decade to fully shine as the finish is still on the sweet side. But the underlying wine is simply superb. 2031-2066

2017er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese Alte Reben Fass 4		Auction	92+
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The 2017er Kaseler Nies'chen Auslese Alte Reben Fass 4 offers a beautiful nose of pear, canned yellow peach, pineapple, almond cream, smoke, minerals and herbs. The wine is fully rich and driven by melon, honeyed cream and candy floss on the palate and leaves a round and quite sweet feel in the long and pure finish. This will need a solid decade to develop its full presence and finesse. 2027-2047

2017er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Kabinett Fass 11		Auction	92
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The 2017er Kaseler Nies'chen Kabinett Fass 11 is rather restrained at first and only gradually offers a splendid nose made of white peach, passion fruit, flowers, pear, anise and chalky minerals. It develops the beautifully creamy side of a Spätlese on the palate and leaves a clean feel of vineyard peach in the long and fruity finish. The after-taste is gorgeously balanced, fruity and smooth at the same time. 2027-2037



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2017er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben Fass 6	Auction	92
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The 2017er Kaseler Nies'chen Spätlese Alte Reben Fass 6 offers a beautiful but also slightly ripe nose of pear, melon, passion fruit, mirabelle and papaya. The wine proves delicately creamy and honeyed at first before a firm and mouthwatering acidity comes through and whips up the flavors in the long and still rather sweet finish. This will need some time to develop its inner balance. 2027-2047

Weingut Clüsserath-Eifel

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Clüsserath-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese	07 17	Auction	93
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At first, the 2016er Trittenheimer Apotheke Auslese displays at first some residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation before it develops its beautiful nose made of white peach, pear, aniseed herbs and fine smoke. The wine is gorgeously fruity and nicely long on the zesty palate and leaves a clean and beautiful feel of whipped cream in the long and elegant finish. 2026-2046

1999er	Clüsserath-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese ***	11 00	Auction	92
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The 1999er Trittenheimer Apotheke Auslese *** displays a beautifully and mature nose of pear, toffee, butter cream, candied yellow peach, herbs and spices. The wine develops a round and nicely focused feel in the long and caramel, melon and starfruit infused finish which shows a hint of power. This is a beautiful fully mature and slightly baroque expression of Riesling. Now-2029

2016er	Clüsserath-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Trocken Auf'm Kaulsbohr Alte Reben	03 17	Auction	92
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The 2016er Trittenheimer Apotheke Auf'm Kaulsbohr Alte Reben offers a gorgeous nose of sponti, white peach, herbs and fine spices. The wine is smooth and delicately ample on the palate and leaves a nicely juicy feel in the long and refined finish. The after-taste is complex, assertive and fully lively. This is a great wine, especially for those of our readers which are partial to slightly more full-bodied wines. 2021-2031

2016er	Clüsserath-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Trocken Laurentiusberg GG	04 17	Auction	91
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The 2016er Trittenheimer Apotheke Laurentiusberg GG offers a gorgeous nose of pear, white peach, spices and herbs. The wine is delicately intense and powerful on the palate and leaves a nice herbal feel in the smooth and elegant finish. 2021-2031

Weingut Reinhold Franzen

(Bremm – Terrassenmosel)

2016er	Reinhold Franzen	Bremmer Calmont Riesling Trocken Fachkaul GG	21 17	Auction	93+
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The 2016er Bremmer Calmont Fachkaul GG offers a beautiful nose of mirabelle, white peach, pear, white flowers, herbs and spices. The wine is beautifully playful and elegant on the palate and leaves a still slightly tart feel in the vibrant finish. This is a gorgeous wine in the making with even some upside potential if it further gains in complexity with aging. 2021-2036

Weingut Leo Fuchs

(Pommern – Terrassenmosel)

2017er	Leo Fuchs	Klottener Brauneberg Riesling Auslese Feinherb Alte Reben	15 18	Auction	90
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The 2017er Klottener Brauneberg Auslese Feinherb Alte Reben was harvested at 97-98° Oechsle was fermented with ambient yeasts in stainless steel tanks down to 30 g/l of residual sugar. It offers a beautiful nose of white peach, fine spices and earthy herbs. The wine develops a nice, delicately silky and off-dry presence on the palate and leaves a long intense feel in the light-weighted finish (it does only boast 11% of alcohol). 2022-2037



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Weingut Albert Gessinger

(Zeltingen – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Albert Gessinger	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** Alte Reben	10 18	Auction	94
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The 2017er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Auslese *** Alte Reben offers a gorgeous nose of honey, lemon zest, candy floss, canned white peach, pineapple, melon and pear, enhanced by a whiff of volatile acidity. The wine proves remarkably sweet and comparatively round yet also zesty on the palate and leaves a beautifully racy feel in the long and comparatively juicy finish. The after-taste is all about apricot and honeyed sugar. This is a great Auslese LGK in the making. 2027-2057

Weingut Albert Kallfelz

(Zell-Merl – Terrassenmosel)

2015er	Albert Kallfelz	Merler Königslay-Terrassen Riesling Beereauslese	22 16	Auction	92
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The 2015er Merler Königslay-Terrassen Beereauslese is initially slightly closed and only gradually reveals a slightly earthy nose of pineapple, peach, melon, pear, apricot, raisin and herbs. The wine is delicately viscous and smooth on the palate and leaves a superbly intense and direct feel of candy floss in the clean and honeyed finish. This will need some patience for the wine to absorb its high level of sweetness. 2030-2050

Weingut Kanzlerhof

(Pölich – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Kanzlerhof	Pölicher Held Riesling Auslese	11 18	Auction	94
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The 2017er Pölicher Held Auslese offers a gorgeous nose of passion fruit, pear, mirabelle, apricot blossom, earthy spices, whipped cream, and flowery elements. The wine is gorgeously well balanced on the palate and leaves a stunning feel of zesty exotic fruits inclining passion fruit, herbs and spices in the long finish. 2027-2047

2017er	Kanzlerhof	Mehringer Blattenberg Riesling Kabinett	10 18	Auction	91
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The 2017er Kanzlerhof Mehringer Blattenberg Kabinett offers a beautiful and quite intense nose of yellow peach, candy floss, conference pear, anise, greengage and earthy spices. The wine has the presence of a Spätlese on the juicy, intense and zesty palate. The finish is playful yet also delicately juicy thanks to quite some whipped cream, almond and coconut. The after-taste is all about zest and finesse. 2025-2037

Weingut Karp-Schreiber

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Karp-Schreiber	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG	11 18	Auction	90
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The 2017er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr GG offers a beautiful nose of white peach, grapefruit, spices and herbs. The wine proves lively and nicely juicy on the palate and leaves a delicately piquant feel of zesty acidity in the finish. 2021-2033



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Kees-Kieren

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Kees-Kieren	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese ***	26 18	Auction	95
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The 2017er Graacher Domprobst Auslese *** offers a gorgeously reduced and smoky nose of white peach, under-ripe pineapple, passion fruit, apricot, mango, strawberry and honey. The wine has the full viscosity of a BA on the palate yet retains the vibrancy of an Auslese in the zesty and exotic finish. This is an outstanding dessert wine in the making. 2027-2057

2017er	Kees-Kieren	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese **	22 18	Auction	93
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The 2017er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese ** offers an exotic nose of pineapple, passion fruit, coconut, grapefruit, tangerine, aniseed herbs and smoke. The wine develops the full creamy (yet zesty) presence of a big Auslese on the palate and underlines this with some honeyed elements which come through in the long and vibrantly exotic finish. This may not be a Spätlese but it is a beautifully vibrant Auslese GK in the making. 2027-2047

Weingut Kerpen

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Kerpen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese *	14 18	Auction	93
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The 2017er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese * offers a beautiful nose of pear, white flowers, cinnamon, almond cream, tangerine and smoky slate. With additional airing it develops more richness as notes of toffee, vanilla and spices kick in. The wine is beautifully focused and lively on the nicely fruity palate and leaves a clean feel of juicy white melon, citrusy fruits and chalky minerals in the still sweet finish. Give this a decade at least and you will have a beautiful and elegant fruity-styled wine with Auslese presence. 2027-2047

1997er	Kerpen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese **	22 98	Auction	92
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The 1997er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese ** offers a nose of yellow peach, marzipan, mirabelle, pear, greengage, raisin, aniseed herbs and a hint of whipped cream. The wine is delicately focused and nicely playful on the silky and beautifully fruity palate. The finish is remarkably long and shows delicately honeyed flavors, giving the wine an overall smooth and juicy side. This is a beautifully mature expression of Wehlener Sonnenuhr to enjoy over the coming years. Now-2027

Weingut Lehnert-Veit

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2013er	Lehnert-Veit	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese ***	14 14	Auction	91+
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The 2013er Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Auslese *** is made from a botrytis selection and was harvested at approx. 120° Oechsle. It offers a backward and somewhat ripe and juicy nose of greengage, apricot, apple, candied grapefruit, mirabelle, petrol and herbs. The wine develops the full viscous side of a small BA on the palate and leaves one with mirabelle and earthy spices in the long, focused and smooth finish. There is still some sweetness in need of integration, so this will best be left alone for another couple of years. 2023-2043



Mosel Fine Wines

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Weingut Carl Loewen

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2015er	Carl Loewen	Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Riesling Beerenauslese	22 16	Auction	94
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The 2015er Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Beerenauslese offers an impressive even if rather closed nose of grapefruit puree, backed pineapple, litchi, Asian spices, gingerbread, honey and herbs, all enhanced by a whiff of volatile acidity. The wine is hugely sweet but not overly viscous on the palate and leaves a rather rich and candy floss infused feel of apricot, date and herbs. The wine needs quite some time to develop its inner balance. 2025-2040

Weingut Gebrüder Ludwig

(Thörnich – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Gebrüder Ludwig	Thörnicher Ritsch Riesling Trocken GG	02 18	Auction	(91-93)
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This cask sample of the 2017er Thörnicher Ritsch GG offers a superbly aromatic nose of mirabelle, wet stone and Limoncello. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate, where spicy red fruits mingle with zesty acidity. The finish is racy, intense and superbly balanced. 2022-2032

Weingut Meulenhof

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Meulenhof	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese Feinherb	09 18	Auction	89+
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The 2017er Erdener Treppchen Spätlese Feinherb was harvested late at 96° Oechsle and the wine stayed in contact on its lees longer than usual and fermented up to February 2018 to 23 g/l of residual sugar. It offers a gorgeous nose of candy floss, pear, anise, ginger, earthy spices and fine herbs. The wine is rather direct and develops some presence. It proves easy on the palate and leaves a clean and direct feel in the medium-long and still somewhat sweet and powerful finish (the wine has 12% of alcohol). This could ultimately prove an outstanding effort if it develops more finesse at maturity. 2022-2032

Weingut Markus Molitor

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Markus Molitor	Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese *** (White Capsule)	23 17	Auction	100
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The 2016er dry-tasting Bernkasteler Doctor Auslese *** is still hugely backward as it is marked by some residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation. It only gradually reveals some stunningly deep notes of mirabelle, white peach, herbs and citrusy fruit. The wine develops a gorgeous feel on the palate, full of hauntingly complex flavors of fruits, herbs and spices. The wine is all about delicacy, presence and balance. The finish is intense yet at the same time weightless. This is a stunner in the making but one which is still rather shy and seemingly backward at this early stage. This is absolutely stunning. 2026-2046

2016er	Markus Molitor	Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese *** (Golden Capsule)	88 17	Auction	94+
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The 2016er Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese *** (Golden Capsule) is initially marked by residues of spontaneous fermentation as well as a hint of volatile. After some airing it offers a rather precise and slightly discreet nose made of white peach, star fruit, fresh pineapple, ginger, a hint of herbs and fine spices. The wine develops great citrusy presence on the classy and focused palate. The finish is silky, refined, long and still slightly sweet. This beautiful Auslese shows all usual signs of the early backwardness of Doctor wines. But this could well turn into a beauty at maturity. 2026-2056



Mosel Fine Wines

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2013er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Golden Capsule)	23 14	Auction	90+
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The 2013er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Golden Capsule) proves hugely backward and only gradually reveals an impressively mineral nose wet stones and a hint of petrol as well as a fruity presence of greengage and mirabelle. The wine still proves completely closed on the palate, where some sharp acidity is still negotiating the terms of its blending into the beautifully creamy flavors of lemon zest, mirabelle and pungent earthy spices. This is best left alone for another five to ten years before enjoying what could become a nice albeit austere and focused expression of Zeltinger Riesling. 2025-2038

Weingut Peter Neu-Erben

(Wiltingen – Saar)

2017er	Peter Neu-Erben	Wiltinger Klosterberg Riesling Spätlese	07 18	Auction	92
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The 2017er Wiltinger Klosterberg Spätlese is initially marked by some sulfur reduction, but is quick to develop a gorgeous nose of white peach, gooseberry, pear, minty herbs and fine spices. The wine is superbly playful and delicately zesty on the palate and leaves a beautifully and airy feel in the lively finish. This develops the full creamy side of an Auslese yet the long passion fruit-infused after-taste is more reminiscent of a light Spätlese. This will offer much pleasure in a decade or so. 2027-2047

Weingut Paulinshof

(Kesten – Middle Mosel)

2015er	Paulinshof	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett Glamour	03 16	Auction	90
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The 2015er Brauneberger Juffer Kabinett Glamour develops a fascinating nose of candied grapefruit, lactic elements, pear, melon and white flowers. The wine displays some attractively rich and honeyed creamy fruits on the palate, not unlike those found in an Auslese, and leaves a satisfyingly simply and direct feel in the finish in the off-dry finish (the wine does show 10.5% of alcohol). 2020-2030

Weingut Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	15 18	Auction	90
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The 2017er Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg Spätlese Alte Reben offers a rather reduced nose of melon, whipped cream, earthy spices, pineapple and ripe lemon. The wine is beautifully smooth and ripe on the palate, where it unfolds its richness with the smooth presence of an Auslese. Zesty acidity comes through in the finish and leaves one with nevertheless a rather sweet and broad feel of melon and passion fruit. This needs to age for a decade before reaching its drinking window. 2027-2047

Weingut Philipps-Eckstein

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Philipps-Eckstein	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	21 18	Auction	92
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The 2017er Graacher Domprobst Spätlese Alte Reben offers a beautifully exotic nose blending vineyard peach, pineapple, honey, passion fruit, dried herbs, mirabelle, and citrusy fruits on the nose. The wine develops the fully flamboyantly exotic side of an Auslese GK on the palate, where great citrusy fruits whip up gorgeous flavors of apricot, honey, passion fruit and minerals. The finish has the zesty sweetness of an Auslese GK. While not a Spätlese, it is nevertheless a beautiful luscious dessert wine! 2027-2047



Mosel Fine Wines

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Weingut Rebenhof

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Rebenhof	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese Feinherb von den Felsen	11 18	Auction	89
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The 2017er Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese Feinherb von den Felsen is made from 100 year-old vines and was fermented down to just below 30 g/l of residual sugar. It offers an attractive nose of pear in alcohol, melon, banana, herbs and spices. The wine is delicately ripe and leaves a direct and satisfyingly round and honeyed feel in the smooth and off-dry finish. Now-2027

Weingut F.J. Regnery

(Klüsserath – Middle Mosel)

2008er	F.J. Regnery	Klüsserather Bruderschaft Riesling Trocken GG	12 09	Auction	90
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The 2008er Klüsserather Bruderschaft GG offers an attractive nose of greengage, a hint of petrol, whipped cream, spices and herbs. The wine is nicely smooth and delicate silky in the finish. The after-taste is firm and very appealing. This is now fully mature yet has another decade of drinking window ahead. Now-2028

Weingut Reverchon

(Konz – Saar)

2015er	Reverchon	Filzener Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese	18 16	Auction	88
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The 2015er Filzener Herrenberg Spätlese offers a nose of gooseberry, quince, green apple, white flowers and green herbs as well as the first signs of petrol. The wine is direct and easy on the palate and leaves a nicely fruity feel of canned peach in the medium-long finish. 2020-2030

Weingut Richard Richter

(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

1976er	Richard Richter	Winniger Domgarten Riesling Spätlese	18 77	Auction	93
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The 1976er Winniger Domgarten Spätlese develops a beautifully delicate and mature nose made of fern, almond, beeswax, wood fire, curry spices, apricot, grapefruit, earthy herbs and spices. The wine is superbly smooth and infused with almond, mango and beeswax on the palate and leaves an off-dry and silky feel in the long finish. This is a beautiful mature Spätlese from a hot vintage, which has still some years ahead. Now-2026

Weingut St. Nikolaus-Hospital

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2017er	St. Nikolaus-Hospital	Cueser Weisenstein Riesling Spätlese	10 18	Auction	91
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The 2017er Cueser Weisenstein Spätlese offers a gorgeously aromatic nose of pear, earthy spices, bergamot, almond cream, coconut and fine slate. The wine is nicely playful and balanced on the palate and leaves a beautifully clean feel in the long and refined finish. An earthy side comes through in the after-taste. This is a delicious Spätlese in the making. 2027-2047



Mosel Fine Wines

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

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2016er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Müller-Burggraef	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Vision	02 18	Auction	93
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The 2016er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Vision was harvested at 85° Oechsle on October 31. It was fermented (with ambient yeasts) and matured in traditional Fuder, and took 24 months to be ready for bottling (hence the late AP number). While being commercialized as a Spätlese, it stopped its fermentation at just dry-tasting levels, with 10 g/l of residual sugar. This delivers a beautifully restrained and slightly reductive nose made of residual scents from the spontaneous fermentation, white peach, mirabelle, greengage, white flowers and grapefruit. It still proves rather reduced and slightly backward, herbal and tannic on the palate but the structure and the elegance are hugely impressive. This is a stunning "just off-dry-tasting" wine in the making! 2022-2037

2017er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Müller-Burggraef	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese		Auction	
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Not tasted.

Weingut Weller-Lehnert

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2017er	Weller-Lehnert	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese *** lange GK	39 18	Auction	91
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The 2017er Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Auslese *** lange GK offers a gorgeous nose of pear, cassis, passion fruit, orange, aniseed herbs and fine spices. The wine is quite focused even if creamy on the palate and leaves a delicately tart and refined feel of candy floss, minerals and passion fruit in the long and flowery finish. This rather focused and comparatively light-footed expression of Riesling only needs some bottle age to shine at maturity. 2027-2047

Weingut Werner

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

1999er	Werner	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese	07 00	Auction	92
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The 1999er Trittenheimer Apotheke Auslese is already deep yellow-golden in color, and offers a gorgeous nose of caramel, mirabelle puree, plum, cherry, ginger, starfruit, pear and a hint of coconut. The wine proves full-bodied, slightly powerful (it has 10.5% of alcohol) and hugely creamy on the caramel-infused palate. The finish is delightfully creamy and intense, and the feeling of sweetness has now receded so that this Auslese puts a big smile on one's face. Now-2024



Mosel Fine Wines

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Upcoming Mosel Fine Wines Issues: Topics to be Covered

Here is an *avant-goût* on what will be covered in the upcoming Issues this year (tentative schedule – indicative only):

**October
2018**

2017 Vintage Reports Part III

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

In Parallel

Regular Postings on our Website and **Social Media**, including:

- News
- Wines of the Month
- Vintage Highlights
- 2018 Growing Conditions
- Updates of our Tasting Notes Database (via CellarTracker)
- Interesting Articles from other Sources

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