



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Issue No 59 2020 Vintage | Part III

Mosel Vintage *Part III*

Dry German Riesling *The Report*

Annual Auctions *Full Guide*



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Issue No 59 – November 2021

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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, as well as a wider perspective on Riesling produced in Germany.

Mosel Fine Wines appears on a regular basis and covers:

- Reports on the current vintage (including the annual Auctions held in Trier and Bad Kreuznach).
- 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 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 and "(No AP)" means that the wine was not given an AP (because it is not bottled as QmP).

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, German 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 Riesling.
- 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 make a remark about its true style in the tasting note and review the wine according to its actual style (in the example as "the Spätlese it is").
- 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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List of Estates and Quick Links

An alphabetic overview (based on last names) of the Estates covered in this Issue with a quick link to the section(s) in which they appear:

Estate	Section of Issue No 59		
	Mosel Vintage Part III	Dry German Riesling	Annual Auctions
Acham-Magin		Link	
A.J. Adam		Link	Link
Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan		Link	
Battenfeld-Spanier		Link	
Erben von Beulwitz			Link
von Buhl		Link	
Dr. Bürklin-Wolf		Link	
Clemens Busch	Link	Link	Link
A. Christmann		Link	
Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben	Link		
Ansgar Clüsserath	Link	Link	
Clüsserath-Eifel			Link
Martin Conrad			Link
Dr. Crusius		Link	
Diel		Link	
Dönnhoff		Link	Link
Jonas Dostert	Link		
Emrich-Schönleber		Link	
Karl Erbes	Link		
Falkenstein		Link	
August Eser		Link	
Tobias Feiden	Link		
Reinhold Franzen			Link
Fries		Link	
Geltz-Zilliken			Link
Gunderloch		Link	Link
Fritz Haag	Link	Link	Link
Julian Haart		M: Link RHH: Link	
Hermannsberg		Link	
von Hövel			Link

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List of Estates and Quick Links (Cont'd)

Estate	Section of Issue No 59		
	Mosel Vintage Part III	Dry German Riesling	Annual Auctions
Albert Kallfelz			Link
Karp-Schreiber			Link
Kees-Kieren			Link
Keller	Link	Link	Link
Kerpen			Link
Kilburg		Link	
Knebel		Link	Link
Knebel Brüder	Link	Link	
Kruger-Rumpf		Link	
Kühling-Gillot		Link	
Peter Jakob Kühn		Link	
Künstler		Link	
Peter Lauer		Link	Link
Le Gallais			Link
Lehnert-Veit			Link
Leitz		Link	
Schloss Lieser		Link	
Loersch		Link	
Carl Loewen		Link	
Dr. Loosen	Link	Link	Link
Hermann Ludes		Link	
Materne & Schmitt		Link	
Maximin Grünhaus		Link	Link
Maximin Stadt		Link	
Melsheimer	Link	Link	
Meulenhof			Link
Meurer	Link		
Josef Milz	Link	Link	Link
Georg Mosbacher		Link	
Egon Müller			Link
Peter Neu-Erben			Link
von Othegraven			Link

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List of Estates and Quick Links (Cont'd)

Estate	Section of Issue No 59		
	Mosel Vintage Part III	Dry German Riesling	Annual Auctions
Paulinshof			Link
Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler			Link
Philipps-Eckstein			Link
Joh. Jos. Prüm	Link		Link
Rappenhof		Link	
Rebenhof			Link
Rebholz		Link	
F.J. Regnery			Link
Max Ferd. Richter		Link	
Richard Richter			Link
Schloss Saarstein	Link		Link
Prinz Salm		Link	Link
Karl Schäfer		Link	
Joh. Bapt. Schäfer		Link	
Schäfer-Fröhlich		Link	
Willi Schaefer			Link
Schätzel		Link	
Andreas Schmitges			Link
Selbach-Oster		Link	
Spreitzer		Link	
St. Antony		Link	
Günther Steinmetz		Link	
Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Müller-Burggraef		Link	
Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch	Link	Link	Link
Van Volxem	Link	Link	
Stefan Vetter		M: Link FRK: Link	
Vollenweider		Link	
Wegeler		Link	
Robert Weil		Link	
Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Link	Link	
Weiser-Künstler		Link	
Domdechant Werner		Link	
Wittmann		Link	



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The 2020 Vintage – Filigreed Lightness

The 2020 growing season was hot and dry and the harvest season mostly cloudy and rainy: The result is a unique vintage with incredible lightness, filigreed precision, subtlety, and a dash of ripeness. Here the key fact in a nutshell.

2020 Vintage – The Vintage in a Nutshell

Vintage Conditions	<p>A warm winter was followed by one of the warmest springs ever with, fortunately, much more limited impact of frosts than elsewhere in Europe. In parallel, the Covid-19 pandemic led to a lockdown and created much trouble to work the vineyards and harvest the grapes in 2020.</p> <p>The start of the summer was marked by an uneven flowering. The remainder of the summer was almost a remake of 2019: hot and dry. As a result, vegetation did progress fast and the ripening process was already well advanced by early September.</p> <p>As anticipated by most, harvest start proved, yet again, a record early affair under sunny conditions. But then the parallels with 2019 stopped as the weather turned cooler and cloudier. These cooler and cloudier weather conditions kept the sugar levels at comparatively moderate levels for weeks on end. Little botrytis developed which limited the potential for noble-sweet wines. Also, the winter only yielded a patch of frost at the beginning of 2021, too late for most in order to produce some Eiswein.</p>
The Wines	<p>The 2020 vintage is about the fascinating balance of ripe flavors but delivered with a lightness rarely seen in recent years. The fruity-styled wines do reflect their Prädikat and the best are on par with some of the great wines from the 1990s. The few noble-sweet wines made in 2020 mostly come from clean but overripe rather than fully botrytized fruit and can show elegance. The dry and off-dry wines are refreshingly light in alcohol (and lower than in recent vintages) and can be quite elegantly intense and balanced. There are successful wines in all regions but, on the whole, the Middle Mosel may have the edge over its sister regions in 2020. Yields were refreshingly good, much to the satisfaction and relief of growers.</p>
Buyer's Guide	<p>2020 is all about filigreed ripeness with some stunning wines with a lightness and finesse not seen in a decade. However, the vintage is also quite heterogeneous and buying blind is, once again, not an option. The sweet spot of the vintage is Spätlese which can be as light as a feather and hugely deeply flavored. Kabinett wines can also be absolutely stunning, some of the finest in decades, but, as a category, are not as homogeneous. Noble-sweet wines are rare but the finest are worth every effort to unearth them. Lovers of not overly heady dry and off-dry Riesling will find much to love in the 2020 offers. Overall, 2020 is a vintage to tank on if elegance, finesse, and playfulness is your thing: There are true gems available!</p>

In this Issue, we provide Part III of our Estate reviews and set of noteworthy wines released this year. Further Estate reviews and more noteworthy wines were reviewed in Issue No 57 and Issue No 58.

Note: A comprehensive report on the 2020 growing conditions, wine style, and buying guide was published in Issue No 57 (July 2021)



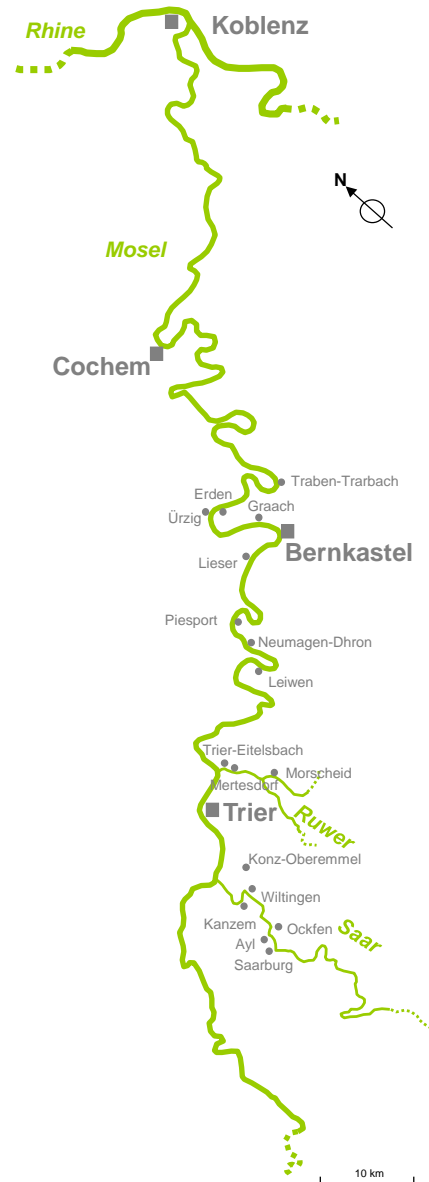
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2020 Mosel Vintage – Estate Reviews (Part III)

We provide here Part III of our comprehensive 2020 Estate Reviews. In addition, older vintages were also reviewed if these have just been released or are still commercially available at the Estate.



Clemens Busch

Jonas Dostert

Keller

Dr. Loosen

Melsheimer

Joh. Jos. Prüm

Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof

Pünderich

Nittel

Flörsheim-Dalsheim

Bernkastel-Kues

Reil

Wehlen

Bernkastel-Kues

Leiwen

Part I and II of our Estate Reviews were covered in the Mosel Fine Wines Issues No 57 and No 58
These Issues are available to subscribers on simple request



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Weingut Clemens Busch

(Pünderich – Terrassenmosel)

Clemens Busch admits being surprised by the quality of 2020: "The vintage started well with one of the finest springs on record. This led to an early outbreak and flowering. However, we were affected in our basis vineyards by the late frosts of May. The summer proved very dry but we got just enough rain, one in June and one in July, to avoid grapes getting stressed from dryness. The warm summer led us to expect an early harvest and we did indeed start mid-September ... to immediately decide to stop and wait as the sugar levels were good but the ripeness was simply not there. We did start in earnest then at the beginning of October and finished rather quickly, in 3-3.5 weeks. The high levels of humidity meant that there was a great pressure from rot. We had to be very cautious and, honestly, at that stage, I was not really sure about the quality of the vintage. After tasting the wines this spring, it became clear that 2020 was really a vintage made for dry Riesling and for Kabinett and Spätlese."

The Estate was able to produce its normal portfolio of wines in 2020, including a full range of dry and dry-tasting wines from its different terroirs in the Pündericher Marienburg. However, on the sweet side, things stopped at the Spätlese GK: "There was simply not a lot of good botrytis to go for anything higher, one has to accept what nature gives us" was the simple comment of Clemens Busch. The Estate will release a special cask of 2020er Marienburg Kabinett and of 2018er Marienburg TBA via this year's VDP Auction in Trier.

Once again, Clemens Busch underlines the quality now reached by his Estate. The 2020er collection is simply superb. Its dry wines have the lightness and elegance of past days packed with the intensity of modern vintages. In particular, the Fahrlay, Fahrlay Terrassen, and Felsterrassen are, once again, among the finest dry Riesling to be bought anywhere in Germany. But also, its "simple" village wines would put many high-end "GGs" to shame. The fruity-styled wines are delicately light and lovers of subtly exotic yet racy sweet Riesling should plunge onto the Estate's Spätlese GK. While there is no noble-sweet wine in 2020, lovers of the Estate may want to bid on the special bottling of 2018er TBA which will be released via the Auction in November: It is sheer wine perfection. Finally, if natural wines are your thing, the latest releases of the Estate's Orange and (Alter) Native are, once again, among the finest in their genre. Clemens Busch simply ticks all the boxes!

NB: The Estate is certified organic along general EU guidelines and biodynamic along RESPEKT guidelines. Its 2020er Réserve bottlings were not ready for tasting and will be reviewed upon release.

2018er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Trockenbeereauslese Fass 1890	18 21	Auction	100
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The 2018er Marienburg Riesling Trockenbeereauslese, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the reference to Fass 1890 is left for the back label), is a separation auction bottling (the Estate produced three different TBAs in 2018) made from fully botrytized fruit picked at 242° Oechsle and was fermented down to fully noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This superbly golden-colored wine offers a remarkable nose of baked pineapple and mango, whipped cream, almond paste, dried raisin, herbs, and fine spices. Despite its sweet oiliness on the palate, the wine proves already hugely complex and subtle. Layer upon layer of candied exotic fruits, Christmas spices, and almond-driven elements add to the incredible pleasure of enjoying this wine. The finish is intensely long, alluring, and captivating, and this despite the youthful sense of sweetness which still needs to integrate. While it is truly stunning already now if you do not mind its syrupy structure, it would be a pity not to wait more than a decade and get the same thrill with more depth and even better integrated sweetness. But what a stunner in the making! 2033-2098

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Fahrlay Terrassen Riesling Trocken GG	19 21		95
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The 2020er Fahrlay Terrassen GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, was fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks from fruit harvested in a prime terraced part of the blue-slate Fahrlay sector. It proves still remarkably backward and does not offer much beyond some wet stone and smoke at first. It takes a while (think days rather than hours) for the wine to open up and reveal its stunning nose made of cassis, fine spices, herbs, flowers, and subtly creamy smoke. The wine is beautifully juicy on the dry but not bone-dry palate and leaves a superbly airy and playful feel in the long finish. Everything is there for making a stunning wine at maturity. But this beauty will test one's patience first. 2028-2040

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Fahrlay Riesling Trocken GG	17 21		94+
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The 2020er Marienburg Fahrlay GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, was fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks from fruit harvested in a blue slate part of the Marienburg vineyard. It offers a superb nose made of lemon zest, white flowers, raspberry, fine spices, and herbs. The wine is beautifully precise and playful on the nicely dry palate and leaves a superb feel of fresh fruits and subtly tart minerals in the finish. The aftertaste is all about multi-layered and finely chiseled flavors. What a huge success. We would not be surprised if it eventually exceeds our high expectations at maturity, as it develops its full balance. 2028-2040



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(Pünderich – Terrassenmosel)

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Felsterrassen Riesling	24 21	94
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The 2020er Marienburg Felsterrassen, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is legally dry wine (with 8 g/l of residual sugar) fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks from fruit harvested late in a prime terraced part of the grey-slate Falkenlay sector and which underwent an extended maturation on its lees. It offers a beautiful and subtly creamy nose driven by pear, vineyard peach, earthy spices, a dash of whipped cream, star fruit, ginger, plum, and fine smoke. The wine is juicy and also nicely smooth on the palate and leaves a superbly precise and zesty feel of orchard fruits, fine spices, and herbal elements in the beautifully tart finish. The aftertaste is precise and hugely focused. This is a gorgeous wine in the making! 2028-2040

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Raffes Riesling	21 21	94
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The 2020er Marienburg Raffes, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine (with 7 g/l of residual sugar) fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks from late-harvested fruit in a prime terraced part of the grey-slated Falkenlay sector and which underwent an extended maturation on its lees. It offers a stunning nose made of grapefruit puree, starfruit, mirabelle, earthy spices, and some smoky elements. The wine is nicely juicy and quite playful on the smooth and not bone-dry tasting palate. It is however only in the finish that this wine shows its remarkably finesse and potential. Layers upon layers of juicy fruit add to the overall sense of balance and precision to the aftertaste. This is a remarkable Riesling in the making! 2028-2040

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Spätlese	06 21	94
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The 2020er Marienburg Riesling Spätlese, as it is referred to on the main part of the consumer label, was made from fruit picked at 86° Oechsle and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar. It offers a backward nose made of melon, smoke, starfruit, herbs, and minerals. The wine is only subtly creamy on the overall rather racy palate and leaves a beautiful feel of ripe fruits packed into zesty minerals in the finish. The featherlight side of this Spätlese paired with its flavor intensity are simply a thing of beauty. However, this wine really needs time to reveal all its facets. 2030-2045

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Spätlese GK	07 21	94
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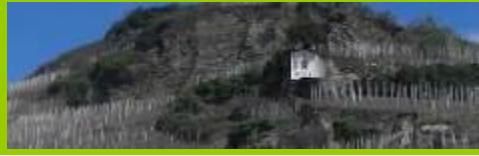
The 2020er Marienburg Riesling Spätlese, as it is referred to on the main part of the consumer label and with a golden capsule, was made from fruit picked at 96° Oechsle from a selection of partially (10%) botrytized fruit and was fermented down to fully sweet levels of residual sugar. It offers a hugely backward and almost non-saying nose at first and the wine takes a while before revealing some faint scents of pear, melon, lemon zest, smoke, and a hint of whipped cream. However, it proves remarkably alluring on the palate where finely chiseled fruity and mineral flavors are beautifully wrapped into ripe yet zesty acidity. The finish is beautifully playful, deep, multi-layered, and refined. This modern-day equivalent of a clean Auslese GK from the 1990s is a true winner. 2030-2050

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Kabinett Fass 2034	05 21	Auction 93+
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The 2020er Marienburg Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the reference to Fass 2034 is provided in small print on the back label), was made from fruit picked at 85° Oechsle in the classical part of the vineyard and was fermented down to fully fruity-styled levels of residual sugar. It offers a slightly backward nose made of greengage, smoke, herbs, wet stone, and fine spices. The wine proves beautifully airy and playful on the palate, where white peach and apricot blossom add a sense of ripeness to the overall refreshing experience. After extensive airing, more juicy white peach driven fruitiness joins the party and gives even more depth to the beautifully playful and enticing flavors. The finish is long and hugely satisfying. This may still be on the restrained side of things at the moment but the potential is huge. 2030-2050

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Falkenlay Riesling Trocken GG	18 21	93
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The 2020er Marienburg Falkenlay GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, was fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks from fruit harvested in a grey-slate infused part of the Marienburg vineyard. It proves still rather backward and only gradually reveals some nice flavors of smoke, pear, mirabelle, vineyard peach, cassis, herbs, and spices. The wine is beautifully juicy on the dry (but not bone-dry) palate and leaves a superbly playful feel of ripe fruits, spices, and smoke in the long finish. The potential is there and this wine now only needs a couple of years to reveal its finest. 2028-2040



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2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Rothenpfad Riesling Trocken GG	16 21	92+
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The 2020er Marienburg Rothenpfad GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, was fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks from fruit harvested in an iron-rich part of the Marienburg vineyard. It offers a great nose made of pear, vineyard peach, strawberry, laurel, cinnamon, and fine smoky elements. The wine proves impeccably balanced on the dry but not bone-dry palate. A ripe sense of zest provides the right structure for the elegant and playful flavors of fruits and spices right into the juicy finish. This is a gorgeous dry Riesling in the making, especially as it reveals all its charm with age. 2026-2040

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Kabinett	03 21	92
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The 2020er Marienburg Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the main part of the consumer label, was made from fruit picked at 85° Oechsle and was fermented down to fully fruity-styled levels of residual sugar. It offers a beautiful nose made of wet stone, passion fruit, lemon zest, earthy spices, and fine herbal elements. The wine proves rather playful and superbly alluring on the light-footed yet subtly creamy palate and leaves an airy and focused feel of minerals and spices wrapped into some subtle apricot elements in the long finish. 2028-2040

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Trocken GG	15 21	92
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The 2020er Marienburg GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, was fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks. It offers a beautiful and rather subtle nose made of herbs, wet stone, spices, a hint of citrusy fruits, apricot blossom, floral elements, and smoke. The wine is superbly playful on the light-footed and subtly creamy palate and leaves a nicely intense feel of herbs and spices in the long finish. The aftertaste is alluring but beautifully complex. This dry wine is made for lovers of subtler and delicately ripe but no less intense and persistent expression of the genre. 2025-2035

2020er	Clemens Busch	Riesling Trocken (Alter) Native	(No AP)	92
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The 2020er (Alter) Native is a dry Riesling made from grey-slate sectors of the Marienburg and was bottled un-filtered and with only minimal added SO₂. It offers a superb nose of lemon zest fine spices and herbs. The wine is beautifully playful and packed with fresh and zest flavors on the palate. The finish is nicely tart and very rewarding. The freshness and dynamic side of the wine are truly remarkable. This wine made along natural lines is a remarkable success. Now-2026

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Riesling Trocken vom blauen Schiefer	25 21	91+
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The 2020er Riesling vom blauen Schiefer, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, comes from early pickings in the blue-slate sector (Fahrlay) of the Pündericher Marienburg. It offers a beautiful nose made of white peach, pear, a hint of earthy spices, wet stone, floral elements, and smoke. The wine proves juicy rather than bone-dry on the palate, where riper flavors play with one's senses. The finish is still slightly rough and backward. This wine now only needs a few years of patience to fully shine. It could then easily exceed our early high expectations especially as it reveals its superbly floral and fresh array of flavors. 2024-2032

2018er	Clemens Busch	Riesling Trocken O	(No AP)	91+
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The 2018er Riesling Trocken O (O stands for Orange) is an un-filtered dry Riesling made from the grey-slate sectors of the Marienburg and saw 4 months of skin-maceration and extended aging in cask for 2 years. This orange-colored wine offers a ripe yet enticing nose made of almond, nuts, pear, fine herbs, a hint of toffee, orange zest, mango, and citrusy fruits. It proves quite marked by licorice at this stage on the palate and leaves a still rather abrupt feel in the already quite persistent and refined finish. This wine will require a few years to open up and will then prove a smashing example of orange wine, especially if it manages to develop a smoother side. 2023-2028

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Riesling Trocken vom grauen Schiefer	13 21	91
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The 2020er Riesling vom grauen Schiefer, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, comes from grey-slate sectors in the Pündericher Marienburg. It offers a great nose made of flintstone, pear, wet stone, herbs, and spices. The wine proves superbly playful on the palate and leaves a beautiful feel of herbs and fine spices in the long and juicy finish. The aftertaste is gorgeously tart and hugely appealing. What a great success! 2025-2035



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Clemens Busch

(Pünderich – Terrassenmosel)

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Riesling Trocken vom roten Schiefer	14 21	90
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The 2020er Riesling vom roten Schiefer, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, comes from iron-rich sectors of the Pündericher Nonnengarten and Marienburg. It proves still a bit backward and unyielding but already hints at some beautiful scents of pear, mirabelle, white peach, cassis, smoke, and aniseed herbs, especially after some airing. The wine is nicely playful and superbly focused on the herb-infused palate and leaves a beautiful feel of fruits, minerals, and herbs in the long and juicy finish. 2024-2030

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Jonas Dostert

(Nittel – Obermosel)

Although already one of the finest sources of wine of the region, Jonas Dostert is probably still not known by many so let us start by reprinting the small introduction we shared last year: His debut vintage was 2018 (we reported on it in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 49 – January 2020). He was born in an old traditional winemaking family in Nittel, in the Obermosel part of the region. He got exposed to organic and minimal-intervention wines during his winemaking studies in Geisenheim. After finishing them, he worked for an organic Estate in Luxembourg and took some parcels from his family Estate in direct management, which he converted to organic vineyard management. He produces some low-intervention, unfiltered wines (with minimal sulfuring at bottling) from Elbling, Spätburgunder, and Chardonnay grown on limestone soil from his tiny operation.

On the 2020 vintage, Jonas Dostert had this to say: “The vintage started again early and the dryness proved even more important in our part of the Mosel than it already was in 2019 and 2018. It affected our younger vines, especially those planted in 2015, 2016, and 2018. This had as consequence that we had to discard some fruit, sometimes up to 30-40%, before the main harvest. But our older vines did well and looked beautiful. I observed that the leaves started to fall quite early. We harvested from September 17 to September 24 under great conditions, and before the rains affected our region at the end of the month. We had for the first time some Grauburgunder grapes, which were already well ripe and I decided to do a skin fermentation with these grapes, and the juice was later assembled to some Elbling for the Karambolage. Overall, I think that my 2020s benefited from the long aging on the lees and I feel that they have quite some potential and will need a couple of months if not more to show their best.”

The Estate produced its usual portfolio of wines (composed of two blends, an Elbling, a Chardonnay and a Pinot Noir). The 2020 Pinot Noir will only be released next year while the 2019er version was released now. In addition, the Estate released two Crémant made from fruit picked in 2018. On the news front, the Estate was able to increase its size from 1.6 ha in 020 to 3 ha in 2021.

What is there to say? The Estate goes from strength to strength and it fully used the filigreed DNA of the 2020 vintage to its advantage. The Elbling is possibly the finest we have tasted so far from the Mosel and the same goes for the Chardonnay. The Karambolage proves a fascinating expression of blend. Besides the whites, the Estate released a stunning Pinot Noir, again among the finest we had ever had the pleasure to taste from the Mosel. Also, the Crémant bottlings show huge potential. This is a stunning Estate with only one drawback: small quantities and hence the difficulties to lay one's hands on a few bottles.

NB: The Estate is certified organic. The 2020er Pinot Noir will be tasted before its release, next year.

2019er	Jonas Dostert	Pinot Noir	(No AP)	93
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The 2019er Pinot Noir (with L-Nr. 1-21) was made with 20% de-stemmed fruit and was fermented and aged along natural lines, i.e. without intervention, in 3 to 4-year-old 228-liter oak barrels from Burgundy before being bottled in April 2021 unfiltered and with little SO₂ added (30 mg/l). This red-ruby and slightly dark colored wine offers a beautifully complex and finely elegant nose of violet, blackberry, spices, dark cherry, mint, sandalwood, and lavender. It coats the medium bodied and refined palate with juicy and fresh, blue-berried fruits, and leaves a velvety and very elegant feel of spices. There is still a touch of tannins and light wood impact in need of integration before the wine will reach true greatness. But the potential is huge: This truly superb Pinot Noir is one of the finest we ever had from the Mosel. 2024-2031+

2020er	Jonas Dostert	Elbling Alte Reben	(No AP)	92+
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The 2020er Elbling Alte Reben (with L-Nr. 3-21) was made with fruit picked on almost 40-year-old vines and was fermented and aged along natural lines, i.e. without intervention, and bottled after a rough filtering and with little SO₂ added (30 mg/l). It offers a superbly refined and elegant nose of white flowers (lily, may tree, lime tree), vineyard peach, hay, fine spices, and fresh almond. The wine starts off on the round and slightly juicy side on the palate, but quickly adds a touch of lime and grapefruit-driven acidity. It leaves an herbal and quite racy feel of herbs and spices, with a hint of tartness still in need of integration. The wine proves still pretty raw, racy, and sharp especially in the finish, and clearly needs a few years to fully integrate its elements. This great Elbling has even some upside potential as it will blossom with age. 2024-2030+

2020er	Jonas Dostert	Karambolage	(No AP)	92
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The 2020er Karambolage (with L-Nr. 2-21, the reference to the grapes is written on the left of the label) was made from young vines (planted in 2014) and is an equal blend of Elbling and 10-days skin-fermented (for 10 days) Grauburgunder (Pinot Gris). It made along natural lines, i.e. without any intervention and bottled unfiltered and with little SO₂ added (20 mg/l). This salmon-pink colored and slightly cloudy wine offers a beautifully aromatic and lightly oxidative nose of apple jelly, almond and hazelnut, orange zest, strawberry, rose, and minty herbs. It proves quite zesty but also well-structured and delineated on the palate. The finish is beautifully crisp, refreshing, pure, and very long. This is one of the best rosé wines we have ever tasted as it combines the natural charms of rosé with a sense of depth, freshness, and lightness usually encountered in great dry white wines. What a great success! 2022-2030



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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Jonas Dostert

(Nittel – Obermosel)

2020er	Jonas Dostert	Chardonnay	(No AP)	92
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The 2020er Chardonnay (with L-Nr. 5-21) was made from young vines (planted in 2015) and was fermented and aged along natural lines, i.e. without intervention, and bottled after a rough filtering and with little SO₂ added (30 mg/l). Slightly cloudy and still marked by initial CO₂, it proves still very primary on the nose and only reveals delicate and primary notes of fine herbs, pineapple juice, William's pear, nutmeg, almond, and quince jelly. The wine is refined and delicately creamy on the light-weighted yet complex and layered palate. The finish is beautifully long and driven by whipped almond cream and lemon curd. What a beautifully elegant Chardonnay! 2024-2035

N.V.	Jonas Dostert	Chardonnay Crémant	(No AP)	91
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The N.V. Chardonnay Crémant (with L-Nr. 7-21) was made from grapes harvested in 2018 on young vines (planted in 2014) and which was fermented and aged in 228-liter used oak barrels until April 2019 before undergoing its secondary fermentation and being disgorged without dosage in August 2021 (the disgorgement date is not provided on the label) with a low 20 mg/l of sulfur added. It offers a delicate, complex, and refined nose of freshly cut herbs, almond cream, mint, candied lemon, orange blossom, and pear. The wine proves very subtle on the palate, where some creamy presence adds a joyful and very attractive side. The bubbles are already very well integrated and add freshness to the precise, light, and long finish. 2022-2029

2020er	Jonas Dostert	Pure Limestone	(No AP)	91
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The 2020er Pure Limestone (with L-Nr. 4-21) is a 50-50 blend of Elbling (planted 40 years ago) and Chardonnay (planted in 2014) made along natural lines, i.e. without intervention, and bottled unfiltered and with little SO₂ added (20 mg/l). It offers a very flowery and aromatically delicately ripe nose of lemon curd, lime tree, butter cream, tangerine zest, a hint of apricot, and honeysuckle. The wine proves elegantly juicy and refined on the lightly ripe and expressive palate. It leaves a beautifully long and creamy yet fresh feel in the finish. This wine is beautifully captivating in its aromatic and direct yet complex style. 2022-2028

N.V.	Jonas Dostert	Elbling Crémant	(No AP)	90
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The N.V. Elbling Crémant (with L-Nr. 6-21) was made from grapes harvested in 2018 picked on 40-year-old vines and was fermented and aged in 228-liter used oak barrels until April 2019 before undergoing its secondary fermentation and being disgorged without dosage in August 2021 (the disgorgement date is not provided on the label) with a low 20 mg/l of sulfur added. It offers a flinty, aromatic, and herbal nose of white flowers, lozenge, anise, green apple, plenty of spices, and rosemary. It starts off on the lean and zesty side on the palate, where the bubbles are still very active. It expands into a broader and riper structure, with intensity and even a touch of power in the still rather tart finish. This very impressive Crémant made from Elbling will need two years or more to integrate its slightly rougher and primary side. 2023-2029

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Keller

(Flörsheim-Dalsheim – Rheinhessen)

Klaus-Peter Keller is hugely satisfied with his 2020 wines produced from the Piesporter Schubertslay: "The vintage turned out to be absolutely ideal for producing fruity-styled Kabinett as Oechsle degrees were moderate and we had good levels of acidity. Again, we decided to start our harvest in September, as we did in 2019 and 2018. We did selections on a few days in the Schubertslay and decided to produce only two wines this year: a Kabinett from the youngest vines, though these are already 60-year-old, and an auction Kabinett from the very old un-grafted vines. Yields proved again very low."

The Estate produced a small collection from its holdings in the Piesporter Schubertslay in 2020 limited to two Kabinett: one regular and one (labelled as Alte Reben), which will be released at this year's Auction in Bad Kreuznach.

The collection may be small in size but huge in quality. The wines are among the finest of the vintage. The only real issue for any wine lover is to be able to lay their hands on any of these beauties.

2020er	Keller	Piesporter Schubertslay Riesling Kabinett Alte Reben	35 21	Auction	95+
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The 2020er Schubertslay Kabinett -Alte Reben-, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was made from fruit harvested at 80° Oechsle from 120-year-old un-grafted vines. It was harvested at 80° Oechsle and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (39 g/l). It offers a very primary yet subtly elegant and deeply complex nose of anise, pear, almond cream, rose, minty herbs, greengage, and lime tree. The wine proves superbly dense and complex on the palate, where layers of complexity make for a ravishing experience. The finish proves focused, airy, and very pure. There is an underlying sense of ripeness, which is however superbly contained into the zesty side of the wine. This is a gorgeous Kabinett, which even has some upside as it develops over time. 2030-2050

2020er	Keller	Piesporter Schubertslay Riesling Kabinett	34 21		93+
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The 2020er Schubertslay Kabinett, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is made from 60-year-old vines in the eastern part of the vineyard. It was harvested at 82° Oechsle and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (44 g/l). It offers a slightly reductive nose which then quickly opens up to offer elegant and light notes of fresh pear, yellow peach, rose, bergamot, and pink grapefruit. The wine is very light and driven by juicy notes of pear in the nicely creamy and almost round palate. The acidity in the long and refined finish has however everything under control and brings the right level of freshness to the wine. This is a great Kabinett in the making, with even some upside over time. 2028-2045

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Weingut Dr. Loosen

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

Erni Loosen proves really satisfied with his 2020 vintage even if things have not been that easy: "The vintage proved overall all warm and dry, but not as much as in 2019 for instance. We again started our harvest early and could bring in beautiful grapes with moderate levels of Oechsle. The vintage really proves a lighter one, on paper it has nothing exceptional. However, we did a lot of sorting, as we really want to have no excessive levels of ripeness for our Kabinett wines for instance, but also for our dry wines. I would say that the vintage was as challenging as 2016 and 2013. The acidity is higher than in the two previous vintages and the ripeness is lower. It reminds me a lot of the 2008 and 2004 vintages, yet today the wines from these vintages are so beautiful and offer so much pleasure. The 2020 wines come from the same mold, they are focused and elegant."

The Estate was able to produce its full portfolio, which includes no less than 9 different GGs. The fruity-styled, sweet, and noble-sweet collection is also classic and includes the two traditional auction bottlings: the Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese GK and the Erdener Prälat Auslese LGK. The Estate recently released a few bottlings which see extensive aging: the 2019er Graacher Himmelreich Tradition, the 2018er Graacher Himmelreich made with Telmo Rodriguez, the 2018er Riesling Trocken Walhalla and the 2017er Riesling Dry Wolta Wolta made with Jim Barry, and finally the three bottlings of 2015er Réserve GG (all these wines are reviewed here below).

The Dr. Loosen team presented an impressive and huge collection of wines. The 2020s shine through freshness, lightness, and filigreed precision, and this in all stylistic directions. The GGs are all highly recommendable as are the fruity-styled, sweet, and noble sweet wines. In addition, Erni Loosen has become a prominent specialist of producing great wines matured longer in casks and has many gorgeous bottlings to offer currently (and even many others pending!), especially its impressive range of 2015er Réserve GG.

NB: The 2020er GG Réserve bottlings, which are still in cask, will be reviewed upon their release.

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese	68 21	95
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The 2020er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese was made from clean fruit harvested at 89° Oechsle and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (75 g/l). It offers a captivating and superbly complex nose of whipped almond cream, lily flower, bergamot, cassis, and raspberry, with a touch of tangerine and mango. The wine has great focus and intensity on the palate and leaves a superbly clean focused, and chiseled feel in the finish. It proves a multi-layered and refreshing Auslese to enjoy by the bottle. What a great success! 2028-2045

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese lange GK	42 21	Auction (94-97)
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The 2020er Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese lange GK was made with fruit picket at a full 160° Oechsle and fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This cask sample offers a magnificent and hugely complex and aromatic nose of honey, orange zest, passion fruit, mango, minty herbs, licorice, raisin, apricot, and dried apricot. The wine is superbly playful and animating on the palate, as the sweetness is well wrapped into zesty and animating acidity. There is quite some power coming through on the hugely long and structured palate which adds a lot of depth and focus to the wine. This baroque and juicy TBA-like dessert wine is hugely impressive. 2028-2050

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese GK	70 21	94+
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The 2020er Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese GK was made with partially botrytized fruit harvested at 95° Oechsle and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (90 g/l). It proves still very primary and reductive on the nose, but quickly reveals great complexity and depth as notes of almond cream, candied pineapple, quince jelly, honeyed peach, and tangerine kick in. The wine proves structured and driven by a most beautiful acidity on the palate. The residual sugar is already very well integrated and the zesty and ripe acidity dominates the flavors. The finish is hugely long and precise but also slightly harsh and racy at the moment. This focused and hugely playful Prälat Auslese GK is very impressive and now only needs a couple of years to integrate all its elements and truly shine. It even has some upside potential if it develops finesse and more elegance over the years. 2030-2050

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	56 21	94
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The 2020er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese was made with fruit harvested at a full 95° Oechsle and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (70 g/l). It offers a gorgeously reductive and hugely attractive nose of flit stone, herbs, grapefruit zest, tangerine, and lime, all wrapped into whipped almond cream. The wine is still primary and marked by CO2, but already hints at its greatness to come as it is layered and deeply spicy. It leaves a superbly long and precise feel in the focused and saline finish. The whole balance is already more on the off-dry than a fully fruity side and makes one want to go for more. What a magnificent Spätlese! 2027-2045



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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Dr. Loosen

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese GK	41 21	Auction	94
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The 2020er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese GK was made from fruit picked at 92° Oechsle and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (70 g/l). It offers a most beautiful and delicately elegant nose of almond cream, aniseed herbs, pineapple, spices, smoke, and bergamot. The wine proves very compact, intense, and herbal on the zesty and focused palate. The finish is magnificently long and precise, and proves already more off-dry than fully sweet. It leaves an almost racy feel in the super long but still raw and primary finish. This Spätlese will need a decade to fully integrate its elements and shine. 2030-2050

2015er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Unterst Pichter Riesling Trocken Alte Reben Réserve GG	67 17		94
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The 2015er Ürziger Würzgarten Unterst Pichter Reserve Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), is made from parcels of very old un-grafted vines in the prime Pichter sector and was fermented in oak with ambient yeasts and aged on its gross lees for 24 months before being bottled. It offers a breathtaking, undercooled, and superbly complex nose of aniseed herbs, smoke, spices, almond cream, honeyed yellow peach, muscade, quince, and fine buttery elements. The wine reveals a great creamy texture and plenty of superbly playful fruits wrapped into plenty of spices on the palate. This feeling carries over right into the hugely long and focused finish. The wine is still tight in the aftertaste but already hints at great refreshing elements of tangerine, minty herbs, and above all spices. 2024-2040

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese	67 21		93
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The 2020er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese was made from clean fruit harvested at 93° Oechsle and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (76 g/l). It opens up to offer a quite aromatic and ripe nose of William's pear, quince, bergamot, aniseed herbs, and smoke. The wine proves fully fruity and sweet on the delicately smooth and juicy palate. The finish is superbly long and complex, and has the right amount of underlying acidity and zest to freshen up the aromatics. This sweet wine now only needs a decade to fully shine. 2030-2045

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	69 21		93
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese was made from clean fruit harvested at 98° Oechsle and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (84 g/l). Quite reductive at first, this sweet wine offers plenty of ripe and even exotic fruits of almond cream, Pina Colada, lead pencil, coconut, anise, and pear. The wine is packed with exotic and juicy sweet fruits, but everything is well under control as some zesty acidity brings freshness and liveliness to the whole experience. 2027-2040

2015er	Dr. Loosen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Im Laychen Riesling Trocken Alte Reben Réserve GG	66 17		93
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The 2015er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Im Laychen Réserve Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), is made from very old un-grafted vines in the prime Laychen (central part) sector of the vineyard and was fermented in oak with ambient yeasts and aged on its gross lees for 24 months before being bottled. It captures one's attention with its superbly aromatic and captivating nose of almond cream, greengage, pineapple, orange blossom, vanilla cream, and smoke. The wine starts off on the round and fully creamy and juicy side on the palate but quickly gains focus and finesse. It is intense and dense. This beautiful dry Riesling already fires already on all cylinders. Now-2035

2015er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälat Riesling Trocken Alte Reben Réserve GG	68 17		92+
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The 2015er Erdener Prälat Reserve Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), is made from very old un-grafted vines and was fermented in oak with ambient yeasts and aged on its gross lees for 24 months before being bottled. It offers a captivatingly aromatic and smoky nose of lime, pineapple, prune, spices, herbs, a hint of camphor, licorice, and tar. The wine is very compact and has great dry extract, but also a smoother and softer side on the palate as ripe and even exotic fruits join the party. The finish is superbly long and structured, with a touch of power in the background. This is already very impressive but has clearly upside potential as it will gain finesse over the years. 2023-2035

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Trocken Alte Reben GG	49 21		(92-94)
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The 2020er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), comes from parcels of very old un-grafted vines in the prime Unterst and Oberst Pichter, Maxberg, and Layenhaus sectors, and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for almost 12 months. It offers a beautifully complex and superbly refined and aromatic nose of cassis, almond cream, William's pear, tangerine, orange, and spices. The wine is superbly playful on the palate, where its light juicy and fruity texture is wrapped into a blanket of spices. The finish is focused, long, and pure. This is a great dry Riesling in the making. 2026-2040



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Weingut Dr. Loosen

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese	37 21	92
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The 2020er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese was made with fruit harvested at 90° Oechsle and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (65 g/l). It offers a beautifully aromatic and attractive nose of pineapple, Pina Colada, almond cream, some buttery elements, and spices. The wine is still very fruity and juicy on the smooth and still slightly sweet palate. The finish has more freshness and intensity as the acidity brings focus. 2028-2045

2017er	Loosen Barry	Riesling Dry Wolta Wolta	(No AP)	92
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The 2017er Wolta Wolta Dry Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is the second vintage of this Australian dry Riesling made in the Clare Valley from a plot called Water Water (Wolta Wolta is the original Aboriginal name of the place) produced along the lines of Ernst Loosen. It was fermented spontaneously and matured on its gross lees in a 3,000-liter used oak cask for two years before bottling. It offers a beautifully refined yet aromatic nose of thyme, curry, spearmint, candied greengage plum, grapefruit, bergamot, and nice flowery scents (lavender and lime tree). The wine has good concentration and a superb structure on the palate and leaves a more earthy yet superbly long and playful finish. Zesty elements are mixed with almond and barbecue herbs. The aftertaste reveals just a touch of hotter and spicier elements, which would make us opt to enjoy this impressive Australian dry Riesling over the coming years with some hearty food. Now-2025

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett	12 21	92
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The 2020er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett was made with fruit harvested at 80° Oechsle and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (38 g/l). It offers a refined and finely aromatic nose of anise, greengage, bergamot, yellow peach, Conference pear, and minty herbs. The wine coats the palate with juicy and riper fruits, yet it gains focus and freshness as it unfolds. A nicely tickly and candied grapefruit-driven acidity comes through in the long and well-delineated finish. The whole experience flirts with Spätlese intensity, but the beautiful fruity-styled wine remains light-footed and above all playful and fresh. 2027-2040

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	11 21	92
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett was made with fruit harvested at 78° Oechsle and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (44 g/l). It proves hugely shy yet very elegant at first and needs a couple of minutes in the glass to reveal a delicate and fresh nose of white peach, greengage, white flowers, and a whiff of whipped almond. The wine proves superbly well balanced on the palate enhanced by an aromatic side driven by canned yellow peach and pear. The finish is long and well-delineated, and offers presence as well as freshness. This is a superb Kabinett in the making. 2027-2040

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	55 21	92
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese was made with fruit harvested at 84° Oechsle and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (63 g/l). Quite reductive at first, this wine quickly offers a superbly fruity and fresh nose of tangerine, orange, vineyard peach, herbs, mint, and Conference pear. It has superbly clean ripe fruits on the palate and initially shows freshness and zest. It only then reveals a creamier and smoother side. The finish is clean, nicely long, and precise. This is a superbly fruity and playful Spätlese in the making. 2027-2040

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Trocken Alte Reben GG	50 21	(91-93)
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The 2020er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), comes from very old un-grafted vines in the prime Onnerts and Herzlay sectors (situated just above and next to the Prälat), and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for almost 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling proves quite non-saying and smoky at first before fine scents of anise, minty herbs, grapefruit, floral elements, and licorice emerge from the glass. The wine is superbly playful and spicy on the very long and smoky finish. The after-taste is very pure and long. 2025-2035

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken Alte Reben GG	48 21	(91-93)
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), comes from very old un-grafted vines in the prime Gewann Laychen (central part) and Sandpichter (near Zeltingen) sectors, and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for almost 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling proves smoky and flinty at first before it reveals its very refined and finely aromatic nose of tangerine, vineyard peach, Conference pear, dried white flowers, and almond. The wine is delicately juicy and elegant on the smooth rather than bone-dry palate. The finish manages to bring the right amount of freshness as zesty elements and spices kick in. A hint of tartness in the after-taste still needs to integrate before this beautiful wine will show its best. 2025-2035



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Dr. Loosen

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Trocken Alte Reben GG	47 21	(91-92+)
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The 2020er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), comes from very old un-grafted vines in the prime Stablay, Tirley, and Humberg sectors, and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for almost 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling offers a beautifully refreshing and zesty nose of citrusy fruits, pear, anise, herbs, and prune. The wine starts off on the juicy and fruity side (yellow peach, pear), which give it a creamy and smoother side. Yet the finish reveals great cut and intensity. There is a touch of tartness and power in need of integration. This great playful expression of dry Riesling now needs a few years to integrate its elements. 2024-2033

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Trocken GG	46 21	(91-92)
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The 2020er Graacher Domprobst Riesling, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), comes from un-grafted vines in the prime Lilienpfad sector and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling offers a beautiful attractive and aromatic nose of Conference pear, anise, smoke, ginger, herbs, and almond cream. The wine proves still primary on the palate where its juicy and slightly riper fruits are well wrapped into energetic and bracing spicy acidity. The finish is very spicy, even salty, and slightly broader in style at this stage. 2025-2035+

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Trocken GG	44 21	(90-92)
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Lay Riesling, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is found on the back label and on the bottle itself), comes from the Haargarten sector (situated around the Estate), and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling proves quite reductive at first and marked by residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation. Minty herbs, grapefruit, and white flowers, all wrapped into a lot of spices make for very fresh aromatics. The wine reveals a very dynamic and zest driven-side on the palate and leaves one with a great sense of focus in the finish. There is quite some potential here. 2025-2040

2019er	Dr. Loosen	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Feinherb Tradition	81 21	(90-92)
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The 2019er Graacher Himmelreich Tradition Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is an off-dry wine (with 22 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit harvested on approx. 30-year-old vines situated higher up the hill, and was made along old traditional method, i.e. fermentation and extended aging on the gross lees in large 3,000-liter wooden casks for 21 months (hence the late AP number) down to off-dry levels of residual sugar. This cask sample ready for bottling offers a hugely aromatic and very attractive nose of Conference pear, tangerine, quince jelly, grapefruit zest, anise, bergamot, almond cream, and yellow peach. The wine is juicy and fruity on the palate, and it proves fresh and superbly light. It leaves a very clean and fresh feel in the aromatic and precise finish. 2025-2040

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Bernkasteler Johannisbrunnchen Riesling Trocken GG	45 21	(90-91)
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Johannisbrunnchen Riesling, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is found on the back label and on the bottle itself), comes from the Gewinn Oberm Ofenpfad and Unterm Brauneserweg, and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling offers a very fine reductive and herbal nose with scents of white flowers, vineyard peach, and a hint of coconut. The wine is racy and very focused on the zesty palate. The finish is very long yet light, zesty, and very spicy, with just a hint of tartness still in need of integration. 2024-2033

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Kinheimer Rosenberg Riesling Trocken GG	51 21	(90-91)
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The 2020er Kinheimer Rosenberg Riesling, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is found on the back label and on the bottle itself), comes from the original part of the vineyard behind the village with was classified "dark red" on the old Prussian taxation map, and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling proves still very primary and fresh as notes of mint, lime, greengage, green apple, and orange blossom emerge from the glass. The wine proves lean and linear on the zesty driven-palate and leaves a racy and herbal feel underpinned by just a touch of tartness in the very long finish. 2025-2035

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Lösnicher Försterlay Riesling Trocken GG	52 21	(90-91)
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The 2020er Lösnicher Försterlay Riesling, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is found on the back label and on the bottle itself), comes from the Gewinn in der Försterlei, which was classified "dark red" on the old Prussian taxation map, and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling offers a refined and perfumed nose of grapefruit zest, lime tree, chamomile, anise, and ginger cream. The wine is delicately creamy on the palate and leaves a spicy and zesty feel in the long finish. There is a touch of tartness still in need of integration in the nicely bone-dry aftertaste. 2025-2035



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2020er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett	19 21	90
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The 2020er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett was made with fruit harvested at 82° Oechsle and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (43 g/l). It offers an aromatic, fresh, and direct nose of pear, yellow peach, red apple, greengage, almond cream, and a whiff of fresh banana. The wine is delicately smooth and suave on the fruit-driven and creamy palate. It leaves one with the mouth-watering side of real Kabinett in the subtly light and elegant finish. The aftertaste has a nice zesty touch which freshens up the whole experience. 2027-2035+

2018er	Dr. Loosen	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Ernst Loosen & Telmo Rodriguez	68 20	90
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This 2018er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a common "orange" project between Ernst Loosen (Mosel / Germany) and Telmo Rodriguez (Rioja / Spain). It is based on fruit from Dr. Loosen holdings in the Abtsberg part of the vineyard, which was skin-macerated for several months before being pressed using a basket press and transferred into in 2,000-liter wooden casks which had previously seen some of the finest Rioja by Telmo Rodriguez. The wine was made without intervention except for a little sulfur (30 mg/l). Already yellow-golden in color, this offers a fully ripe and aromatic nose of pear puree, ginger cream, cinnamon, strawberry, cherry, violet, and grape juice. The wine proves smooth, suave, and fruit-driven. The long finish has more structure and is wrapped into ginger-driven spices, orange, and plenty of herbs (reminiscent of green Chartreuse, but without any undue alcoholic presence). This comparatively smooth yet complex and layered dry Riesling will please lovers of "natural"-styled wines. Now-2023+

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Graacher Riesling Trocken	36 21	90
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The 2020er Graacher Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the reference to Trocken is given on the back label), was fermented with ambient yeasts in large casks from fruit harvested in the Abtsberg sector of the Himmelreich planted with over 30-year-old un-grafted vines. It offers a beautifully pure, fresh, and nicely complex nose of herbs, smoke, candied grapefruit, yellow flowers, white mint, and lime. The wine is energetic and well-balanced on the palate and possesses nice extract and presence without any undue power. The finish has a dash of creamy elements but manages to maintain the freshness which runs through the wine. There is just a touch of tartness in the aftertaste which still needs to integrate. This "village" dry Riesling proves a great success and defies the usual riper and smoother side of the vintage. 2023-2035

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Kabinett	18 21	89+
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Kabinett was made with fruit harvested at 81° Oechsle and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (46 g/l). Slightly reductive and smoky at first, this delivers fresh and aniseed notes of pear, almond, tangerine, greengage, and a hint of apricot. The wine proves quite intense and structured on the palate, where juicy fruits are wrapped into candied zest. The feeling of ripeness is slightly higher here than in the three other Kabinett wines, also as the wine comes over as creamier and juicier. The finish is still slightly rough and unginging at the moment, so that this is best left alone for a couple of years. It clearly has upside potential if it gains finesse and elegance. 2027-2040

2018er	Loosen Barry	Riesling Trocken Walhalla	64 20	89+
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The 2018er Walhalla Dry Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is the third vintage of this dry Riesling made from the Erdener Treppchen and produced along the lines of Jim Barry (a renowned Australian winemaker from the Clare Valley). It was fermented spontaneously and matured on its gross lees in stainless steel tanks for two years before bottling. Initially rather reserved, this opens up to offer delicate juicy and ripe notes of yellow peach, pear puree, candied grapefruit, cherry, licorice, and barbecue herbs. The wine coats the palate with ample and ripe fruits, yet shows a very clean and pure zesty side which gives a lot of focus to the overall bigger side of the wine. The finish proves quite herbal, razor-sharp, and even slightly tart, so patience will be needed to give this wine the time to fully integrate all its components. 2023-2030

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Riesling Trocken Blauschiefer	34 21	88
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The 2020er Riesling Trocken Blauschiefer was fermented with ambient yeasts in large wooden casks from fruit picked in Bernkastel, Wehlen, Graach, Andel, and Kröv. It offers a fine, elegant, and light nose of bergamot, white peach, herbs, anise, tangerine, apple, and a hint of fresh almond. The wine proves nicely smooth and delicate on the light-weighted and juicy palate. It leaves a fruity rather than fully dry taste in the nicely attractive and juicy finish. This light-weighted and delicate Riesling is easy to enjoy in its direct and finely aromatic style. 2022-2028



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(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Riesling Dry Blue Slate	34 21	88
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The 2020er Riesling Dry Blue Slate was fermented with ambient yeasts in large wooden casks from fruit picked in Bernkastel, Wehlen, Graach, Andel, and Kröv. It offers a fine, elegant, and light nose of bergamot, white peach, herbs, anise, tangerine, apple, and a hint of fresh almond. The wine proves nicely smooth and delicate on the light-weighted and juicy palate. It leaves a fruity rather than fully dry taste in the nicely attractive and juicy finish. This light-weighted and delicate Riesling is easy to enjoy in its direct and finely aromatic style. 2022-2028

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Riesling Feinherb Grauschiefer	54 21	(87-89)
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The 2020er Riesling Grauschiefer, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to Feinherb is given on the back label), is an off-dry wine fermented with ambient yeasts in stainless steel from fruit picked in Bernkastel, Wehlen, Graach, Kröv, and Andel. This cask sample proves nicely aromatic and attractive with its direct scents of canned yellow peach, minty herbs, anise, and flowery elements. The wine comes over as delicately smooth and light-weighted on the off-dry and juicy palate. It leaves one with some earthy elements in the nicely structured and well-delineated finish. This off-dry Riesling is nicely made. 2022-2030

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Riesling Off-Dry Grey Slate	54 21	(87-89)
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The 2020er Riesling Off-Dry Grey Slate is an off-dry wine fermented with ambient yeasts in stainless steel from fruit picked in Bernkastel, Wehlen, Graach, Kröv, and Andel. This cask sample proves nicely aromatic and attractive with its direct scents of canned yellow peach, minty herbs, anise, and flowery elements. The wine comes over as delicately smooth and light-weighted on the off-dry and juicy palate. It leaves one with some earthy elements in the nicely structured and well-delineated finish. This off-dry Riesling is nicely made. 2022-2030

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Riesling Trocken Rotschiefer	35 21	86+
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The 2020er Riesling Trocken Rotschiefer was fermented with ambient yeasts in large wooden casks from fruit picked in iron-rich vineyards in Rachtig, Ürzig (Oberberg), Erden, Löslich, and Kinheim. It is initially quite reductive and marked by sulfur, and needs a few minutes in the glass to reveal spicy and aromatic notes of ripe fruits (including pear, canned yellow peach, and a hint of apricot), fresher zesty elements, and almond cream. The wine is delicately smooth and juicy on the light-weighted and smoky palate. The finish is nicely clean, fresh, and dry-tasting. It needs two years or more in bottle to integrate its components. 2023-2027

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Riesling Dry Red Slate	35 21	86+
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The 2020er Riesling Dry Red Slate was fermented with ambient yeasts in large wooden casks from fruit picked in iron-rich vineyards in Rachtig, Ürzig (Oberberg), Erden, Löslich, and Kinheim. It is initially quite reductive and marked by sulfur, and needs a few minutes in the glass to reveal spicy and aromatic notes of ripe fruits (including pear, canned yellow peach, and a hint of apricot), fresher zesty elements, and almond cream. The wine is delicately smooth and juicy on the light-weighted and smoky palate. The finish is nicely clean, fresh, and dry-tasting. It needs two years or more in bottle to integrate its components. 2023-2027

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Riesling Trocken Satyriscus	85 21	(85-87)
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The 2020er Riesling Satyriscus, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was made with fruit picked in the Wehlener Rosenberg. This cask sample offers a reserved yet fresh and light nose of anise, herbs, pear, white peach, grapefruit, and lemon. The wine is nicely clean and light-weighted on the zesty and fresh palate. There is some underlying touch of ripeness as flavors of pear and yellow peach come through in the after-taste. This light and easy-to-drink Riesling is nicely made. 2022-2027

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Weissburgunder	08 21	85
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The 2020er Weissburgunder is dry-tasting wine (with 11 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked in Kröv, Erden, Bernkastel, and Lieser. It offers a direct and quite aromatic nose of pear, anise, white flowers, melon, canned yellow peach, and a dash of fresh banana and mint. The wine is juicy and deliciously smooth and even sweet. It however leaves a nicely structured and fresh finish, with flavors of almond cream and pear puree. This is an easy-to-enjoy and joyful expression of Weissburgunder. Now-2024

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Mosel Fine Wines

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Melsheimer

(Reil – Middle Mosel)

Thorsten Melsheimer is quite satisfied with his 2020 vintage: "2020 was a rather easy growing season, certainly when compared with 2021, and besides a tail of frost which affected small parts of our vineyards at the bottom of the hill, there was nothing really special to report. It was a warm vintage and this led us to start our harvest early, on September 26 ... exactly at the time it started to rain. This made for a rather challenging autumn even if, in the end, yields proved very good. We could bring in grapes for all our wines and the only thing that we were missing was quality botrytis. We finished the harvest around October 20. The vintage is a light one but one which I particularly like very much for that precise reason. The wines have very bright and fresh aromatically but everything is delivered with lightness and elegance. The kick of acidity in the vintage suited my wines very well, as they usually undergo their malolactic fermentation."

As Thorsten mentioned, the Estate was able to produce its usual portfolio of wines in 2020, and it includes a full set of dry, fruity, sweet wines (up to Spätlese) as well as basic wines for future Sekt bottlings. Most of these wines will however only be released in the coming years, as is now usual at this Estate: "I have bottled less than 50% of our casks so far." So, besides a few wines from 2020, the Estate now released recent disgorgements of its Sekt from 2013, 2014, and 2016, as well as some natural wines (including its orange wine) from 2018. The Estate also released a special cask of dry Estate from 2018 which underwent three years of aging partially in wooden casks and its 2019er version of the Kellerchen. On the sweet side, the 2018er TBA has been recently released.

The Estate released some beauties in 2021 and this in all directions. Unsurprisingly, the Sekt bottlings are highly commendable and, as usual, one of the finest sources of sparkling wines from the Mosel with extended lees aging. The most unexpected success is the 2018er Riesling Trocken (with AP 21 21), which was aged for 2 years in wooden casks and offers a stunning alternative to finely oaked Chardonnay wines. Forget the "Estate wine" label, this cruises far above this level. Also, the 2018er TBA underlines once more what a stunning vintage 2018 is for noble-sweet wines. The Estate is one of pioneers of natural wine and this shines through in the superb Pet'Nat and Orange wine released this year. All in all, there is really much to like at this address!

NB: The Estate is certified organic and biodynamic along DEMETER Lines. All 2020er wines presented were tasted (listing those not yet ready would be too long).

2018er	Melsheimer	Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	09 21	98
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The 2018er Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese was made from fully botrytized fruit picked at 230° Oechsle in historic part of the vineyard and was fermented down (over 30 months, hence the late AP number) to fully noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. A whiff of volatile elements quickly give way to some stunningly pure scents of dried fruits, honey, baked mango, lemon zest, and earthy spices on the nose of this bronze-yellow-colored wine. The wine is still remarkably sweet on the otherwise stunningly light-footed and finely chiseled palate. A gorgeous kick of candied grapefruit and lemon zest adds already a remarkably fresh and juicy feel to the oily and unctuous finish. This superb TBA plays more on subtlety than presence and is no less remarkable for that, on the contrary. What a great success! 2033-2068

2020er	Melsheimer	Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Spätlese Schäf	02 21	92
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The 2020er Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Spätlese Schäf was made from fruit picked at 90° Oechsle in the prime south-facing sector in the heart of the vineyard and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar. It offers a beautiful nose of pear, melon, whipped cream, smoke, and residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation. The wine underlines its subtle creaminess with a dash of apricot and subtly creamy and honeyed elements on the palate. A nice and subtly ripe feel of zest adds structure to this overall succulent yet ripe sweet wine. The finish reveals some almond paste and more herbal elements. This proves a nicely juicy yet playful and comparatively light-footed expression of Spätlese with some Auslese allure. 2030-2050

2013er	Melsheimer	Sekt Brut Nature Cuvée Prestige	22 20	92
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The 2013er Sekt Brut Nature Cuvée Prestige is an equal blend of Pinot Noir and Riesling, which was refermented and aged on its lees for over 65 months before being disgorged without dosage in April 2021 (the disgorgement date is provided on the label). This bright-golden colored Sekt offers a hugely complex nose made of mirabelle, peach, raspberry, spices, and herbal elements. The wine is superbly precise and gorgeously backward on the palate, where a creamy side is lifted up by a great touch of tea, minty elements, and a subtle yet engaging mousse. The finish is dry, precise (almost sharp), and above all hugely satisfying. This is a superb Sekt which will offer much pleasure for many years to come! Now-2028



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(Reil – Middle Mosel)

2018er	Melsheimer	Riesling Trocken	21 21	91+
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The 2018er Riesling Trocken AP 21 21 comes from different vineyards around Reil and Burg and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in traditional wooden casks for two years and then in stainless steel for one year before being bottled in fall 2021 (hence the late AP number). This hay-colored wine immediately captures one's attention through subtle and hugely appealing notes of oak treatment which wrap scents of pear, spices, herbs, and a touch of whipped cream. The wine proves superbly smooth and develops a structure more of a Chardonnay packed into a smooth rather than bone-dry feel on the palate. The finish is smooth and still needs to firm up. This gorgeous wine with more than a flair of Burgundian charm will benefit from a few years in bottle in order to absorb its tail of smoothness. It could then easily prove even more attractive than currently anticipated. This is a really nice and hugely positive surprise! 2024-2033

2016er	Melsheimer	Liquörwein	(No AP)	91
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The 2016er, as it is simply referred to on the consumer label, is a white fortified wine (*Liquörwein* in German) made from 2016er Riesling fruit which was fermented on its skin before being stopped with the addition of alcohol and aged in cask for four years. This fully-orange-colored wine offers a beautifully herbal and spicy nose made of barbeque herbs, nuts, orchard fruit jam, and smoke. Except for the smoothness from the alcohol, the wine tastes almost dry on the spicy palate infused with stewed fruits. The finish is firm and quite multi-layered. This lovely fortified wine is made for lovers of the more oxidative expression of the genre. Now-2026

2014er	Melsheimer	Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Sekt Brut	03 16	91
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The 2014er Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Sekt Brut is made from fruit picked in the classical part of the vineyard and was aged on its lees for almost 6 years before being disgorged in April 2021 (the disgorgement date is not provided on the label). It offers a beautifully mature nose made of beeswax, pear, raspberry, honey, saffron, fine spices, and smoke. The wine is superbly smooth yet subtly fizzy on the palate and leaves a nicely long feel in the finish. A touch of fine active mousse adds precision to the fruit and spice driven aftertaste. This is a beautiful expression of mature Sekt to enjoy over the coming years. Now-2026

2016er	Melsheimer	Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Sekt Brut Zéro Dosage	07 20	91
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The 2016er Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Brut Zéro Dosage is made from fruit picked in the classical part of the vineyard and was aged on its lees for 43 months before being disgorged without any dosage in April 2021 (the disgorgement date is not provided on the label). It offers a classy nose made of grapefruit and lemon zest, chalk, white flowers, and quite some smoke. The wine is gorgeously dry yet fruity on the palate and leaves a superbly satisfying feel of chalk, lemon, grapefruit, white flower, and fine smoky elements on the palate. The finish is ethereal, elegant, and superbly alluring. This is a gorgeous Sekt made in an overtly fruit and mineral style that is hard to resist. Now-2031

2019er	Melsheimer	Riesling Trocken Orange	(No AP)	91
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The 2019er Orange, as it is referred to on the consumer label, with the lot number 0703 comes from grapes harvested in the Reiler Mullay-Hofberg and was fermented with whole bunches in stainless steel for one month before being pressed. It completed its fermentation and aging without lees steering and any sulfur added in used Barrique for 12 months. This golden-orange-colored wine offers a stunning nose of bitter orange marmalade, almond, citrusy fruits, minerals, and earthy spices. The wine is beautifully crisp and focused on the palate and leaves a superbly tart and vibrant feel in the finish. More fine flavors of orangey fruits packed into spices, citrusy elements, and a touch of natural funk add to the enjoyment of the experience. We would just give this beautiful orange wine another year in the bottle to smoothen off some of its tartness. 2022-2029

2019er	Melsheimer	Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Trocken Kellerchen	23 21	90+
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The 2019er Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Kellerchen, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from grapes harvested in the south-east facing Schäf part of the vineyard (situated next to a small vineyard cellar – *Keller* – hence the name) and was fermented with ambient yeasts in traditional large casks for 12 months and bottled unfiltered. It offers a rather backward and subtly earthy feel of pear, melon, spices, and smoke. The wine is crisp and driven by lemon zest packed into spices on the focused palate. It leaves a rather creamy feel of poached pear in the long and subtly ample finish. A hint of aniseed herbs, earthy spices, and herbal elements add to the current backwardness of this dry wine. Patience will be required before true greatness. 2024-2034



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2016er	Melsheimer	Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Sekt Brut	06 20	90
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The 2016er Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Sekt Brut is made from fruit picked in the classical part of the vineyard and was aged on its lees for 43 months before being disgorged in April 2021 (the disgorgement date is not provided on the label). This bright-yellow-colored wine offers a beautiful nose made of mirabelle, pear, cassis, lemon zest, smoke, and petrol. The wine is beautifully lively and active on the palate and leaves a great feel of tart minerals, pear, starfruit, and herbal notes in the finish. A very subtle mousse lifts up the satisfying feel in the finish. Now-2026

2020er	Melsheimer	Pinot Noir and Riesling Pet'Nat Brut Nature Insanus	(No AP)	90
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The 2020er Insanus, as it is referred to on the consumer label, with the lot number 0727 is a Pet'Nat made from Pinot Noir and Riesling fruit which was refermented and aged in bottle without any intervention or disgorgement. It offers a rather funky nose made of raspberry, earthy spices, citrusy fruits, cardamom, minerals, and subtly oxidative elements. The wine is smooth on the palate, which is underlined by a rather moderate and quite subtle feel of mousse. The finish is beautifully smooth, almost off-dry, but full of depth. As strange as it may sound, this wine actually benefits from airing so give it an hour or two. Now-2024

2019er	Melsheimer	Riesling Pet'Nat Brut Nature Rurale	(No AP)	90
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The 2019er Rurale, as it is referred to on the consumer label, with the lot number 0696 is a Pet'Nat made from fruit picked in different vineyards of Reil and which was refermented and aged in bottle without any intervention or disgorgement. This white-golden-colored wine offers a superb and subtly almond-infused nose of pear tart, citrusy fruits, fine herbal elements, and spices. It proves finely smooth at first on the palate before a beautiful kick from the active mousse adds structure to the experience. The finish feels smooth and dry-tasting rather than bone dry, but the overall balance is beautiful. This is a gorgeous Pet'Nat to enjoy mindlessly. Now-2024

2020er	Melsheimer	Riesling Trocken	22 21	90
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The 2020er Riesling Trocken AP 22 is essentially made from fruit harvested early in the west-facing vineyards of Reil and was fermented in traditional wooden casks with ambient yeasts before being bottled in September 2021. This bright white-yellow-colored wine offers an engaging nose made of pear, melon, grapefruit, minty herbs, spices, anise, and herbal elements, all still wrapped into some residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation. It proves rather juicy and subtly tart on the palate and leaves a nicely mouthwatering feel in the crisp and medium-long finish. What a great success! Now-2025

2020er	Melsheimer	Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Kabinett	06 21	89
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The 2020er Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Kabinett was made from fruit picked at 85° Oechsle in the historic and very steep part of the vineyard and was fermented down to barely fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (32 g/l). It offers a subtly ample and ripe nose made of pear, apricot, melon, creamy elements, cardamom, spices, and herbs. The wine is smooth and subtly round on the moderately zesty palate and leaves a fruity and direct feel in the long finish. This slightly rounder than usual expression of Kabinett by this Estate's standards will be best enjoyed young, on its fruity side. 2023-2028

2019er	Melsheimer	Johanniter Trocken	17 21	88
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The 2019er Johanniter Trocken (Johanniter is a disease-resistant grape variety) was fermented and aged in used barrique for 23 months (hence the late AP number). It offers an aromatic nose made of full-on creamy pear packed into some more ethereal and slightly aniseed elements. The wine feels smooth rather than bone-dry on the palate and leaves a nicely subtly funky and fruity feel in the long finish. This wine proves quite enjoyable even if its slightly funky side may surprise at first. Now-2024

2020er	Melsheimer	Riesling Trocken	10 21	88
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The 2020er Riesling Trocken AP 10 is essentially made from fruit harvested early in the west-facing vineyards of Reil and was fermented in traditional wooden casks with ambient yeasts before being bottled in June 2021. This bright white-yellow-colored wine offers an engaging nose made of pear, melon, grapefruit, minty herbs, spices, anise, and herbal elements. The wine proves rather firm and tart on the palate but leaves a nicely juicy and mouthwatering feel in the crisp and medium-long finish. 2022-2025

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Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

Katharina Prüm proves hugely satisfied with her 2020 vintage: "The vintage started with a very mild weather and fortunately February brought good rain levels. Bud break and flowering happened early in April and June, respectively. July was very dry and warm, but not as extreme as in 2019. August 2020 outperformed those of 2019 and 2018, but luckily it was not only much warmer than average but also wetter. This warm period lasted through September and we started our harvest on September 17, the earliest date in the history of the Estate. We first brought in Kabinett grapes. Temperatures then dropped remarkably in October. Some rains caused short interruptions of harvest, but the rather cool temperatures and some good wind made the grapes dry quickly. We finished the core of the harvest on October 21 and were able to do our usual botrytis selections. Overall, quantities are better than in 2019. I really like the wines as they show great elegance, lightness, and freshness. It is a very classic vintage for our Estate."

The Estate was able to produce its full portfolio of wines, from Kabinett to Trockenbeerenauslese (except for Eiswein). The regular portfolio goes up to two Auslese GK (from the Graacher Himmelreich and Wehlener Sonnenuhr) this year. The portfolio also includes its four wines destined to this year's Auction : a special selection of Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese, Auslese, and Auslese GK as well as its Graacher Himmelreich Auslese lange GK.

2020 marks a return to the classical feather-light and refreshing style of the Estate. The wines do not have any particular reduction and already showing very well, even though they will only really shine in a couple of years. The Kabinett have a lightness not seen in years, also as the alcohol levels are slightly lower (at 8-8.5%, instead of 9-9.5%). In particular, it is hard not to fall in love with the Estate's Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett. As of the Spätlese level, the wines show hints of the riper side of the vintage, yet their freshness and lightness make them come over as clear classics. A special mention goes here to the Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese (which plays on par with the Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese). Also, the sweet and noble-sweet wines are incredibly refined. If Joh. Jos. Prüm is your thing, then 2020 will deliver big times.

NB: The noble-sweet wines (BA and TBA) were not yet ready for tasting.

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese lange GK	Auction	(96-99)
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The 2020er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese lange GK was made from botrytized fruit and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This cask sample captures one's attention as myriads of ripe and candied exotic fruits come out of the glass, all enhanced by an initial whiff of volatile, as well as raisin, honeyed acacia, smoke, dried apricot, juicy pear, and passion fruit. The wine proves subtly syrupy and beautifully unctuous at first. Then, a zesty and ripe kick of acidity joins the party and gives a beautifully playful side to this juicy TBA-like dessert wine. As usual, expect extensive aging to get the most out of this truly magnificent noble-sweet wine. 2040-2080

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	Auction	(95-97)
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK Auction was made from botrytized fruit and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This cask sample proves still very primary and smoky, yet already delivers honeyed and flowery notes of ripe and roasted pineapple, acacia honey, mirabelle, greengage, elderflower, coconut cream, and apricot. The wine is hugely sweet and coats the palate with exotic and already overripe flavors of juicy and honeyed fruits. The finish is suave, delicate, and immensely long. This is a little jewel of LGK-styled Auslese. 2035-2060

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	Auction	95
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese Auction was made from partially botrytized fruit and was fermented down to fully sweet levels of residual sugar. The wine offers a most attractive and ripe nose of mirabelle, quince jelly, spices, pineapple, honeyed peach, and brown spices. It proves luscious, beautifully honeyed, and suave on the intense and focused palate. The aftertaste is magnificently smoky and well-delineated. This little jewel of juicy Auslese GK-styled Riesling will need more than a decade to fully blossom. 2035-2055

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK		95
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK was made from shriveled rather than botrytized fruit and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. It offers a most gorgeous, superbly complex, and rather subtle nose of minty herbs, candied grapefruit, fine honeyed peach, anise, smoke, and herbs. The wine proves much richer and riper on the palate, where plenty of exotic and ripe fruits join the party. This fruity, smooth, and juicy side is nicely wrapped into zest and tension in the very long finish. Expect more than a decade of patience to get the full impact of this stunning wine. But you will not regret. 2035-2060



Mosel Fine Wines

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	Auction	95
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Auction was made from clean fruit and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar. Initial residual scents from the spontaneous fermentation quickly give way to a magnificently refined and floral nose of white peach, minty herbs, anise, a hint of tangerine, and smoke. The wine is superbly well-balanced, precise, and layered on the smooth and very delicate and suave palate. The aftertaste is superbly smoky and well-delineated, and clearly leans towards a lightly fruity-styled rather than a sweet wine. This is pure Joh. Jos. Prüm delight! 2032-2050

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GK		94+
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The 2020er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GK was made from shriveled rather than botrytized fruit and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. It offers a superbly elegant and refined nose of wet stone, mango, herbs, apricot flower, almond cream, honeyed peach, candied grapefruit, and guava. The wine proves deliciously smooth and creamy on the palate and leaves a great feel of candied citrusy fruits and sweet exotic flavors in the well-delineated and precise finish packed with fruity notes of pear and peach. This gorgeous noble-sweet wine will need more than a decade to fully integrate its sweetness and has even some upside as it gains finesse and complexity. 2035-2060

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese		94
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese offers a gorgeously attractive and ripe nose of almond cream, honeyed peach, smoke, tangerine, orange zest, candied grapefruit, and apricot. The wine is luscious and proves well on the sweet side on the palate. There is presence and intensity, yet the finish is already airier and more refined than what one could initially expect. Patience will be required, as usual, for the wine to develop its full complexity and integrate all its elements. 2035-2050

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese		94
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The 2020er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese offers an attractive nose of smoke, flint, apricot flower, a hint of melon, Conference pear, greengage, and anise, as well as some exotic nuances. The wine proves delicately complex and fruity on the smooth palate. Fruity and ripe flavors of pear, melon, and coconut cream come through in the well-delineated and superbly complex finish. This is a gorgeous and beautifully complex Auslese in the making. 2030-2050

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese		93+
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The 2020er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese offers a beautifully pure and ripe nose of smoke, grapefruit, lime, vineyard peach, minty herbs, and bacon-driven aromatics from residual from its spontaneous fermentation. The wine coats the palate with gorgeously ripe and juicy notes of fruits and leaves a superbly pure, smooth, and almost soft and suave feel in the hugely long finish. The aftertaste is still loaded with sweetness in need of integration, which will need quite some time to integrate. There is upside potential as the wine gains finesse with age. 2035-2050+

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Auslese		93
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Auslese offers a gorgeous and superbly complex nose of almond cream, minty herbs, smoke, white flowers, bergamot, and smoke. The wine proves delicately juicy and sweet on the refined and almost light-weighted palate. Some zesty and spicy elements come through in the long finish to tickle to otherwise ripe and honeyed flavors of peach, pear, and apricot. It still proves on the sweet side and will require at least a full decade to reveal its true colors. 2030-2050

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese		93
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese offers a superbly spicy, herbal, and refreshing nose of rosemary, vineyard peach, almond cream, white flowers, mint, and cassis. The wine is superbly well-balanced on the palate, where delicious creamy and fruity flavors of almond, vineyard peach, and tangerine make for a pure and smooth feeling. The finish is very long, nicely structured, and well-delineated. This is a superb Spätlese which only now requires some patience for its elements to integrate. 2030-2050



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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	93
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The 2020er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese still proves flinty, quite smoky, and reductive at first before it almost reluctantly reveals its super nose made of stone fruits, vineyard peach, Conference pear, anise, and herbs. The wine is carried by a beautifully ripe and zesty acidity running through the palate which lifts up the ripe flavors of apricot, almond cream, and pineapple. The finish is light-weighted, very precise, and focused. This is a beautiful Spätlese. 2028-2045

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese	92+
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The 2020er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese offers a quite rich and even slightly ripe nose of almond cream and bakery products as well as honeyed yellow peach, William's pear, apricot, and anise, all wrapped into smoky and refined elements. The wine coats the palate with ample and sweet fruits, which give a smoother and ampler structure to the wine. The finish has however more presence and intensity, but still needs to integrate its tale of initial sweetness. This clearly has some upside potential as it gains finesse and elegance over time. 2028-2045

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	92
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett greets one with a superbly aromatic and refined floral nose of tangerine, candied grapefruit, minty herbs, some floral nuances, and yellow peach. The wine is very delicate and rather smooth on the spicy and suave palate. The finish proves tight and lean as some fine zesty elements come through and add a very playful and truly Kabinett footprint. The wine combines a feeling of light ripeness and cool freshness and proves a very successful Kabinett. 2028-2040

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Spätlese	91
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Spätlese is slightly reduced at first but quickly reveals a beautifully refined and floral nose of aniseed herbs, tangerine, mint, smoke, herbs, and almond cream. The wine is nicely playful and light-weighted on the palate, yet it proves nicely complex and long. This is a delightful Spätlese in the making, which already proves very enjoyable now but will only reveal all its colors after a couple of years! 2027-2040

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett	91
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The 2020er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett is still marked by some fine flinty reduction at first but quickly reveals an aromatic and superbly attractive side including whipped almond cream, grapefruit, white flowers, vineyard peach, herbs, and a hint of Pina Colada. The wine proves very delicate and airy on the light-weighted palate. The aftertaste leaves one with superbly smoky and fruity flavors, which still proves tight but loaded with energy. This is a superb Kabinett in the making. 2027-2040

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett	89+
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett has a cool, reserved, and fresh nose of stone fruits, yellow peach, herbs, and plenty of earthy spices. The wine proves juicy and more fruit-driven on the palate, where some ripe yellow peach and pear make for a smoother side. This broader side is nicely wrapped into herbs and candied grapefruit in the medium-long and well-delineated finish. The wine gains finesse and freshness as it unfolds and clearly needs a couple of years to fully deliver. There is potential here! 2027-2040

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Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

Christina Spier finds much to like in her 2020 collection: "The year proved relatively warm and sunny but without the high temperatures we had in 2019. It was also a rather uncomplicated year in the vineyards and the good thing is that the Oechsle degrees were not too high when we started our harvest at the end of September. We did go for some Spätlese and Auslese selections towards the end of the harvest and even manage to bring in some botrytis selection. For me, 2020 is a really typical Mosel vintage. The wines are exquisitely light, elegant, cool, and fresh. As a result, they prove very enjoyable already now and will probably be ready earlier than usually."

The Estate produced its full collection, including two GGs (from the Graben and the Doctor) as well as a whole set of fruity-styled and sweet wines, with this year also a Lay Spätlese Cuvée Christina (the second vintage), a special cask of Doctor Spätlese destined to this year's Auction, and a Doctor Beerenauslese (but unfortunately only available in minuscule quantities). The wines were bottled in April-May and August (for the three dry wines and the Badstube and Lay Spätlese), the August bottling having been slightly delayed due to the flooding.

The Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Thanisch) family team produced a great and consistent collection in 2020. The wines shine through great purity, lightness, and freshness. While the dry wines still need some time, the off-dry wines will already offer much pleasure as of the coming year. The fruity-styled and sweet wine are all remarkable, whereby the Doctor wines have a clear edge over the other wines in the collection this year. The Doctor Kabinett is a great success and those of you who will get the chance to get their hands on the very rare Doctor BA are in for a great drinking experience in a couple of decades.

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Beerenauslese	09 21	97
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The 2020er Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Beerenauslese was made from a very strict selection of botrytized fruit at 125° Oechsle and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar (170 g/l). It offers a very pure and gorgeous nose of dried apricot, candied mango, guava, honeyed peach, pineapple, prune, and a whiff of raisin in the background. The wine shows very pure and juicy botrytis cream and viscosity on the palate, yet keeps a beautiful delicate and fresh side. The finish is still on the sweet side, but it is not cloying or powerful. This is all about delicacy and finesse and an outstanding light and drinking (but also beautifully complex) BA in the making. 2035-2070

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	08 21	Auction	95
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The 2020er Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese AP 08 (the auction lot) offers a gorgeously attractive and refined nose of aniseed herbs, orange blossom, laurel, thyme, white mint, almond, and herbs. The wine proves stunningly focused and energetic on the playful and superbly complex palate. The finish is hugely long and focused. There is an underlying sense of ripeness, but it is gloriously well-wrapped into a straight and focused structure. The aftertaste is all about zest, spices, and smoke. This is a stunning Spätlese in the making. 2030-2050

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese	07 21	93+
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The 2020er Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese proves massively reserved and almost non-saying at first and only timidly reveals some refined notes of sappy yellow peach, mirabelle, pear, quince jelly, aniseed herbs, almond cream, and smoke. The wine is creamy and juicy on the palate, and leaves one with a straight and superbly focused feel in the finish. The underlying complexity is already very promising, but the wine is still in its "raw diamond" phase. It definitely needs more than a decade to fully integrate all its elements and truly deliver. 2033-2050

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	06 21	93+
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The 2020er Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese AP 06 offers a superbly elegant and refined nose of sappy yellow peach, orange blossom, anise, laurel, chamomile, and Conference pear. The wine is delightfully juicy and creamy on the smooth and very delicate palate. The finish has also a refined fruity presence and suavity. The aftertaste already shows hints of focus and complexity, and we would not be surprised if this turns even greater than anticipated at maturity. 2030-2050

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Kabinett	05 21	93
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The 2020er Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Kabinett was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar. It offers a beautifully reserved yet refined and super elegant nose including grapefruit, tangerine, bergamot, smoke, chamomile, some whipped almond cream, and white flowers. The wine proves exquisitely elegant and light-weighted on the airy yet focused and complex palate. It has just a touch of fine creaminess, adding a very suave and smooth side to the experience. And yet the finish is straight and focused. This is a great Doctor Kabinett in the making. 2028-2045



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Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Spätlese Cuvée Christina	16 21	93
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Spätlese, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the reference to Cuvée Christina is left for the back label), was made in a new Fuder which had only been used once. Superbly reductive and very spicy at first, this Spätlese opens up to offer refined notes of vineyard peach, candied grapefruit, mirabelle, Conference pear, and tar. The wine has quite some fruity and juicy presence with riper fruits (apricot, yellow peach, and a touch of passion fruit) coming through. The finish is rather light-weighted and delicate with some fine juicy notes of pear and spices. 2028-2045

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Auslese	17 21	92
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Auslese is finely reductive and still slightly yeasty, yet delivers a beautiful aromatic and complex nose of herbs, mango, pineapple, William's pear, and anise. The wine is driven by juicy and elegantly light and fresh fruits on palate, and only shows a bit more richness and opulence in the long and slightly broader finish. 2027-2040

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Spätlese	13 21	92
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Spätlese offers a gorgeously herbal and finely reductive nose of mint, grilled grapefruit, zest, lime, freshly cut herbs, and spices. The wine is superbly playful and juicy on the palate and proves superbly elegant and almost light-weighted. It leaves one with a great sense of complexity and finesse in the superbly long and juicy finish. This is a great Spätlese in the making. 2028-2040

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Trocken GG	12 21	92
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Trocken GG is a legally dry wine fermented and aged in Fuder. It proves superbly smoky and aniseed on the nose and also offers nice and subtly fruity scents including tangerine, grapefruit, and yellow peach. The wine starts off on the zesty and fresh side, but slowly gains in weight and presence on the slightly broader and smoother palate, yet the finish is very focused thanks to some bracing acidity and herbal elements kicking in. The aftertaste is very smoky and hugely long. 2024-2035

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Bernkasteler Graben Riesling Trocken GG	11 21	91
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Graben Riesling Trocken GG is a legally dry wine fermented and aged in Fuder. It offers a very fresh and herbal nose of spearmint, anise, white flowers, smoke, fresh pear, and spices. A bracing and fresh kick of acidity makes for a straight and dynamic feel on the palate. It proves herbal and focused, and leaves a slightly tart and racy feel in the very long and smoky finish. This racy and herbal dry Riesling is best left alone for a few of years before true greatness. 2024-2032+

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett	04 21	90
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar. It offers a really attractive and finely aromatic nose of smoke, anise, bergamot, white peach, star fruit, and thyme. The wine is superbly playful and juicy on the clean and fruity palate. It is rather round and juicy to begin with, before some spicy acidity brings a nice sense of structure to the experience. The finish is more structured and has presence, which tames the feeling of fruitiness and helps to pair it wonderfully well with some light food. 2025-2035

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett Feinherb	03 21	90
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett Feinherb is an off-dry wine fermented in stainless steel tanks. Slightly reductive at first, it opens up to offer a superbly fresh and complex nose of white flowers, vineyard peach, minty herbs, licorice, and black berry. The wine is superbly playful and has a pure and clean fruity (peach and pear) presence. The finish is delicately light and elegant, with a great balance between fruity presence and refreshing acidity. It is a delicious wine to pair with light food. 2022-2030

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Bernkastel-Kueser Riesling Alte Reben	01 21	89
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The 2020er Bernkastel-Kueser Riesling Alte Reben comes from grapes harvested on 25 to 35-year-old vines in the Kueser part of the city and was fermented down and aged in stainless steel tanks to just above legally dry levels of residual sugar (10.5 g/l). It has a flinty and zest-driven nose of lime, grapefruit, spices, minty herbs, ginger, anise, a hint of almond and coconut cream, and floral nuances. The wine is nicely precise, zesty, and spicy on the palate, with just a touch of fine fruits coming through. The finish leaves an herbal and slightly earthy side and proves nicely long and well-delineated. It already tastes fully dry in the after-taste and has quite bracing and zesty acidity. 2023-2030



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Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Riesling	14 21	89
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The 2020er Riesling is an off-dry wine (with 27 g/l of residual sugar) fermented in stainless steel tanks. It offers an attractive and fine fruity nose of anise, yellow peach, candied grapefruit, pear, orange zest, and apple, all wrapped into a dash of smoke. The wine proves deliciously juicy and nicely fruity on the direct and luscious palate. The finish is slightly tighter and shows more structure and less of the fruity and sweeter elements. The aftertaste has even a touch of tartness and zest in need of integration. This will be at its best as of next year. 2022-2028

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Riesling Kabinett Feinherb	02 21	88
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The 2020er Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the reference to Feinherb is left for the back label), comes from grapes harvested in Kues and was fermented in stainless steel tanks down to off-dry levels of residual sugar (22 g/l). It offers a very fine and attractive nose of spices, yellow peach, candied grapefruit, ginger, and lime tree. The wine proves light-weighted and just slightly off-dry on the palate, where some nice fresh fruits are wrapped into playful acidity driven by candied grapefruit. The finish is clean, nicely long, and proves finely juicy and herbal. It is a very nice just off-dry Riesling. 2022-2030

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Riesling Trocken	10 21	88
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The 2020er Riesling Trocken comes mainly from vineyards in Kues, complemented by some in Bernkastel, and was fermented and aged in stainless steel tanks and was bottled in August 2021. Still quite reserved at first, this delivers a beautifully fresh and undercooled nose of anise, vineyard peach, white flowers, lemon, and dark spices. The wine proves zesty and focused on the palate, which is light-weighted but has however good presence and focus. The finish is intense for an Estate Riesling with bracing but ripe acidity. It leaves a very spicy, salty, and zesty feel in the smoky and fully dry aftertaste. 2023-2028

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

Nik Weis is really very happy with the quality of his 2020s despite the fact that it was not an easy vintage: "The defining point of 2020 is the drought, especially in the Saar. We had almost no rain from March to September. Fortunately, we were not affected by frost. After 2018 and 2019, which were also warm and dry vintages, we have somewhat learned how to handle such a vintage and decided to start harvesting early. As a consequence, we already started our harvest in mid-September. I remember when I was a kid, harvesting in September was not even an option. We put a lot of efforts and legwork into this vintage and prepared all our vineyards by reducing the yields, sorting out grapes, and doing a *Vorlese* [pre-harvest]. We handled our grapes in a much gentler way. This included, for instance, cooling them down before pressing. This allowed us to have cooler juice before entering the fermentation process. In the end, I think we are more and more perfecting every stage and are able to have better quality overall. We also do a lot of selections during harvest, which gives each wine an individual side. The vintage was not really great for botrytis and thus our fruity-styled portfolio ends at Auslese level. I see 2020 as a possible combination of 2011, another dry vintage, and 2015, which had also density and a racy side."

The Estate produced its full collection of wines, including its 5 GGs and right up to Auslese for the fruity-styled line-up. It also added a new range of (four) village wines from Ockfen, Mehring, Leiwen, and Piesport, which are all single Fuder bottlings and which were fermented down to dry or off-dry levels.

Nik Weis and his team produced a consistent collection in 2020 and this in all stylistic direction. Its newly introduced village single Fuder prove a great success and its GG line-up has intensity and power rarely seen in this vintage. The fruity-styled wines are all remarkable and it is worth noting that the Saar wines, a region which proved more difficult than the Middle Mosel in 2020, are truly superb and the Bockstein wines are at least as good as the Goldtröpfchen.

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett	15 21	93
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The 2020er Bockstein Kabinett, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is a fruity-styled wine made from fruit picked in the Neuwiese sector of the vineyard and which was fermented and matured in Fuder. It offers a beautifully delicate and elegant nose of white and yellow flowers as well as bacon-driven residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation. With air, it really reveals its complexity as fine scents of white mint, cassis, peach, lime tree, dill, and iodine kick in. The wine proves beautifully playful and light-weighted on the palate, where some ripe yellow fruits make for a suave and more Spätlese style. The finish is however feather-light and very elegant. This delicate and suave rendition of Bockstein Kabinett is really superb. 2028-2040

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese	19 21	93
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The 2020er Bockstein Spätlese, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is a sweet wine made from fruit picked on 60-year-old vines in a parcel directly next to the Zickelgarten and which was fermented and matured in Fuder. Slightly reductive and flinty at first, this is quick to deliver an attractive and refined nose of grapefruit puree, pear, anise, yellow peach, cassis, smoke, and almond cream. The wine proves delicately smooth and creamy on the palate, where the residual sugar still dominates at this early stage. A touch of acidity in the finish adds a playful side, yet the overall balance still remains that of a smooth and Auslese. It needs a decade to integrate its sweetness and smoothness and fully shine. 2030-2050

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese	42 21	93
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The 2020er Goldtröpfchen Spätlese, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is a just sweet wine made from fruit picked on over 100-year-old and un-grafted vines in the central "Lay" part of the vineyard and which was fermented and matured in Fuder. It offers a finely reductive and absolutely gorgeous nose of grilled grapefruit, lime tree, tangerine, sage, mint, and myriads of spices. The wine coats the palate with juicy and sweet exotic fruits (including mango, pineapple juice, and passion fruit), all complemented by coconut cream and pina colada. The wine still has a lot of residual sugar with plenty of mango and passion fruit driven notes. But the finish already manages to bring in great focus and tension, thanks to crisp and juicy ripe acidity. The aftertaste leaves a lighter and spicy side, more akin to that of a Spätlese. It proves a great sweet Riesling in the making. 2028-2045

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Mehring Layet Riesling Trocken GG	32 21	92
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The 2020er Layet GG, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is dry wine made from fruit picked on up to 100-year-old vines planted on small terraces in the similarly named and privileged class I Lieu-Dit in the Mehring Blattenberg. The wine was fermented and matured in an equal mix of Fuder and stainless-steel tanks. It offers a beautifully aromatic and attractive nose of anise, pear, smoke, herbs, bergamot, and grapefruit. The wine proves superbly balanced on the palate, and some juicy fruits add a smoother side to the well-delineated finish. The aftertaste is all about minty herbs and smoke. This is a superb dry Riesling with great finesse. 2024-2033



Mosel Fine Wines

“The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling”

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Weingut Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese	41 21	92
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The 2020er Goldtröpfchen Auslese, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is a sweet wine made from a selection of fruit picked on over 100-year-old and un-grafted vines in the central “Lay” part of the vineyard and which was fermented and matured in Fuder. Quite delicate and restrained at first, this offers a superbly attractive, aromatic, and fruity nose of apricot, honeyed yellow peach, tangerine, melon, passion fruit, and William’s pear, all wrapped into cassis and prune (and almost date) scents. The wine is elegantly smooth and sweet on the comparatively light-weighted and juicy palate. The finish is creamy and silky, with good length and complexity. This subtly soft and ripe Auslese needs a decade to integrate its sweetness and fully shine. 2030-2050

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Trocken GG	30 21	92
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The 2020er Goldtröpfchen GG, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is a tank-fermented dry wine made from fruit picked in a parcel of 70-year-old vines situated above the village of Ferres. The nose proves superbly attractive and complex as some delicate floral scents are accompanied by apricot, lead pencil, minty herbs, prune, lavender, and thyme. The wine comes over as rather imposing on the palate, where juicy and fruity elements make for a dry-tasting rather than a bone-dry feel. The finish is very long and also slightly powerful. A hint of tartness still needs to integrate. This is already very impressive and will best be enjoyed in its youth before the more opulent side takes over the lead. 2023-2028

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Kabinett	16 21	91
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The 2020er Goldtröpfchen Kabinett, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is a fruity-styled wine made from fruit picked on 40-year-old vines in the eastern and steep part of the vineyard (next to the Mosel Loreley) which was fermented and matured in Fuder. It offers a quite smoky and really imposing nose of lead pencil, flintstone, pineapple, overripe peach, and nutmeg, as well as some apricot and melon with airing. The wine proves intensely juicy and smooth on the slightly broad yet complex palate. The finish has superb length and freshness. This wine with some clear Spätlese presence is, as such, superb. 2027-2040

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Piesporter Riesling “Mutter Gottes”	28 21	91
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The 2020er “Mutter Gottes”, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label (the mention *Einzelfuder Abfüllung*, meaning single Fuder bottling, appears on the label), is an off-dry wine made from fruit picked on very old un-grafted vines the vineyard which was fermented and matured in one Fuder. It offers a beautifully complex, attractive, and elegant nose of tangerine, lemon, grapefruit, herbs, licorice, lime tree, and spices. The wine coats the palate with ample juicy and fruity cream. The moderate sensation of acidity gives the wine a fully off-dry balance. The finish has good lightness and focus. This superb off-dry Riesling needs a couple of years to develop even more complexity and integrate its tail of sweetness into the zesty side. 2025-2035

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Trocken GG	31 21	91
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The 2020er Bockstein GG, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is a tank-fermented bone-dry wine made from fruit picked in the privileged Zickelgarten sector of the vineyard. It offers a beautifully smoky and flinty nose of wet stone, minty herbs, and lime. With airing, riper and quite perfumed scents of apricot and tangerine join the party. The wine proves intense, structured, and refreshing on the palate, where plenty of spices and some bracing acidity make for an undercooled and almost strict impact. The finish is however broader and more opulent and leads to an imposing feeling of barbecue herbs and anise in the aftertaste. There is still a hint of tartness in need of integration. 2024-2030

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Schodener Saarfelser Marienberg Riesling Trocken GG	29 21	91
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The 2020er Saarfelser GG, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is a tank-fermented dry wine made from a sector particularly good water flow. It offers a quite aromatic and complex nose of minty herbs, anise, pineapple, lemon, tangerine, and a hint of passion fruit. The wine starts off on the fruity and even slightly juicy side on the palate, where apricot and yellow peach dominate the flavors. The wine then reveals more presence, spicy, and zest, as well as some tartness still in need of integration. The long finish is more baroque and structured. This dry Riesling needs a few years to fully shine and even has some upside if it gains finesse. 2024-2030+



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(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Leiwener Laurentiuslay Riesling Trocken GG	33 21	90+
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The 2020er Laurentiuslay GG, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is a tank-fermented bone-dry wine made from fruit picked on 70-year-old vines in the internally-called “Thielenberg” and terraced part of the vineyard. It offers a ripe and quite attractive nose of pear, pineapple, candied grapefruit, canned yellow peach, orange zest, and prune. The wine has initially a light and delicately fruit-driven structure, but reveals more presence and breadth as it unfolds. The finish is imposing and still quite tart at this early stage. The fruity side present on the nose is also clearly noticeable on the palate. The aftertaste is very spicy and even salty, with more macerated fruits coming through. This proves a comparatively opulent and very impressive version of dry Mosel Riesling, but one without any undue weight. 2023-2028

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Mehringer Riesling “Am Wasserlauf”	18 21	90+
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The 2020er “Am Wasserlauf”, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label (the mention *Einzelfuder Abfüllung*, meaning single Fuder bottling, appears on the label), is a just off-dry wine made from fruit picked on 60-70-year-old vines in the central part of the vineyard, which is directly next to a watercourse (“Wasserlauf” literally means watercourse). The wine was fermented and matured in one old Fuder. It proves still quite reductive at first and marked by residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation. It then slowly reveals its nicely complex and fresh nose of lime, herbs, flinty smoke, anise, and licorice. The wine is straight and almost nervy, as zesty acidity runs through the palate. There is however good extract to balance this out and the finish is superbly long yet even if still quite tart at this early stage. This dry Riesling needs a couple of years to fully develop its complexity and shine, and even has some upside potential. 2024-2034

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Ockfener Riesling “Auf der Mauer”	26 21	90
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The 2020er “Auf der Mauer”, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label (the mention *Einzelfuder Abfüllung*, meaning single Fuder bottling, appears on the label), is an off-dry wine made from fruit picked on 60-year-old vines in the Neuwiese sector of the vineyard, which is surrounded by a small wall (“Mauer” literally means wall). It was fermented and matured in one old Fuder. It offers a superbly attractive and deliciously fruity nose of sappy yellow peach, apricot, pear, and grapefruit as well as some herbs and a hint of almond. The wine starts off on the smooth and juicy side on the palate, which adds to the off-dry structure. It is only slowly that more acidity and a tighter line emerges. The finish and especially the after-taste are more dryish in style. This beautiful off-dry Riesling only needs a couple of years to integrate its elements and fully shine. 2024-2032

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Leiwener Riesling “An der Kehr”	27 21	89
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The 2020er “An der Kehr”, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label (the mention *Einzelfuder Abfüllung*, meaning single Fuder bottling, appears on the label), is a dry wine made from fruit picked on 40-year-old vines in the upper-left part of the vineyard which was fermented and matured in one old Fuder. It offers a superbly attractive and elegant nose of bergamot, lime tree, herbs, lime, spices, and cassis. The wine proves more reserved and almost strict at this early stage on the palate defined by a light structure and quite some bracing acidity. The finish is still raw and marked by quite some power and tannins. The length is imposing. This wine will clearly need a few years of patience in order to integrate all its elements and fully shine. 2024-2030+

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Mehringer Riesling Trocken Alte Reben	17 21	88
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The 2020er Mehringer Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is a tank-fermented bone-dry wine made from fruit picked on 40-70-year-old vines in the Blattenberg. It offers a quite rich and herbal nose of anise, camphor, rosemary, dill, and pear. The wine starts off on the zesty and light side but then quickly shows more weight and presence. The finish is slightly broad but also imposing for a village level wine. A touch of tartness and bitterness still needs to integrate and it will best be served with food in a few years’ time. 2023-2027

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Saar Riesling Feinherb	35 21	88
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The 2020er Saar Riesling, as it is referred to on the front label, is a tank-fermented and fully off-dry wine made from fruit picked on old vines in the Wiltinger Schlangengraben. It proves quite smoky and reductive at first and only gradually delivers scents of almond, vineyard peach, herbs, candied grapefruit, and lead pencil. The wine is delicately smooth and juicy on the light-weighted and delicate palate. It leaves a medium-long and slightly tart impact in the anise-driven finish. It now simply needs a year or two to integrate all its elements. 2022-2026



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Weingut Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof

(Leiwener – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Schiefer Riesling	23 21	88
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The 2020er Schiefer Riesling is a just off-dry wine made from the Mehringer Blattenberg and Wiltinger Schlangengraben and was fermented and matured in a mix of stainless-steel tanks and Fuder. It offers a fine reductive nose with hints coming from its spontaneous fermentation. Its smoky nose of lead pencil and herbs slowly reveals more complexity as notes of lime, orange zest, and lime tree kick in. The wine shows very nice finesse and lightness on the palate, where a touch of smoothness is nicely framed by zesty and animating acidity. The finish is pleasantly spicy and refreshingly light. This is really very easy to drink in a light and zesty way. Now-2026

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Schiefer Riesling Feinherb	10 21	88
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The 2020er Schiefer Riesling Feinherb is a tank-fermented wine made from fruit picked in Estate vineyards in Wiltigen and Ockfen. Slightly reductive at first, this opens up to offer fresh scents of minty herbs, flintstone, lime, grapefruit zest, and pear. The wine is nicely juicy yet also dynamic on the zesty and focused palate. It proves light but also animating and nicely intense in the long and chiseled finish. It proves a really solid Estate off-dry Riesling. 2022-2030

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Wiltinger Riesling Alte Reben	06 21	88
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The 2020er Wiltinger Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is a tank-fermented off-dry wine made from fruit picked in a parcel planted with un-grafted vines in 1905 in the original, upper, and iron-rich part of the Wiltinger Schlangengraben. It initially proves slightly reductive and only slowly reveals its fresh and minty nose of smoke, white mint, dried white flowers, spices, and herbs. The wine presents an engaging sweet-acid tension on the palate as delicate ripe and smooth fruits interplay with zesty lemon. The finish is straight and herbal with some bracing acidity adding cut and freshness to the finish. This spicy and fresh just off-dry Riesling does the job well. 2022-2028

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Mosel Riesling Trocken	20 21	86
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The 2020er Mosel Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a tank-fermented dry wine made from fruit picked in parcels partially planted with old vines as well as younger parcels planted with massal selection in the Leiwener Klostergarten. It offers a nicely aromatic and direct nose of minty herbs, pear, canned yellow peach, anise, and a hint of camphor. The wine proves light-weighted and fresh on the palate infused with notes of lemon and green apple. The finish is straight and more focused, with a hint of tartness in need of integration. The aftertaste is slightly broader and even intense (despite the wine only having 11.5% of alcohol). This nicely made dry Riesling will be best as of next year with some light food as a starter. 2022-2026

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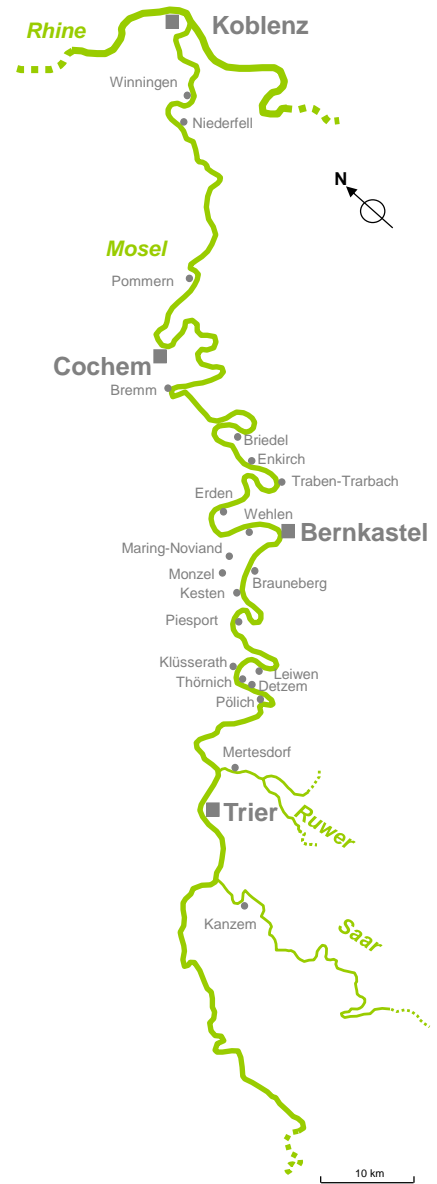
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2020 Mosel Vintage – Other Noteworthy Wines (Part III)

This section includes noteworthy wines tasted during our summer tastings. We also included some 2019 and 2018 wines when these had not yet been presented to us and hence not reviewed before. In addition, older vintages were also reviewed if these have just been released or still available at the Estate.



- Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier**
- Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben** (*Complement*)
- Ansgar Clüsserath**
- Karl Erbes**
- Tobias Feiden**
- Fritz Haag** (*Complement*)
- Knebel Brüder** (*Complement*)
- Meurer**
- Josef Milz**
- Julien Renard** (*Complement*)
- Schloss Saarstein**
- Van Volxem**

- Trier*
- Ürzig*
- Trittenheim*
- Ürzig*
- Winningen*
- Brauneberg*
- Winningen*
- Reil*
- Trittenheim*
- Winningen*
- Serrig*
- Wiltingen*



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Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier

(Trier – Trier-Ruwer)

2020er	Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Spätlese Feinherb Alte Reben	148 21	91
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The 2020er Dhroner Hofberger Alte Reben Feinherb Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the reference to Spätlese is left for the back label), is an off-dry wine (with 16.8 g/l of residual sugar) made from 30-35-year-old vines harvested at 89° Oechsle and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in Fuder. Finely spicy and smoky at first, this off-dry Spätlese quickly reveals a complex and elegantly ripe nose of yellow peach, William's pear, minty herbs, almond cream, and lime tree. The wine proves nicely juicy as it coats the palate with ripe yet elegant and light fruits. Its creamy texture is superbly wrapped into some light acidity in the focused and very long finish. This is a great and nicely joyful expression of off-dry Riesling. 2024-2040

2020er	Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese Trocken	129 21	90
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The 2020er Erdener Treppchen Trocken Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the reference to Spätlese is left for the back label), is a dry wine (with 7.2 g/l of residual sugar) fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in stainless steel tanks. It proves quite reductive yet attractive as animating scents of minty herbs, white flowers, and smoke joined by clean and fresh notes of yellow peach, grapefruit zest, lime, herbs, and spices emerge from the glass. The wine proves nicely balanced on the palate, where a hint of juicy fruits is well wrapped into spicy and succulent acidity. The finish is still slightly tart but superbly long, spicy, and fresh. This is a superb dry Riesling. 2024-2033

2020er	Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett	131 21	89
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The 2020er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett is a fruity-styled wine (with 46.4 g/l of residual sugar) made early harvested fruit at 82° Oechsle on vines planted in the Abtsberg section of the vineyard (above the Josephshof) and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in Fuder. Rather muted and non-saying at first, this wine needs quite some airing to reveal notes of pear, canned yellow peach, almond paste, greengage, star fruit, and herbs. It shows more presence and intensity on the juicy and smooth palate. Ripe and juicy fruits make for a very attractive and suave side. The finish is light-weighted yet nicely long and well delineated. This now just needs a couple of years to fully develop its complexity and integrate its sweetness. 2028-2040

2020er	Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier	Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Kabinett Feinherb	128 21	89
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The 2020er Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Kabinett Feinherb is an off-dry wine (with 17.1 g/l of residual sugar) made from late harvested fruit at 83° Oechsle and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in Fuder. It offers a beautifully floral and elegant nose of orange blossom, vineyard peach, almond cream, grapefruit, and lime tree. The wine has a delicious smooth and suave side on the palate, where more yellow and slightly riper fruits make for a juicy feel. The finish shows focus and length, despite a touch of sweetness still in need of integration. This is a very nice light off-dry Riesling. 2024-2035

2020er	Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier	Wiltinger Kupp Riesling Spätlese Trocken Alte Reben	157 21	89
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The 2020er Wiltinger Kupp Alte Reben Trocken Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the reference to Spätlese is left for the back label), is a dry wine (with 2.5 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit harvested on old vines in the steep "in der Kupp" section of the vineyard and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in Fuder. It has a fresh, smoky, and restrained nose of herbs, anise, apricot, pear, and hay. The wine proves nicely focused and fresh on the spicy and linear palate. It leaves a direct and animating feel in the bone dry and intensely zesty and racy finish. There is still some tartness in need of integration. This impressive dry Riesling now only needs a few years to smoothen its edges. 2024-2030

2020er	Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier	Riesling Trocken DOM	151 21	86
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The 2020er Riesling Trocken DOM is a dry wine (with 8 g/l of residual sugar) made mainly from fruit picked in Estate holdings in Trier-Eitelsbach and Trier-Avelsbach, as well as some fruit from the Mosel and the Saar, and was fermented and aged in stainless steel tanks. It offers an attractive fruity nose composed of Conference pear, canned yellow peach, lemon, fresh herbs, mint, and licorice. The wine is driven by zesty acidity on the straight and focused palate. The finish tastes fully dry as some bracing acidity as well as a hint of tartness brings everything in focus. This nicely attractive yet racy dry Riesling will best be enjoyed as of next year. 2022-2026

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

Complement

NB: The Estate Review, including the bulk of the 2020er wines, was published in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 (September 2021). A copy of this Issue is available to all subscribers upon simple email request.

2019er	Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Trocken GG	02 20	88
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The 2019er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Trocken GG was made with fruit picked on 80-90-year-old un-grafted vines in a prime terraced part at the center of the vineyard and was fermented in Fuder and aged on its fine lees in stainless steel tanks for almost a year before being bottled. It offers an aromatic and comparatively ripe and fruity nose of Conference pear, canned yellow peach, mirabelle, licorice, cardamom, and pineapple cream. The wine coats the palate with juicy and ample creamy fruits and leaves a smooth and rather broad feel of spices in the long and not fully dry-tasting finish. We would opt to enjoy this very nice GG made for lovers of flamboyant and fruit-driven wines in its primary phase of development. Now-2026

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Weingut Ansgar Clüsserath

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese	08 21	95
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The 2020er Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese is a noble-sweet and tank-fermented wine made with fruit barely affected by botrytis (20%). It proves hugely aromatic and offers a captivating nose of pink grapefruit, passion fruit, mango, pineapple, orange zest, star fruit, melon, herbs, and plum. The wine is animating and superbly playful on the exotic and rich palate. It leaves a very intense but also still very sweet feel in the very long and even structured finish. This fully aromatic and gorgeous noble-sweet wine needs a decade or more to integrate its sweetness and fully shine. It is beautifully alluring. 2030-2050

2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese GK	07 21	95
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The 2020er Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese GK is a noble-sweet and tank-fermented wine made with fully botrytized fruit. It offers a beautifully seductive and hugely concentrated nose of mango, dried and ripe pineapple, cherry, plum, fig, honeyed apricot, tar smoke, and herbs, all wrapped into a dash of volatile acidity which lifts up the aromatics more than disturb them. The wine proves delicately juicy and very sweet on the palate, which clearly has the unctuous and slightly viscous side of a BA. Notes of honeyed peach, apple jelly, and marzipan are well wrapped into a superbly animating fresh and zesty acidity. Despite all the sweetness at play, the wine leaves a very clean and focused side in the long and slightly forceful finish. This very impressive yet playful BA-styled dessert wine is a winner. 2035-2060

2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Neumagener Rosengärtchen Riesling Spätlese	05 21	94
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The 2020er Neumagener Rosengärtchen Riesling Spätlese is a sweet wine made from a parcel situated next to the Sonnenuhr and going down to the road and was fermented and matured in Fuder. It offers a superbly elegant, perfumed, and delicate nose of candied grapefruit and pineapple, apricot, a hint of mango, orange blossom, mirabelle, lavender, and mint. The wine coats the palate with ample, ripe, and juicy fruits (more akin to those of Auslese than Spätlese) yet shows great lightness and delicacy. Its suave and smooth side is nicely wrapped into zesty fruits coming through in the gorgeously long and clean finish. This delicately ripe yet refined wine is truly remarkable! 2030-2050

2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Kabinett	03 21	92
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The 2020er Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Kabinett is a fruity-styled wine made from fruit harvested in higher and cooler parts of the vineyard and was fermented and aged in a traditional Fuder. It proves hugely smoky and backward at first and only shows hints of herbs, lead pencil, and minty herbs. With airing, it delivers fresh scent of dried white flowers, vineyard peach, almond, and anise. The wine is focused yet very playful and animating on the palate and leaves a superbly long and herbal feel in the off-dry rather than fully fruity-styled finish. This is a very playful and animating Kabinett. 2027-2040



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Spätlese	04 21	92
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The 2020er Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Spätlese is a sweet wine made from the Neuberg section of the vineyard and was fermented and aged in a traditional Fuder. It offers a hugely ripe and aromatic nose of butter cream, crème brûlée, honeyed peach, apricot, canned yellow peach, banana, and minty herbs. The wine is fully sweet and delicately smooth on the palate, where plenty of ripe and even exotic fruits add to the experience. The finish has more lightness and is well-delineated. This Auslese in all-but-name will please lovers of aromatically ripe yet fresh sweet wines. 2030-2045

2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Trocken	14 21	92
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The 2020er Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Trocken was picked on 100-year-old un-grafted vines in a terraced part of the vineyard and was fermented and aged in a traditional Fuder. It offers a superbly aromatic and highly attractive nose of herbs, earthy spices, violet, smoke, rosemary, and black tea. The wine coats the palate with juicy candied citrusy fruits and plenty of herbs. Its slightly broader and more imposing side is well wrapped into spicy and zesty elements. It leaves a razor-sharp feel in the superbly long and salty finish. This is a superb dry Riesling in the making! 2025-2035

2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Trocken	15 21	90+
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The 2020er Dhron Hofberger Riesling Trocken, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from a small plot owned by the Estate since many years but 2020 is the first dry wine ever produced from this vineyard and was fermented and aged in a traditional Fuder. Fine and subtle floral and smoky scents of herbs, mint, lime tree, thyme, anise, and almond are nicely wrapped into plenty of fine spices on the nose. The wine proves stricter on the palate where some bracing and lemon-driven acidity makes for a racy and lean feel. The finish is focused, long, and herbal. It proves still quite rough and not giving much away at the moment. It will take some patience for the palate to smoothen its edges and it clearly has upside potential as it ages. 2024-2035

2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Feinherb	10 21	90
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The 2020er Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Feinherb is an off-dry wine made from Estate holdings in the central part of the vineyard and was fermented and aged in a traditional Fuder. This is quite restrained and almost non-saying at first, and only gradually reveals scents of herbs, pear, hay, licorice, and a hint of petrol. The wine is juicy and delicately creamy on the palate and leaves a feel of grapefruit-driven acidity in the superbly long and fresh finish. A hint of tartness still needs to integrate in the aftertaste. It is preferable to wait a few years in order to allow it to develop all its complexity. 2023-2028+

2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Trittenheimer Riesling Kabinett	02 21	90
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The 2020er Trittenheimer Riesling Kabinett is a fruity-styled wine made from Estate holdings in the Apotheke and was fermented and aged in a traditional Fuder. It has a quite reductive and smoky nose at first and only gradually reveals a fresh and herbal nose made of grapefruit zest, yellow peach, greengage, green apple, and freshly cut herbs. The wine proves delicately juicy and fruity on the smooth and comparatively round palate. The finish of this delicious and easy-drinking Kabinett is very clean, light-weighted, and fresh. 2026-2035

2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Trittenheimer Riesling Trocken Steinreich	13 21	90
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The 2020er Steinreich Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from Estate holdings in the Trittenheimer Apotheke and was fermented and aged in a traditional Fuder. It offers a very delicate and subtly floral nose of almond cream, candied grapefruit, lime tree, dried herbs, anise, and smoke. The wine is delicately juicy and herbal on the palate. It has a creamy touch, which is however well wrapped into fresh and playful acidity. The very long finish is precise, fully dry, and airy. This elegant and refined dry Riesling (with only 11% of alcohol) is superb. 2023-2030

2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Riesling Feinherb vom Schiefer	09 21	89
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The 2020er Riesling Feinherb vom Schiefer is an off-dry wine made from Estate holdings essentially in the Trittenheimer Altärchen as well as the Neumagener Rosengärtchen and was fermented and aged in a traditional Fuder. Initially quite smoky, the wine quickly opens up to offer some aromatic notes of anise, plenty of spices, pear, and spearmint. The wine proves delicately juicy and fine on the light-weighted and softly creamy palate. The wine leaves a nice sense of structure as fresher elements come through in the already dryish finish. 2022-2030



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2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Riesling Trocken vom Schiefer	12 21	88
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The 2020er Riesling Trocken vom Schiefer comes from Estate holdings essentially in the Trittenheimer Altärchen as well as the Neumagener Rosengärtchen and was fermented and aged in a traditional Fuder. It offers an aromatic and attractive yet fresh nose of spearmint, grapefruit, lemon, blackberry, violet, and plum. The wine is superbly zesty and nicely structured on the fresh and animating palate. It leaves a very intense, focused, and almost racy sharp feel in the long and hugely spicy finish. A hint of tartness still needs to integrate in the aftertaste. This very good Estate dry Riesling now only needs a few years to fully shine. 2023-2027

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Weingut Karl Erbes

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese *	12 21	94
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The 2020er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese * was made from 30% botrytized fruit picked at 108° Oechsle and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar (125 g/l). It offers a beautiful nose made of pear, melon, smoke, slate, whipped cream, and finely zesty elements. The wine is beautifully playful yet also nicely zesty on the palate where almond paste is superbly wrapped into red berry fruits and fine spices. The finish is juicy and hugely appealing. This Auslese combines depth with utter *joie de vivre*. 2030-2060

2020er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger in der Kranklei Riesling Auslese *	13 21	93+
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The 2020er Ürziger in der Kranklei Riesling Auslese * was made from 30% botrytized fruit picked at 108° Oechsle in this prime Lieu-Dit in the Ürziger Würzgarten and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar (132 g/l). It offers a beautiful and quite pure nose made of cassis, raspberry, whipped cream, a hint of apricot, bergamot, gooseberry, and smoke. The wine is superbly playful and juicy on the palate and leaves a creamy feel underlined by a sense of primary sweetness in the finish. The aftertaste is juicy and long as further zesty and creamy elements of almond paste mingle and add depth to the experience. This wine really needs a decade of bottle aging to absorb its sweetness and reveal its full charm. It could then easily exceed our high expectation. 2030-2060

2020er	Karl Erbes	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese GK	14 21	93
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The 2020er Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese GK was made from 35% botrytized fruit picked at 113° Oechsle in the original part of the vineyard and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar (122 g/l). It initially offers a rather non-saying and backward nose made of pear, melon, Asian spices, a hint of citrusy zest, and smoky herbs. The wine is beautifully light-feathered on the palate and develops a great sensation of finesse and elegance in the long finish. The delicacy is remarkable but so is the underlying complexity. This is a beauty in the making. 2030-2060

2020er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger in der Kranklei Riesling Spätlese	09 21	91
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The 2020er Ürziger in der Kranklei Riesling Spätlese was made from fruit picked at 94° Oechsle in this prime Lieu-Dit in the Ürziger Würzgarten and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (79 g/l). It offers a nice and aromatic nose made of pear, lemon zest, mirabelle, creamy elements, smoke, barbeque herbs, a hint of almond paste, and smoke. The wine proves nicely creamy on the herbal and spicy palate and leaves a nice feel of fruits and minerals underlined by some almond paste in the finish. A nice kick of zest adds freshness to the ripe but juicy core of the flavors in the finish. 2030-2050

2020er	Karl Erbes	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese	17 21	90
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The 2020er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese was made from fruit picked at 94° Oechsle in the Rothkirch part of the vineyard and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (66 g/l). It offers a rather big and subtly creamy nose made of passion fruit, saffron, pear, herbs, and fine spices. The wine is nicely playful but also rather creamy on the palate and leaves a quite long feel in the finish. A hint of almond underlines the Auslese core of this beautiful wine with already nicely integrated sweetness in the aftertaste. 2030-2050

2020er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger in der Kranklei Riesling Spätlese Feinherb	23 21	89
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The 2020er Ürziger in der Kranklei Riesling Spätlese Feinherb is an off-dry wine (with 22 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked at 96° Oechsle in this prime Lieu-Dit in the Ürziger Würzgarten. It offers an engaging and slightly powerful nose made of pear, cinnamon, strawberry, almond, herbs, and spices. The wine is nicely juicy and direct on the palate and leaves a satisfying feel of fruits and minerals in the rather powerful finish. A touch of zest adds a mouthwatering side to the aftertaste. Now-2028

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Mosel Fine Wines

“The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling”

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Tobias Feiden

(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

Tobias Feiden is the partner of Rebecca Materne (from the Weingut Materne & Schmitt) and works for the von Canal Sekt winery in Winnigen. Besides his day job, he gradually took on parcels (totaling 0.4 ha) in steep parts of the Winninger Domgarten and in the little-known Moselsürscher Fahrberg planted with Spätburgunder to produce some individualistic red wines. Winemaking is done at the facilities of Materne & Schmitt and is based on partial de-stemming, little pumping, and extended (approx. 20-22 months) aging in used barrique. Not having any reserve wines, he had to compensate the loss of volume from evaporation in his first wines by glass marbles and twisted this word to give his wines a name: Marbleous. The style of the house is one of subtlety and silk, rather than power and intensity.

2017er	Tobias Feiden	Spätburgunder Sekt Blanc de Noir Brut Nature	01 20	93
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The TF Brut Nature, as it is referred to on the central part of the label (the vintage and other information are provided in small print on the side of the label), was made with grapes picked in a prime south-facing and steep part of the Winninger Domgarten and was fermented without intervention. It was left on its lees after refermentation in the bottle for 27 months before being disgorged without dosage at the end of August 2020 (the disgorgement date is not provided on the label). This golden-colored sparkling wine offers a superb nose made of pear, citrusy fruits, toffee, herbs, and spices. It is subtly creamy yet also incredibly elegant and refined on the palate, where tart fruit zest is wrapped into fine spices, a hint of toffee, and some glorious silky elements as one finds them in fine Champagne. This wine has now found its balance and is, quite frankly, rather amazing. This now reveals its true colors! Now-2027+

2018er	Tobias Feiden	Spätburgunder Sekt Blanc de Noir Brut Nature	13 21	92
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The TF Brut Nature, as it is referred to on the central part of the label (the vintage and other information are provided in small print on the side of the label), was made with grapes picked in a prime south-facing and steep part of the Winninger Domgarten and was fermented without intervention. It was left on its lees after refermentation in the bottle for 24 months before being disgorged without dosage at the end of August 2021 (the disgorgement date is not provided on the label). This golden-bronzed colored sparkling wine offers an absolutely stunning and mature nose of herbs, spices, quince, quality street flavors, and herbal elements. It proves smooth and lifted up by its mousse and subtly oxidative flavors. The finish underlines the notes of salted caramel, citrus, herbs, and spices. This is not your fruity upfront Sekt, as it plays more on subtly oxidative notes often found in the finest Champagne. As such, it is truly amazing! 2022-2028

2019er	Tobias Feiden	Moselsürscher Spätburgunder Marbleous	12 21	91+
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The 2019er Moselsürscher Spätburgunder Marbleous comes from 40% de-stemmed fruit picked from over 30-year-old vines in the steep south-east-facing Fahrberg and was aged in 2-year-old barrique for 22 months before being bottled unfiltered. This slightly pale-red-colored wine offers an absolutely subtle nose of wild strawberry, under-brush, minerals, spices, and herbs. The wine proves superbly silky and finely spiced on the palate, where the tactile feel is matched by the depth and multi-layered structure. A fine touch of acidity adds the required freshness right into the long and stunningly elegant finish. This is not your upfront red Pinot Noir but one which plays on finesse, not unlike what you get from some Chambolle. What a great success! There is even some upside if it retains its presence as it mellows and complexifies away. 2024-2034

2019er	Tobias Feiden	Winninger Spätburgunder Marbleous	11 21	91
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The 2019er Winninger Spätburgunder Marbleous comes from 70% de-stemmed fruit picked in a prime sector of the Winninger Domgarten (which was classified as dark red on the old taxation maps) and was aged in 2-3-year-old barrique for 22 months before being bottled unfiltered. It offers a superb nose of frozen raspberry, Morello cherry, fine spices, delicate herbal elements, and spices. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate, where a touch of zest adds finesse and subtlety to the succulent flavors of fruits and spices. The finish is hugely long and very addictive. This is a gorgeous Pinot Noir which proves already quite enjoyable now on its primary fruity side. As great as it seems now, believe us, it will however only truly deliver in a few years. 2024-2034

2019er	Tobias Feiden	Spätburgunder Marbleous	10 21	89
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The 2019er Spätburgunder Marbleous comes from 80% de-stemmed fruit picked in an east-facing vineyard in the Winninger Domgarten and on younger vines in the Moselsürscher Fahrberg and was aged in 2-5-year-old barrique for 22 months before being bottled unfiltered. This bright-red-colored wine offers a beautiful nose made of juicy red cherry, herbs, and superbly fine spices. The wine is nicely airy yet packed with flavors on the palate and leaves a beautifully balanced feel in the finish. While enjoyable already now, this beautiful Spätburgunder has still much under the bonnet for those ready to wait a little bit! 2024-2034

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Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Fritz Haag

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

Complement

NB: The Estate Review, including the bulk of the 2020er wines, was published in the Mosel Fine Wines Issues No 57 (July 2021) and further wines were reviewed in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 (September 2021). A copy of these Issues is available to all subscribers upon simple email request.

2020er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr "im Falkenberg" Riesling Trocken GG	11 21	Auction	93+
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The 2020er Juffer-Sonnenuhr "im Falkenberg" Riesling Trocken GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from the prime similarly-named Lieu-Dit situated at the lower western end of the vineyard and was fermented in large oak barrel. This cask sample offers a restrained yet elegant nose of whipped almond cream, orange blossom, fine minty herbs, lime, grapefruit, and smoke. The wine proves delicately creamy and juicy on the comparatively smooth and refined palate, which has quite some fruity presence. It leaves a beautifully mineral and compact feel in the hugely smoky, fully dry-tasting, and vibrating finish. There is true beauty here! 2024-2035+

2020er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Trocken GG	24 21		92
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The 2020er Juffer Riesling Trocken GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was fermented and aged in a mix of stainless-steel tank, Fuder, and large oak barrel. It offers a refined and beautifully restrained nose of bergamot, anise, white flowers, minty herbs, and pear. The wine is elegant and rather light-weighted on the juicy and almost suave palate. This makes for a dry rather than bone-dry feel, even if the finish shows good focus and freshness as herbal and zesty elements show up. The aftertaste is superbly clean, spicy, and dry-tasting. This light and elegant version of dry Riesling will be superb in a few years. 2025-2035

2020er	Fritz Haag	Kestener Paulinshofberger Riesling Trocken GG	27 21		91+
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The 2020er Paulinshofberger Riesling Trocken GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a bone-dry wine made in Fuder and stainless-steel tanks from vines located just under the Monzeler Kätzchen and at the right-hand side of the rocky part of the vineyard. It offers a comparatively smoky but also nicely fruity and attractive nose of minty herbs, licorice, spices, blackberry, candied grapefruit, and anise. The wine is nicely juicy and coats the palate with candied citrusy fruits and aniseed herbs. It develops more presence as it unfolds and shows more density and intensity. The long finish is nicely focused but still quite tart at this early stage. It needs a couple of years to integrate all these elements and has even some upside if it gains finesse and elegance. 2025-2035

2020er	Fritz Haag	Monzeler Kätzchen Riesling Trocken GG	29 21		91+
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The 2020er Kätzchen Riesling Trocken GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is the first vintage of GG made from parcels situated in the steep and full-south-facing part of this vineyard situated just above the Kestener Paulinshofberger. An initial whiff of reduction quickly gives way to a nicely fruit-driven and finely aromatic nose of yellow peach, pear, raspberry, minty herbs, tangerine, licorice, and a hint of apricot. The wine starts off on the nicely light and fruit-driven palate, but quickly some bracing acidity and aniseed herbs take over and makes for a focused and slightly tart and earthy feel in the long and even powerful finish. The after-taste is fully dry and driven by lime and earthy spices. This racy dry Riesling needs a few years to integrate all its elements and truly shine and clearly shows its potential now that it has been bottled. There is even upside here if the wine manages to harness its racy side. 2025-2035

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Knebel Brüder

(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

Complement

NB: Further recent releases from this Estate were reviewed in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 57 (July 2021), a copy of which is available to all subscribers on simple email request.

2020er	Knebel Brüder	Riesling Kabinett	10 21		92
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The 2020er Riesling Kabinett is made from fruit picked at 89° Oechsle in Winningen and was fermented down to barely fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (32 g/l). It offers a slightly backward and still non-saying nose made of pear, earthy spices, vineyard peach, passion fruit, ginger, and smoke. The wine is nicely balanced on the subtly intense palate and leaves a nice and fresh feel of herbs and spices in the long and juicy finish. The aftertaste is direct, linear, and quite satisfying. This off-dry more than fully-fruity-styled Kabinett gains significantly from airing (think days more than hours at the moment) so patience will be needed to get the most of it. 2027-2040



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2020er	Knebel Brüder	Uhlen Roth Lay Riesling	N.A.	92
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The 2019er Uhlen Roth Lay, as it is referred on the consumer label, is a bone-dry wine (with 3 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked in this newly defined IGP composed of the south-facing and iron-rich sector of the Winninger Uhlen vineyard. It was fermented spontaneously and aged on its fine lees in a Stockinger tonneau for 10 months. It offers a beautiful nose made of white peach, pear, citrusy elements, floral elements, spices, and herbs. The wine is gorgeously playful and elegant on the palate and leaves a beautifully creamy, herbal, and subtly racy feel of fruits and spices in the long and ethereal finish. The aftertaste is juicy and packed with primary citrusy elements. This is a beautiful dry Riesling in the making! 2025-2040

2020er	Knebel Brüder	Winninger Röttgen Riesling	N.A.	91+
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The 2020er Röttgen, as it is referred on the consumer label, is a legally dry wine (with 4 g/l of residual sugar) which was fermented spontaneously and aged on its fine lees in a Stockinger tonneau for 10 months. It offers a quite smoky nose made of mirabelle, herbs, and spices. The wine is still rather backward on the palate and will need some time to integrate its tension between tart and lemony elements in the finish and blend them into the spices that one is left with in the aftertaste. Once that is done (give it 5 years at least), this dry Riesling could well prove even better than already anticipated! 2025-2035

2019er	Knebel Brüder	Riesling Spätlese	11 21	91
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The 2019er Riesling Spätlese is made from fruit picked at 99° Oechsle in the Winninger Röttgen and Winninger Hamm and was fermented down to barely sweet levels of residual sugar (60 g/l). It offers a gorgeous nose made of lemon puree, grapefruit, elderflower, cassis, and whipped cream. The wine proves beautifully alluring and engaging on the zesty and nicely fruity-tasting palate and leaves a satisfying feel of melon, earthy spices, a dash of apricot, and whipped cream in the finish. The aftertaste is subtly powerful yet juicy. 2025-2040

2020er	Knebel Brüder	Winninger Riesling	N.A.	91
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The 2020er Winninger Riesling is a legally dry wine (with 4 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked in the Winninger Röttgen, Uhlen, and Hamm and was fermented spontaneously and aged on its fine lees in a 1,200-liter Stockinger cask for 10 months. It proves still rather primary at first and takes a while to reveal a quite aromatic nose made of exquisitely fresh notes of grapefruit, lemon zest, and fine herbal elements are wrapped into some tarter notes of minerals and smoke. The wine is nicely firm and structured on the palate and leaves one with more tartness in the finish. Everything is there for making a superb wine at maturity, in a few years, once also the tail of smoothness has mellowed away. 2025-2035

2019er	Knebel Brüder	Riesling Pour	(No AP)	89
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The 2019er Riesling Pour is a wine made from grapes picked in the Winninger Domgarten and was fermented and aged in a large tonneau without intervention except a little 20 mg/l of SO₂ at bottling. It offers a beautifully playful and subtly oxidative nose made of pear, lemon zest, fine spices, a touch of smoke, a hint of caramel, and aniseed herbs. The wine is nicely fresh and juicy on the palate playing on a tension between reductive and oxidative elements. The finish is juicy and quite alluring. The "natural" side then takes over in the aftertaste which proves however nicely balanced and animating. Now-2024

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Weingut Meurer

(Reil – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Meurer	Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Kabinett von den Terrassen "Kell"	13 21	93
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The 2020er Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Kabinett von den Terrassen "Kell" was made from fruit picked at 82° Oechsle on 70-120-year-old vines in this steep and south-southwest-facing part of the vineyard and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (43 g/l). It offers a subtle and complex nose made of ginger, passion fruit, minerals, wet stone, citrusy fruits, melon, starfruit, and fine spices. The wine develops great lightness on the palate and leaves a beautiful feel of herbs and spices wrapped into juicy white peach in the medium-long finish. A subtle sense of smoothness adds charm to the overall beautifully zesty aftertaste. This is a great success! 2025-2040



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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2020er	Meurer	Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Kabinett "Funkelshöll"	12 21	91+
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The 2020er Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Kabinett "Funkelshöll" was made from fruit picked at 83° Oechsle on 50 -ear-old vines in this steep and fully south-orientated part of the vineyard and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (52 g/l). It proves rather backward and only reluctantly reveals some elements of fruits, herbs, spices, and minerals, all wrapped into some firm residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation. The wine is nicely focused and superbly playful on the palate but is also dominated by firm cardamom elements. Citrusy fruits add to the beautiful airiness of this Kabinett in the finish. This is really work in progress and best left alone for a decade. It could then really prove a great surprise. The balance and finesse are clearly there! 2030-2050

2020er	Meurer	Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Kabinett "Kell"	11 21	91
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The 2020er Reiler Mullay-Hofberg Riesling Kabinett "Kell" was made from fruit picked at 79° Oechsle on 50-70-year-old vines still trained on single pole in this steep and south to southeast-facing part of the vineyard and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (61 g/l). It offers a beautiful nose blending citrusy fruits, herbal elements, and chalk with some firm smoky and cardamom elements. The wine is beautifully racy and focused on the palate. The zest of the wine is beautifully playful and leads to a nice finish dominated by quite some stringent cardamom elements at the moment. The structure of the aftertaste is remarkably fresh and alluring. This is a gorgeously racy expression of Kabinett but one which will need some time to shed off its strong cardamom elements. 2030-2050

2020er	Meurer	Reiler Goldlay Riesling Kabinett Feinherb	18 21	89
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The 2020er Reiler Goldlay Riesling Kabinett Feinherb is an off-dry wine (with 28 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked at 80° Oechsle and was fermented and aged in traditional Fuder. It offers a slightly ample but nicely aromatic nose made of pear, greengage, apricot blossom, whipped cream, melon, and herbal elements. The wine comes over as smooth yet packed with flavors on the palate and leaves a nicely firm and fruity feel in the long finish. Herbal elements add depth to the aftertaste. This is juicy and remarkably appealing in its direct and refreshing style. Now-2030

2020er	Meurer	Reiler Riesling Trocken	15 21	88
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The 2020er Reiler Riesling Trocken comes from over 40-year-old vines in the steep parts of the Reiler Mullay-Hofberg. It offers an attractive nose made of white peach, pear, starfruit, chalk, flowery elements, and a hint of cardamom and slate. The wine proves nicely smooth on the palate and leaves a satisfying feel of fresh fruits, pear, and smoky cardamom-infused elements in the long and nicely engaging finish. Flavors of cardamom add simplicity to the aftertaste. The overall balance of the wine is more off-dry than dry. However, as such, this is really nice. Now-2028

2020er	Meurer	Riesling	05 21	86
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The 2020er Riesling is a barely off-dry wine (with 10 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked in flatter parts of Reil. It offers a direct and appealing nose made of greengage, peach, melon, citrusy fruits, and cardamom. The wine is nicely direct and subtly racy on the palate and leaves a simple but hugely appealing feel in the long and mouthwatering finish. A touch of firmness underlined by cardamom adds tartness and some simple directness to the aftertaste. Now-2025

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Weingut Josef Milz

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Josef Milz	Trittenheimer Felsenkopf Riesling Trocken GG	25 21	92
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The 2020er Felsenkopf GG, as it is simply referred to on the consumer label, comes from this single vineyard solely-owned by the Estate which is situated in the Laurentiusberg part of the vineyard. This bright-white colored wine offers a captivating nose made of pear, greengage, citrusy fruits, ginger, bergamot, and lots of pungent notes of smoke. The wine is beautifully playful and balanced on the palate, where a subtle touch of zest provides the ideal backdrop for some alluring fruits. The finish is still completely dominated by minerals and smoke but the potential is clearly there. 2025-2035

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Weingut Schloss Saarstein

(Serrig – Saar)

2019er	Schloss Saarstein	Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Beerenauslese	13 20	Auction	95
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The 2019er Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Beerenauslese was made from botrytized fruit picked at 130° Oechsle on the main hill of the vineyard and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This golden-colored wine offers a beautifully subtle nose made of cassis, greengage sorbet, almond cream, honeyed spices, apricot, dried fruits, and smoky elements. The wine coats the palate with luscious but superbly chiseled flavors of fruits and spices. Far from being big, this dessert wine remains utterly focused, precise, and multi-layered right into the long finish. Honeyed elements underline the suave richness in the absolutely superb aftertaste. This gorgeous dessert wine is well on its way to provide immense focused and finely detailed pleasure in a decade. This is quite a success! 2029-2059

2020er	Schloss Saarstein	Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Auslese	11 21		92
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The 2020er Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Auslese was made from clean fruit picked at 97° Oechsle on the main hill of the vineyard and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (90 g/l). It offers a beautifully playful and subtle nose made of melon, pear, vineyard peach, whipped cream, a hint of almond paste, herbs, and spices. The wine proves subtly creamy and beautifully multi-layered on the palate and leaves a slightly round but beautifully playful feel in the long and juicy finish. This more than reminds us of the excellent Auslese which came out of this fine Estate in the 1990s. 2028-2040

2020er	Schloss Saarstein	Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Kabinett	09 21		91
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The 2020er Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Kabinett was made from fruit picked at 86° Oechsle on the main hill of the vineyard and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (54 g/l). It offers a rather backward nose made of melon, bergamot, pear sorbet, a hint of apricot, smoke, passion fruit, and spices. The wine is softly creamy and even slightly round at first on the palate before some mild and rather ripe sensation of acidity brings focus to the slightly creamy side in the finish. The whole wine oozes Spätlese presence but delivers it with great feather-lightness. 2025-2040

2020er	Schloss Saarstein	Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Spätlese "Alte Reben"	07 21		89
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The 2020er Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main part of the label (the full reference to the vineyard and the Prädikat is left in small print on the side of the label), is a barely off-dry wine (with 11 g/l of residual sugar) made from vines planted in 1943 on the main hill of the vineyard. It offers a nicely juicy yet very subtle nose made of passion fruit, white and yellow peach, citrusy elements, whipped cream, and fine spices. The wine is juicy and not overly zesty on the palate and leaves a satisfying even if firmly tart feel of pear and lemon sorbet in the long and juicy finish. 2023-2030

2020er	Schloss Saarstein	Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Trocken GG	16 21		89
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The 2020er Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from the main hill of the vineyard. It offers a rather ample nose made of cardamom, pear, greengage, ginger, smoke, and fine spices. The wine proves on the powerful side on the palate and leaves a simple and direct feel in the juicy but not bone-dry finish. A touch of heat comes through in the finish. We would opt to enjoy this wine (which proves already quite open at this stage) rather sooner than later. 2022-2025

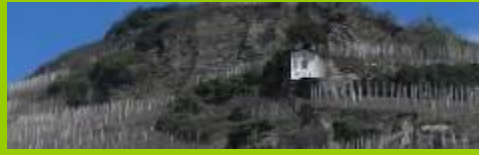
2020er	Schloss Saarstein	Riesling Kabinett Feinherb Schloss Saarstein	08 21		87
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The 2020er Riesling Kabinett Feinherb is an off-dry wine (with 24 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked at 89° Oechsle on the main hill of the Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner. It offers a juicy nose made of pear, melon, apricot blossom, whipped cream, smoke, herbs, and spices. The wine is nicely smooth and only delicately zesty on the palate and leaves a finely playful feel in the slightly direct and juicy finish. The aftertaste is precise and linear. Now-2028

2020er	Schloss Saarstein	Riesling Trocken Schloss Saarstein	14 21		87
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The 2020er Riesling Trocken Schloss Saarstein comes from fruit harvested early on the main hill of the Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner. It offers an attractive nose made of white peach, lemon zest, pear, a hint of smoke and fine spices. The wine is delicately light-weighted on the still slightly harsh palate but leaves already a nicely smooth feel in the dry-tasting rather than bone-dry finish. 2022-2028

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Weingut Van Volxem

(Wiltingen – Saar)

2018er	Van Volxem	Scharzhofberger Riesling Trockenbeereauslese	76 20	98
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The 2020er Scharzhofberger Riesling Trockenbeereauslese offers a beautifully complex and hugely impressive nose of raisin, mango, honeyed acacia, guava, passion fruit, candied grapefruit, and William's pear, all wrapped into a dash of volatile acidity. The wine is still hugely compact and very sweet on the palate and has plenty of honeyed, thick, and sweet elements. The finish is intense and almost powerful (despite the wine only having 5.5% of alcohol). It is still a little raw diamond and will need a few decades to fully shine. 2038-2088

2015er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett	40 21	94+
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The 2015er Bockstein Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, was left on its lees until 2021 (hence the late AP number). It offers a gorgeous nose marked by a hint of exotic touch driven by grapefruit and passion fruit, raspberry, cassis, prune, herbs, and quite some minty elements. The wine proves hugely precise, multi-layered, and focused on the juicy yet zesty palate. It is beautifully airy and herbal in the hugely long and racy finish. It already proves more off-dry rather than fully fruity or sweet. What a magnificent and playful Kabinett in the making! 2025-2045

2020er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese	25 21	93
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The 2020er Bockstein Riesling Spätlese, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a fruity-styled wine fermented and aged in both stainless steel tanks and large oak barrels. It offers a fully aromatic and hugely attractive nose of pink grapefruit, spices, lime, tangerine, jasmine, cassis, and herbs, as well as smoke and residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation. The wine proves hugely juicy and driven by ripe fruits as well as an exotic touch, and is still on the sweet and juicy side. The finish is superbly long, precise, and refreshing as notes of candied zesty and citrusy fruits make for a very clean and pure aftertaste. 2027-2040

2020er	Van Volxem	Scharzhofberger Riesling GG	16 21	93
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The 2020er Scharzhofberger Riesling GG is a legally dry wine made from up to 50-year-old vines situated in the upper part of the vineyard. It offers a beautifully complex and refined nose of anise, elderflower, bergamot, pear, lime, chamomile, and plenty of minty herbs. The wine is superbly playful and light-weighted on the palate. It then gradually develops more presence, yet the finish is beautifully focused, spicy, and even sharp (without any aggressive side). The aftertaste is fully dry and immensely spicy. 2024-2035

2020er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Geisberg Riesling Kabinett GK	32 21	92+
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The 2020er Geisberg Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a fruity-styled wine made from a selection of berries of young vines. It offers a subtly smoky and herbal nose driven by nice and complex notes of anise, orange zest, apricot, guava, greengage, and melon which gradually reveal more richness as the wine gains airing. The wine has a very juicy and clear Spätlese presence on the palate. Smooth and delicately creamy notes are wrapped into tangerine and apricot. The finish is superbly long and juicy. This is a little jewel in the making with clear upside potential as it will age. 2028-2045

2016er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett GK	28 17	92
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The 2016er Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett GK is a fruity-styled wine fermented and aged in both stainless steel tanks and large oak barrels. It proves still quite primary and has plenty of residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation with whipped almond cream, lavender, cassis, grapefruit, pear, and a hint of coconut cream. The wine proves very delicate and smooth on the palate and leaves a fresh grapefruit-driven feel in the very long and delicate finish, all enhanced by fresh notes of vineyard peach and passion fruit. It is still too young for true greatness and needs another couple of years to fully shine. 2026-2046

2018er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese GK	39 19	92
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The 2018er Bockstein Riesling Spätlese, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a sweet wine fermented and aged in both stainless steel tanks and large oak barrels. The nose proves driven by aniseed herbs as well as almond cream, a hint of coconut, prune, white flowers, dried apricot, and cassis. The wine coats the palate with plenty of juicy and creamy fruits and has some ginger driven spices. The finish is more powerful and structured (the label indicates 9.5% of alcohol) so that the feeling of residual sugar is tempered. There is huge length and an almost baroque side to the aftertaste. 2024-2035



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2020er	Van Volxem	Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Alte Reben GG	19 21	92
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The 2020er Altenberg Alte Reben GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine made from over 50-year-old vines in the historic part of the Altenberg hill. It offers a beautifully focused and pure nose of greengage, almond, grapefruit, vineyard peach, grilled spices, cassis, rose, and jasmine. The wine has good presence and grip on the palate and leaves a clean and focused feel in the finish. There is an underlying feel of tartness still in need of integration. The aftertaste is all about smoke, grapefruit, and herbs, with just a touch of power coming through. 2024-2032

2020er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Geisberg Riesling Kabinett	28 21	92
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The 2020er Geisberg Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a fruity-styled wine made from young vines. It offers a beautifully complex and refined nose of vineyard peach, smoke, bacon-driven residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation, tangerine, apricot flower, lavender, and passion fruit. The wine proves superbly playful and light-weighted on the palate, where it has freshness and airiness as well as fine fruity elements. The finish is beautifully creamy and light-weighted, yet intense and complex. This is a beautiful Kabinett in the making. 2026-2040

2020er	Van Volxem	Saarburger Schonfels Riesling Trocken GG	23 21	92
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The 2020er Schonfels Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, comes from the Lieu-Dit auf Schonfels, a steep south-east-facing vineyard in the Saarburger Fuchs vineyard which forms the continuation on the Saarburg side of the Ayler Schonfels. It offers a very floral, elegant, and refined nose of anise, Conference pear, star fruit, white peach, and jasmine. The wine is rather light-weighted and creamy with a soft and smooth acidity on the dry rather than really bone-dry palate. The finish is superbly focused and spicy as well as airy and delicate. This is a beautiful smooth expression of dry Riesling in the making. 2024-2035

2020er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Gottesfuss Riesling Alte Reben GG	20 21	91+
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The 2020er Gottesfuss Alte Reben GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine made from over 120-year-old, ungrafted vines. It offers an attractive and aromatic nose of almond cream, anise, grapefruit, dill, thyme, and rose. The wine is very delicate and smooth on the palate, where some yellow juicy fruits make for a delicately ripe side. The finish is broader, very spicy, and also quite tart at this early stage. The aftertaste is more light-weighted and elegant. This needs a couple of years to integrate its elements and has some upside potential if the palate gains presence and finesse. 2024-2030

2020er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling GG	22 21	91
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The 2020er Bockstein Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine which comes from the Herrenberg and the central parts of the vineyard. It offers a beautifully aromatic and attractive nose of pineapple, ginger-driven spices, apricot, yellow peach, licorice, and herbs. The wine is very delicate and smooth on the yellow fruit-driven palate. It then shows more depth as zesty elements come through. The finish is quite imposing and still slightly tart but also has plenty of zesty elements to keep everything in focus at this early point. This will best be enjoyed in its early phase. 2023-2028

2020er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Riesling	31 21	90
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The 2020er Ockfener Riesling is a tank-fermented wine made from the Bockstein und Geisberg. It offers a beautifully floral and minty nose of white flowers, lime tree, William's pear, herbs, bergamot, and jasmine. The wine is superbly light-weighted and perfumed on the palate and leaves one with a great sense of complexity and finesse, despite its riper and smoother side. The finish is very long, herbal, and driven by fresh elements such as cassis and lemon. The aftertaste is very clean and mouth-watering. 2022-2030

2020er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett	27 21	90
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The 2020er Bockstein Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a fruity-styled wine harvested on vines still trained on single pole in the central part of the vineyard fermented and aged in both stainless steel tanks and large oak barrels. It has a very delicate yet ripe nose of pear, tangerine, anise, almond cream, and yellow peach. The wine proves very smooth and still on the fully fruity-styled side on the palate. The finish is light-weighted and nicely focused as grapefruit-driven flavors kick in and add intensity and freshness to the whole experience. 2025-2035+

2020er	Van Volxem	Wawerner Goldberg Riesling GG	18 21	90
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The 2020er Goldberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine which comes from the western part of the iron-rich vineyard. It proves slightly reductive at first before reveals its light and elegant nose of pear, spices, apple, wet stone, almond, and a hint of camphor. The wine proves rather light-weighted and driven by juicy fruits on the palate. The finish has however more focus and intensity, with even a touch of power. It leaves one with flavors of licorice, herbs, and blueberry in the aftertaste, with a nice touch of grapefruit acidity lifting up the whole experience. 2023-2030



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2020er	Van Volxem	Wawerner Ritterpfad Riesling Kabinett	24 21	90
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The 2020er Ritterpfad Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is an off-dry wine fermented and aged in both stainless steel tanks and large oak barrels. It offers an attractive and juicy nose of canned pear, yellow peach, anise, dill, rosemary, almond, and lavender. The wine is very light and refreshing on the palate, where some almond cream and yellow juicy fruits are wrapped into zesty elements and minty herbs. The finish is very focused and nicely long. 2025-2035

2020er	Van Volxem	Weissburgunder Windvogt	29 21	90
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The 2020er Windvogt, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is made from fruit harvested in a privileged sector of the Wawerner Ritterpfad and was fermented in young oak barrique from the French region of Limousin. It offers a rich and superbly creamy nose of almond cream, licorice, butter cream, apricot, and minty herbs, with a fine touch of camphor in the background. The wine coats the palate with intense juicy and ripe fruits and has both a creamy structure and also quite some energy and presence. The noticeable touch of oak adds nice complexity. The finish is superbly long and intense. There is a touch of power and tartness but these are already very well under control. We would however opt to drink this beautiful bold and rich Weissburgunder in its early years of development. 2022-2026

2020er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Volz Riesling GG	17 21	89+
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The 2020er Volz Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine picked on 60-year-old vines in this prime sector (classified "dark red" on old Prussian maps) of the Wiltinger Braunfels vineyard. It offers a quite herbal, reductive, and minty nose of greengage, minty herbs, lime, thyme, and rosemary. The wine proves also herbal and quite tart and tight at the moment, and only starts to slightly soften with some extensive time. The finish is also slightly harsh and primary. This clearly needs a couple of years to soften its tart side and has easily some upside potential. 2024-2030+

2020er	Van Volxem	Riesling Alte Reben	66 21	89
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The 2020er Riesling Alte Reben is a dry tank-fermented wine made from very old and often un-grafted vines in lesser-known vineyards owned by the Estate, including in the Wiltinger Klosterberg (where it owns a parcel planted with 120-year-old vines), the Wawerner Ritterpfad, and the Kanzemer Sonnenberg. It offers a superbly attractive, smoky, and refreshing nose of spices, herbs, grapefruit, vineyard peach, licorice, and sage. The wine proves superbly precise and spicy on the linear and light-weighted palate. There is nice intensity in the long and focused finish. This is a very good dry Riesling. 2023-2030

2020er	Van Volxem	Riesling Kabinett Rotschiefer	49 21	88
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The 2020er Riesling Kabinett Rotschiefer is a tank-fermented off-dry wine made from Estate holdings in iron-rich sectors in Wawern and in the Wiltinger Kupp. It has a quite aromatic and fresh nose of tangerine, grapefruit zest, lime, pear, greengage, and anise. The wine shows a fully fruity styled palate with ripe and light-weighted notes of pear and apple, which reminds one of Spätlese richness. The finish is nicely long and intense, despite the lightness at play (more classical to Kabinett). This is very nice and a delicious off-dry expression of Saar Riesling. Now-2030

2020er	Van Volxem	Saarburger Riesling	08 21	88
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The 2020er Saarburger Riesling is a dry tank-fermented wine made from the Fuchs and the Kupp. It offers a very nice smoky, elegant, and delicate nose of bergamot, vineyard peach, grapefruit, tangerine, and minty herbs. The wine is nicely light-weighted and smooth on the fruit-driven and well-delineated palate. The finish has more focus and intensity as some zesty elements bring a lively side to this overall very delicate and light wine. 2022-2027

2020er	Van Volxem	Weissburgunder	63 21	88
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The 2020er Weissburgunder is a wine made from fruit picked in Wawern and was fermented in used German oak casks as well as stainless steel tank. It offers an attractive and finely aromatic nose of pear, anise, floral elements, almond cream, and spices. The wine is very fresh, elegant, and light-weighted with a light and creamy structure on the palate. The finish has more grip and presence. It will best be paired with food to buffer off its more intense side in the aftertaste. 2022-2026

2020er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Riesling	36 21	88
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The 2020er Wiltinger Riesling is a tank-fermented dry wine made from Estate holdings in the Braunfels. It offers a delicately creamy and aromatic nose of almond cream, coconut, grapefruit zest, and fine spices (including ginger). The wine proves light-weighted and juicy on the palate, but also quickly reveals zestier elements which add focus to the medium-long and broader finish. 2024-2030



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2020er	Van Volxem	Saar Riesling	04 21	87
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The 2020er Saar Riesling is a tank-fermented dry wine made from "younger" (less than 25 years old) vines from the various holdings of the Estate in the Saar. It offers a very spicy and fresh nose of canned yellow fruits including apple, pineapple, and peach as well as some green herbs, greengage, and almond. The wine proves delicately juicy and light-weighted on the creamy and spicy palate. The finish has nice presence and focus. 2022-2026

2020er	Van Volxem	Riesling VV	64 21	86
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The 2020er Riesling VV is a tank-fermented barely off-dry wine made from equal parts of Estate holdings (essentially in the Ockfener Bockstein) and of fruit sourced from Saar growers under long-term contract. Slightly reductive at first, it opens up to offer nice scents of smoke, herbs, canned yellow peach, pear, and anise. The wine is light-weighted and delicately smooth on the juicy palate. The finish has more focus and even a touch of power, which brings a nice lively side to this overall ripe and juicy off-dry Riesling. Now-2025

2020er	Van Volxem	Riesling Schiefer	61 21	85
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The 2020er Schiefer Riesling is a tank-fermented dry wine made from "younger" (less than 30-year-old) vines from Estate holdings as well as from fruit sourced from local growers under long-term contract. It offers a very expressive and juicy nose of almond cream, canned yellow peach, pear, herbs, and mint. The wine is light-weighted and quite perfumed on the palate, where it has a mild acidity feeling yet also nice flavors of spices and herbs to freshen up the experience in the direct finish. This is a clean and pleasant Riesling made in a very light and juicy style. Now-2024

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2020 Dry German Riesling – Racy Precision



2020 was at its heart a warm vintage but with a cool ending. Oh, we hear you whisper in excitement, lots of elegant and playful wines with great balance and aging potential? No, the reality is unfortunately a little bit more complex than that. Here the key facts in a nutshell.

2020 DRY GERMAN RIESLING – THE GROWING SEASON

Spring proved one of the warmest in modern history as good weather settled in across Germany as the pandemic hit the country. This meant an early bud break and an early flowering. Unfortunately, some regions got hit, sometimes severely by frost in late May which had an effect on yields. The summer proved warm and, once again, marked by some intense heat waves. The summer proved also very dry and this led to quite some hydric stress, especially among young vines.

Unsurprisingly, the harvest proved an early one and many growers in warmer regions of Germany decided to bring in the grapes for their top wines rather early. In many regions, the harvest was done well in September. The cooler Mosel and Nahe had to handle some rain at the end of September which complicated somewhat their harvest. Some decided to bring in rather early, others decided to wait a little bit longer.

2020 DRY GERMAN RIESLING – THE STYLE

The 2020 wines are marked by moderate levels of alcohol (12.5-13%) and reward one with fresh and lively, sometimes slightly harsh flavors and acidity. Many wines have quite some presence and opulence as growers decided to extend the pre-fermentation cold soak to add some weight to the wines, which had rather lower levels of ripeness and less extract, but it also helps to buffer off some acidic sharpness. This gives the wines a tannic structure which make them more backward, a bit rough and green at this early stage.

More than in other recent vintages, this makes the wines much less appealing in their youth and really candidates for the cellar. Many will require a lot of time.



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2020 DRY GERMAN RIESLING – THE BUYING GUIDE

Let us start with a word of caution: We tasted too many wines which were simply green and harsh as growers obviously wanted to preserve some freshness and above all not too have to heavy and rich-in-alcohol wines at the expense of balance. This factor runs through all regions and is more dependent on the grower than the particular growing and harvest conditions faced by one or the other region. Overall, while we could expect a beautifully filigreed vintage filled with elegant and balanced wines which shine through finesse and precision, truth must be told that many wines, while good and even very good, fail to meet the highest standards.

Is this situation particular to a region? Clearly, the Mosel, and to an extent the Nahe, prove more homogeneous at the top but even in these regions, the quality is not as homogeneous as one might otherwise expect. Quality in 2020 is down to the individual grower.

Now that we have named the elephant in the room, we can turn to happier things and focus on the great side of 2020: The successes.

The overall quality of the Mosel is now really coming through and there is much dry Riesling which could become modern-day legends. Also, it is interesting to see that the club of usual suspects is now getting larger. An increasing number of the top growers are now "mastering" the art of producing great dry Riesling which retains a sense of playfulness.

Beyond the Mosel, some of the top growers in the Nahe, Rheinhessen, Pfalz, and Rheingau (and dare we write mostly the usual suspects) produced some superb wines which have two drawbacks: quantities are minute and the wines may need even more time than usual to reach maturity.

Overall, 2020 is a vintage with true gems ... but it is also a vintage to remain careful: not everything that shines is gold. So we can only urge our readers to look carefully at our reports before committing hard earned monies on dry German Riesling in 2020!

DRY GERMAN RIESLING – STUNNING LATE RELEASES

This buying guide would not be complete without a word on the stunning late releases of dry Riesling which have happened recently, or are going to happen within the coming months and years. These late releases may be the result of a longer aging in oak or simply a delayed commercialization. Let us repeat what we have been writing already for a few years now: [Many of the finest dry Riesling from Germany are the late-released wines](#) by the leading Estates.

This concerns in particular the remarkable 2019er dry Riesling released this autumn by Peter Jakob Kühn and Koehler-Ruprecht. These wines are absolutely stunning and are a must-buy for any lover of dry Riesling. Also, the 2019er and 2018er GGs and Reserve by Clemens Busch which were released this year are must-buys for any wine lover. Materne & Schmitt, an up-and-coming Estate in Winningen, released its 2019er only this year and these wines are also truly superb. Later this year, Dr. Loosen will release its special GGs from single Lieu-Dit from the 2015 vintage. Also, these should be put on your radar.

German dry Riesling has so much to offer: Enjoy the hunt and the resulting wines!



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2020 Dry German Riesling – Recommended Wines from Outside of the Mosel

We provide here tasting notes for noteworthy dry Riesling of outstanding quality from outside of the Mosel, which we had the chance to taste. The list is not intended to be fully comprehensive, as there are hundreds of grand dry Rieslings (including GGs) produced in Germany. We also included wines from older vintages when these were only released this year.

NB: The most stunning dry Riesling from the Mosel which were reviewed in our Mosel Vintage reports are summarized in the following section.

Acham-Magin
Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan
Battenfeld-Spanier
von Buhl
Dr. Bürklin-Wolf
A. Christmann
Dr. Crusius
Diel
Dönnhoff
Emrich-Schönleber
August Eser
Gunderloch
Julian Haart
Hermannsberg
Keller
Koehler-Ruprecht
Kruger-Rumpf
Kühling-Gillot
Peter Jakob Kühn
Künstler
Leitz
Georg Mosbacher
Rappenhof
Rebholz
Prinz Salm
Karl Schäfer
Joh. Bapt. Schäfer
Schäfer-Fröhlich
Schätzel
Spreitzer
St. Antony
Stefan Vetter
Wegeler
Robert Weil
Domdechant Werner
Wittmann

Forst (Pfalz)
Deidesheim (Pfalz)
Hohen-Sülzen (Rheinhessen)
Deidesheim (Pfalz)
Wachenheim (Pfalz)
Gimmeldingen (Pfalz)
Traisen (Nahe)
Rümmelsheim (Nahe)
Oberhausen (Nahe)
Monzingen (Nahe)
Oestrich-Winkel (Rheingau)
Nackenheim (Rheinhessen)
Piesport (Mosel)
Niederhausen (Nahe)
Flörsheim-Dalsheim (Rheinhessen)
Kallstadt (Pfalz)
Münster-Sarmsheim (Nahe)
Bodenheim (Rheinhessen)
Oestrich-Winkel (Rheingau)
Hochheim (Rheingau)
Rüdesheim (Rheingau)
Forst (Pfalz)
Alsheim (Rheinhessen)
Siebeldingen (Pfalz)
Wallhausen (Nahe)
Bad Dürkheim (Pfalz)
Rümmelsheim (Nahe)
Bockenau (Nahe)
Nierstein (Rheinhessen)
Oestrich-Winkel (Rheingau)
Nierstein (Rheinhessen)
Karlstadt (Franken)
Oestrich-Winkel (Rheingau)
Kiedrich (Rheingau)
Hochheim (Rheingau)
Westhofen (Rheinhessen)



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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Acham-Magin

(Forst – Pfalz)

NB: The Estate is certified organic along Ökoland guidelines.

2020er	Acham-Magin	Forster Kirchenstück Riesling Trocken GG	21 21	93
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The 2020er Kirchenstück GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a beautifully creamy and flowery nose of jasmine, orange blossom, whipped almond cream, a hint of coconut, lily flower, and bergamot. The wine proves superbly refined and playful on the comparatively light weighted palate. Its smoothness and delicacy make for a not fully bone-dry feel but the finish is superbly long and pure thanks to a great ripe and zesty acidity cutting through the velvety side of the wine. This is a great dry Riesling from the Pfalz in the making. 2024-2035

2020er	Acham-Magin	Forster Pechstein Riesling Trocken GG	19 21	92
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The 2020er Pechstein GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a delicately aromatic and refined nose of cardamom, white pepper, balsam, white flowers, rosemary, and pear. The wine develops great presence and intensity on the palate. Some acidity takes over the lead in the very long, spicy (hot), and salty but also forceful finish. There are also quite some zest and herbal elements at play in the aftertaste. This dry Riesling will best be enjoyed in its youth with food. 2023-2027 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Geheimer Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan

(Deidesheim – Pfalz)

NB: The Estate is certified organic along general EU guidelines.

2020er	Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan	Forster Kirchenstück Riesling Trocken GG	49 1 21	90+
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The 2020er Kirchenstück Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, proves quite restrained and only hints at the underlying complexity more than delivers it at the moment. Notes of anise, herbs, earthy spices, rose water, and licorice come through with airing. The wine is driven by citrusy fruits and bracing acidity and leaves a quite razor-sharp feel in the very long finish. There is some upside here if the wine manages to integrate its powerful acidity with time. 2025-2030+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan	Forster Pechstein Riesling Trocken GG	33 1 21	89+
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The 2020er Pechstein Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers an aromatic and ripe nose of anise, pineapple, Conference pear, almond cream, rose water, and a touch of camphor. The wine is quite imposing on the palate, where some bracing acidity coupled to fresher elements of herbs and spices make for a quite ostentatious and powerful feel. The aftertaste is all about herbs, lime, and yuzu. This wine will need quite some time to develop its inner balance. 2025-2028+

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Weingut Battenfeld-Spanier

(Hohen-Sülzen – Rheinhessen)

NB: The Estate is certified organic (along general EU guidelines).

2020er	Battenfeld-Spanier	Hohen-Sülzer Kirchenstück Riesling Trocken GG	51 21	91
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The 2020er Kirchenstück GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a beautifully elegant and restrained nose of almond cream, aniseed herbs, William's pear, star fruit, greengage, and rosemary. The wine delivers plenty of fresh zesty fruits on the palate, which are superbly wrapped into good presence and intensity. Hot spices and salty elements enhance the underlying sense of intensity and presence. This dry Riesling made in an ostentatious and quite broad style is really well made as there is no overpowering side, even though all cursors are on the higher side. 2023-2027



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2020er	Battenfeld-Spanier	Mölsheimer Zellerweg Am Schwarzen Herrgott Riesling Trocken GG	52 21	91
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The 2020er Am Schwarzen Herrgott GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite aromatic even if still reductive nose of herbs, orange zest, apricot, pineapple, curry, sesame oil, star fruit, and a hint of banana. The wine proves juicy and fruity on the smooth rather than fully dry-tasting palate. Tartness and lively acidity then kick in and lift up the riper and smoother side. The wine leaves a clean and focused feel of citrusy fruits, herbs, and toasty elements in the finish. This wine will particularly appeal to lovers of Riesling upon Burgundy *élevage*. 2023-2030 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Reichsrat von Buhl

(Deidesheim – Pfalz)

NB: The Estate is certified organic along general EU guidelines.

2019er	von Buhl	Forster Pechstein Riesling Trocken GG	24 20	91
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The 2019er Pechstein Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, shows a superbly expressive and aromatic nose of ripe yellow fruits, some buttery elements, a hint of toffee, apricot, and coconut cream. The wine coats the palate with intense and ripe flavors of honeyed yellow fruits and leaves a straight and nicely focused feel in the very long and fully dry-tasting finish. There is still some tartness at play in the aftertaste. This ripe expression of dry Riesling is therefore still best left alone for another few years. 2023-2027 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2019er	von Buhl	Forster Kirchenstück Riesling Trocken GG	23 20	89
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The 2019er Kirchenstück Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite ripe and aromatic nose of canned pineapple, honeyed peach, strawberry juice, candied grapefruit, and butter cream. The wine proves very smooth and juicy on the palate, but some tartness and phenolic presence quickly joins the party and adds more structure to the experience. The finish, while very long and creamy, is still wrapped into a core of tartness in need of integration. The sense of power in the aftertaste would make us opt to enjoy this rather in its primary phase. 2022-2025

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Weingut Dr. Bürklin-Wolf

(Wachenheim – Pfalz)

NB: The Estate is certified organic along general EU guidelines.

2020er	Dr. Bürklin-Wolf	Forster Pechstein Riesling Trocken GG	41 21	90
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The 2020er Pechstein G.C., as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite rich and ample nose of anise, pear, herbs (thyme and rosemary), lime, and grapefruit. The wine is well structured and even slightly creamy on the palate, before some racy and herbal acidity kicks in and brings quite some liveliness to the experience. The finish feels bone-dry and salty. This dry Riesling will best be enjoyed in a few years' time. 2024-2030 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut A. Christmann

(Gimmeldingen – Pfalz)

NB: The Estate is certified organic along general EU guidelines and biodynamic along RESPEKT guidelines.

2020er	A. Christmann	Königsbacher Idig Riesling Trocken GG	33 21	93
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The 2020er Idig GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, presents a beautifully smoky and floral nose of anise, cassis, jasmine, licorice, and herbs, as well as a hint of camphor. The wine proves superbly zesty and elegant on the comparatively light-weighted yet complex palate. The finish is super long and focused, despite more weight and presence coming through, especially with airing. The overall balance remains on the fresh and lively side, and we would opt to enjoy this beauty rather in its primary phase of development. 2023-2030

2020er	A. Christmann	Königsbacher Ölberg-Hart Riesling Trocken GG	34 21	92
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The 2020er Ölberg-Hart GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, captures one's attention with some beautifully refined and aromatic notes of almond cream, herbs, spices, candied grapefruit, anise, and Conference pear. The wine develops great juicy presence which gives it depth and complexity, while the finish is more restrained but also zesty and spicy. It proves still compact but the overall complexity at play is superb. There is a little bit more presence and intensity in the very long finish, so that we would opt to enjoy it rather in its youth. 2024-2028 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Dr. Crusius

(Traisen – Nahe)

2020er	Dr. Crusius	Schlossböckelheimer Felsenberg Riesling Trocken GG	28 21	89
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The 2020er Felsenberg GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, has a quite powerful and aromatic nose of anise, pear, gooseberry, apple, and spices. The wine proves intense and structured on the rather broad and ripe palate. The finish has a line of zesty acidity cutting through the riper flavors. There is also some bitter tartness in need of integration. This is certainly impressive but also a bolder type of GG, to enjoy rather sooner than later. 2023-2026

2020er	Dr. Crusius	Schlossböckelheimer Kupfergrube Riesling Trocken GG	29 21	89
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The 2020er Kupfergrube GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a rather light and aromatic nose of pear, vineyard peach, herbs, mint, greengage, and anise. The wine is light and smoky on the delicately fruity and herbal palate. The finish reveals quite some intensity and even a touch of power and tartness, which gives a slightly broad feel to the whole wine. 2022-2028

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Schlossgut Diel

(Burg Layen – Nahe)

2020er	Diel	Dorsheimer Pittermännchen Riesling Trocken GG	25 21	92+
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The 2020er GG Riesling Pittermännchen, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from approx. 40-year-old vines in the parcels with deeper soils and was fermented and aged half in Stückfass (1,200-liter oak barrel) and half in stainless-steel tanks. It offers a most beautifully reductive and refined nose of smoke and residues from its spontaneous fermentation as some bakery scents come out of the glass, quickly joined by flowery elements, iron type of smoke, anise, and cardamom. The wine proves straight and very focused on the linear and medium-weighted palate. The acidity is even more clear, spicy, and almost racy in the very long and still slightly rough and herbal finish. This dry Riesling really needs a couple of years to integrate its acidity and fully shine, and we would even not be surprised if it will then even exceed our already high expectations. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)



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2019er	Diel	Dorsheimer Burgberg Riesling Trocken GG	24 21	92
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The 2019er GG Riesling Burgberg, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was fermented and matured for 1 year in *Stückfass* (used 1.200-liter oak barrel) and then another year in stainless steel tank with its lees, before being bottled (hence the late AP). Slightly reserved at first, it nevertheless quickly shows its complexity and quite perfumed nose of apricot, pear, candied violet and grapefruit, and some clear exotic and aromatic fruits including a hint of mango and guava. The wine reveals quite some depth and presence on the otherwise very compact and restrained palate. Tartness and phenolic presence make for an imposing and almost powerful finish. This wine needs a couple of years to fully shine and show its potential. 2024-2032

2020er	Diel	Dorsheimer Goldloch Riesling Trocken GG	23 21	90+
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The 2020er GG Riesling Goldloch, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from 40 to 70-year-old vines in partially terraced part of this full south-facing vineyard and was fermented and aged in *Stückfass* (1,200-liter oak barrel). It is finely reductive yet quickly shows a very subtle and still restrained nose of pear, almond cream, herbs, grapefruit, and cardamom. The wine proves racy and quite herbal on the linear and focused palate. The finish is still very primary and driven by lime and yuzu, which still need to integrate. Yet the finish is structured and quite intense and almost powerful. This racy expression of dry Riesling will need a couple of years to fully shine. 2025-2030+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Hermann Dönnhoff

(Oberhausen – Nahe)

2020er	Dönnhoff	Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Trocken GG	31 21	93
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The 2020er Hermannshöhle Riesling -GG-, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was made from the oldest vines in the full south-facing part of the vineyard. It proves quite herbal and finely reductive as scents of anise, cardamom, mint, sage, and rosemary emerge from the glass. With airing sweeter and riper elements of pear, greengage, orange, and apricot join the party. The wine is very delicate and finely fruity on the not fully bone-dry tasting palate. Yet the finish is very intense and has more depth and freshness as plenty of citrusy fruits kick in. Some tartness still needs to integrate in the hugely long, intense, and even slightly powerful aftertaste. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Dönnhoff	Norheimer Dellchen Riesling Trocken GG	30 21	92+
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The 2020er Dellchen Riesling -GG-, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is the only wine produced from this vineyard. It offers a captivating and complex nose of refined star anise, cardamom, herbs, mint, whipped almond cream, orange blossom, and lime tree. It proves well-structured and focused thanks to lime-driven acidity running through the palate. This acidity makes it come over as bone-dry and quite herbal in the long and assertive finish. This wine is still very primary and rough, and needs to integrate its bracing acidity before becoming truly great. There is clearly some upside potential here as the wine develops its finesse with age. 2024-2030+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Dönnhoff	Oberhäuser Brücke Riesling Trocken GG	32 21	Auction	92+
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The 2020er Oberhäuser Brücke Riesling Trocken GG, which uses the old classic label of the Estate, is still very primary and takes a while to reveal its highly aromatic nose of pear, greengage, yellow peach, apricot, anise, orange zest, and green apple, all wrapped into a hint of camphor, licorice, and volatile acidity. The wine proves very subtle and fruity on the palate, where the acidity is quick to join the party and adds a razor-sharp feel to the finish. It clearly needs to integrate for the wine to fully shine and has even some upside potential. 2024-2032

2020er	Dönnhoff	Bad Kreuznacher Krötenpfuhl Riesling Trocken GG	27 21	92
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The 2020er Krötenpfuhl Riesling -GG-, as it is referred to on the consumer label, immediately captures one's attention with plenty of aniseed scents of pear, minty herbs, black berry, and greengage. The wine proves engaging and well-structured on the juicy and very spicy palate. The acidity kicking in the finish makes for a great sense of focus. The aftertaste is very spicy and even salty. A touch of power adds persistence to the experience but also makes us opt to enjoy this dry Riesling on its early stage of life. 2024-2030



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2020er	Dönnhoff	Schlossböckelheimer Felsenberg Riesling Trocken GG	29 21	92
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The 2020er Felsenberg -GG-, as it is referred to on the consumer label, and referred internally at the Estate as Felsentürmchen (there is a tower depicted on the label), captures one's attention with a beautifully aromatic yet refined nose of almond cream, Conference pear, aniseed herbs, greengage, rose, and lavender. The wine coats the palate with some juicy flavors, which are quickly joined by more citrusy fruits and herbs but also a sense of power and camphor in the background. We would therefore opt to enjoy this impressive and complex expression of dry Riesling in its youth. 2024-2030

2020er	Dönnhoff	Roxheimer Höllenspfad im Mühlenberg Riesling Trocken GG	28 21	91
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The 2020er Höllenspfad im Mühlenberg Riesling -GG-, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a subtly aromatic and quite refined nose of pear, almond cream, pineapple, anise, green apple, and earthy spices. The wine proves fully juicy and fruity on the palate, which make it come over as not fully dry, yet the finish has nice energy and focus with plenty of spices and a touch of tartness (in need of integration). This very attractive and well-made dry Riesling will please lovers of smoother expressions of the genre. 2024-2032

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Weingut Emrich-Schönleber

(Monzingen – Nahe)

2020er	Emrich-Schönleber	Monzinger Halenberg Riesling Trocken GG	45 21	93
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The 2020er Halenberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, saw an up-to-5-hour pre-fermentation maceration and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in Stückfass (1,200-liter oak barrel) and Doppelstückfass (2,400-liter oak barrel). It offers a quite imposing and intense nose of spices, minty herbs, yellow peach, anise, fresh pineapple, mustard seed, and grapefruit, all wrapped into a hint of ginger and camphor. The wine proves intensely compact and almost full-bodied on the palate, where still quite some tartness and green elements are in need of integration. The finish is slightly broad at this stage yet also remarkably deep, intense, and persistent. This impressive dry Riesling will only start to shine in a couple of years. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Emrich-Schönleber	Monzinger Frühlingsplätzchen Riesling Trocken GG	44 21	92
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The 2020er Frühlingsplätzchen Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers an attractive and ripe nose of pear, anise, yellow peach, apricot, fresh herbs, and green apple. The wine is medium-bodied on the quite herbal and tart palate. It is however very impressive in the hugely long and structured finish. This dry Riesling clearly needs to integrate all its elements on the palate before the true pleasure will kick in. 2025-2035

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Weingut August Eser

(Oestrich-Winkel – Rheingau)

2020er	August Eser	Oestricher Doosberg Riesling Trocken GG	17 21	89
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The 2020er Doosberg Riesling GG trocken, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite herbal, smoky, and anise-driven nose of pear, lime, licorice, and lozenge. The wine proves juicy and rather broad on the palate, where plenty of white and yellow fruits underline the immediate fruitiness. Some herbal and zesty acidity emerge in the finish which add a rather sharp and angular feel to the wine. The aftertaste is persistent but also marked by tartness and phenolic presence. 2024-2028

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Weingut Gunderloch

(Nackenheim – Rheinhessen)

2020er	Gunderloch	Nackenheimer Fenchelberg Riesling Trocken GG	13 21	Auction	91
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The 2020er GG Fenchelberg Riesling Trocken, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a superbly restrained and complex nose of anise, herbs, almond, star fruit, raspberry, jasmine, and a hint of coconut. The wine is delicately smooth and juicy on the palate. It develops more finesse and focus as it unfolds. The finish offers good length and freshness, with just a touch of tartness still needing to integrate. 2024-2030

2020er	Gunderloch	Niersteiner Hipping Riesling Trocken GG	10 21		89
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The 2020er GG Hipping Riesling Trocken, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a nicely direct and attractive nose of herbs, mint, anise, pear, a touch of camphor, and red-berried fruits. The wine proves delicately smooth and juicy on the rather light-weighted palate. The finish is clean and nicely long, with just a touch of tartness still needing to integrate. 2023-2028

2020er	Gunderloch	Niersteiner Pettenthal Riesling Trocken GG	11 21		89
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The 2020er GG Pettenthal Riesling Trocken, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a delicately restrained and smoky nose of anise and almond, before more aromatic and riper scents of rose water, white pepper, yellow peach, grapefruit zest, and tangerine join the party. The wine proves delicately juicy and aromatic on the palate. The finish is lighter and driven by lemon and other citrusy fruits. It will be best enjoyed on its youthful primary fruit and charm. 2022-2027

2020er	Gunderloch	Niersteiner Rothenberg Riesling Trocken GG	12 21		88
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The 2020er GG Rothenberg Riesling Trocken, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a finely perfumed and elegant nose of rose water, almond, yellow flowers, mirabelle, and grapefruit, with a dash of sulfur reduction. The wine proves very aromatic on the palate and reminds one of the fruity sides (pear puree, mirabelle) of many wines from Alsace. The finish is nicely dry and herbal and satisfyingly long. This nicely made and aromatic expression of dry Riesling just needs a few years to get rid of its sulfur. 2023-2028

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Weingut Julian Haart

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Julian Haart	Nieder-Flörsheimer Frauenberg	18 21		92
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The 2020er Frauenberg, as it is referred to on the red and silver consumer label, comes from the Nieder-Flörsheimer Frauenberg, a well-known "Grand Cru" vineyard on limestone soil in Rheinhessen, where the Estate took over a parcel in 2018. The grapes were brought to and fermented at the facilities in Piesport down to bone-dry levels of residual sugar. It offers a very fine and aromatic nose of yellow peach, apricot, herbs, mint, and almond cream. The wine develops good presence and juicy fruits on the palate and leaves a rather opulent yet fine taste in the very long and intense finish. There is still a touch of tartness in need of integration, so that this wine will really only shine in a few years. 2024-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Gut Hermannsberg

(Niederhausen – Nahe)

2020er	Hermannsberg	Niederhäuser Steinberg Riesling Trocken GG	20 21		92
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The 2020er Steinberg GG Niederhausen, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a beautifully refined and smoky nose of almond, herbs, white mint, lozenge, stone fruits, and anise. The wine proves pure and very clean on the herbal and lemon-driven palate. It proves well-structured, intense, and energetic in the long and layered finish. This is a superbly focused expression of dry Riesling. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)



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2019er	Hermannsberg	Traiser Bastei Riesling Trocken GG	01 20	90+
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The 2019er Bastei GG Traisen, as it is referred to on the consumer label, proves rather closed, especially as it is still under the impact of some sulfur reduction (gunpowder). After some extensive airing, it reveals riper scents of pear, greengage, honeysuckle, prune, and acacia. The wine develops good presence and ripeness on the well-structured palate. The finish is slightly firmer and compact, but there is quite some complexity at play, which now just needs time to fully come through. There is also a quite aromatic side in the fully dry aftertaste. This is pretty much work in progress and only hints at its potential. Patience will be needed to let this dry Riesling reveal its charm. 2025-2032+

2020er	Hermannsberg	Altenbamberger Rotenberg Riesling Trocken GG	15 21	90
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The 2020er Rotenberg GG Altenbamberg, as it is referred to on the consumer label, presents a quite aromatic and rich nose of anise, pear, greengage, green apple, herbs, and spices, all wrapped into minty smoke. The wine is nicely playful and light on the fruity and zesty palate. It leaves a clean and herbal feel in the long and smoky finish. This is a superb dry Riesling for lovers of lighter and zestier expressions of the genre. 2023-2028 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Hermannsberg	Schlossböckelheimer Felsenberg Riesling Trocken GG	25 21	90
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The 2020er Felsenberg GG Schlossböckelheim, as it is referred to on the consumer label, has a quite restrained and almost non-saying nose of smoke and anise. With airing, it only timidly reveals riper scents of cardamom, greengage, mirabelle, candy floss, and white pepper. It proves well-balanced on the palate, yet the finish is driven by quite some bracing and herbal acidity. There is also some tartness in need of integration. 2023-2028

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Weingut Keller

(Flörsheim-Dalsheim – Rheinhessen)

2020er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max		97
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The 2020er G-Max Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a bone-dry wine made from an undisclosed source of Estate grapes harvested in Grand Cru sites from very old vines and small yields. It initially proves hugely reductive, yet its incredible complexity and freshness are quick to come through and as gorgeous notes of grilled grapefruit, minty herbs, white flowers, spices, and white pepper emerge from the glass. This elegant and refined side gives way to quite some density and presence on the palate. As so often with the G-Max, there is no sense of opulence or weight. The finish is hugely long and very spicy. This is a little jewel of dry Riesling but one which will only start to show its real potential in a decade, if not more. 2035-2050+

2020er	Keller	Niersteiner Pettenthal Riesling Trocken GG		96
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The 2020er Pettenthal Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a bone-dry wine made from very low yields (only 14 hl/ha) and pressed over 3 days with an over 100-year-old basket press. It proves very reductive at first but quickly reveals a lot of refinement and elegance as scents of anise, spices, floral elements, bergamot, and grapefruit emerge from the glass. The wine is magnificently refined and pure on the zesty-driven palate. A touch of fine creamy presence and density lifts up the wine to another level in the finish. This is a breathtaking dry Riesling. 2030-2050

2020er	Keller	Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen Abts E® Riesling Trocken GG		95+
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The 2020er Abts E®, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a bone-dry wine made from a selection of small-berried fruit picked in the Abtserde (hence the "Abts E®" play on word), which is a prime sector of the Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen vineyard. It offers a superbly floral and gorgeously aromatic nose of vineyard peach, orange blossom, almond cream, minty herbs, spices, and white flowers. The wine shines through its lightness and elegance on the superbly creamy and airy palate. The very long finish reveals great intensity and zest. This is a great elegant expression of dry Riesling in the making. 2028-2045

2020er	Keller	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken GG	24 21	95
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The 2020er Kirchspiel Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a bone-dry wine made from vines planted in 1964 in the upper part of the vineyard. It offers a most engaging and deeply compelling and fresh nose of magnificent fresh and pure herbal and spicy elements, lime, grapefruit zest, and mint. The wine proves very pure, intensely energetic, and razor sharp (without being aggressive) on the palate. It then develops more density and presence, yet this density is well wrapped into a core of vibrating acidity and salty elements. The finish is extremely long, finely aromatic, and fully bone-dry. This is one of the most beautiful renditions of Kirchspiel we have ever tasted. This great filigreed and refined expression so typical of the vineyard is a huge success in 2020. 2028-2045 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)



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2020er	Keller	Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG	94+
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The 2020er Morstein Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a bone-dry wine made from 75-year-old vines and low yields (under 30 hl/ha) in one single old Fuder. It offers an aromatic, intense, and very complex nose of herbs, pineapple, grapefruit, mint, ginger, and a hint of camphor. The wine captures one's attention as it proves hugely intense, compact, and dense on the palate. Notes of lemon and citrus are wrapped into plenty of spices and add to the feeling of razor-sharpness which emerges into the long and tight finish. There is also a light phenolic and powerful presence. This hugely impressive but still very primary dry Riesling will require a couple of years to fully show its potential. There is clear upside potential if it manages to gain finesse over time. 2025-2035+

2020er	Keller	Niersteiner Hipping Riesling Trocken GG	94
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The 2020er Hipping Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a bone-dry wine made from the oldest vines in this parcel and very low yields (only 20 hl/ha). It offers an aromatic and engaging nose of anise, almond cream, tangerine, lime, and a touch of nut and apricot. The wine is straight and vibrating on the hugely fresh, herbal, and lime-driven palate and leaves a touch of tartness which still needs to integrate in the finish. This is a superbly focused expression of dry Riesling in the making. 2028-2040

2020er	Keller	Dalsheimer Hubacker Riesling Trocken GG	25 21	93
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The 2020er Hubacker Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a bone-dry wine made only from the upper and steeper part of the vineyard. It proves initially rather restrained and needs a few minutes in the glass to reveal a quite aromatic and attractive nose of grapefruit, pineapple, tangerine, white mint, and yellow flowers, all wrapped into a sea of spices. The aromatic side of the wine is also noticeable on the palate, which has great presence and even a light juicy and broad side. The finish proves hugely long and also superbly fresh thanks to an exquisite lemon-driven acidity cutting through the more aromatic side. This hugely impressive GG needs a couple of years to show all its finesse. 2027-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Keller	Dalsheimer Riesling Trocken	92
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The 2020er Dalsheimer Riesling Trocken is a bone-dry wine made from vines in the Hubacker from vines planted in the lower part of the vineyard. It offers a beautifully spicy and herbal nose of lime, greengage, anise, grapefruit zest, and tangerine. The wine proves still very primary on the spicy and herbal palate, which is clearly marked by tension and tartness. This superb dry Riesling will need a couple of years to gain finesse and fully shine. 2025-2035

2020er	Keller	Westhofener Riesling Trocken	92
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The 2020er Westhofener Riesling Trocken is a bone-dry wine made from 60-year-old vines in the *Liebesnest* section of the Kirchspiel. Slightly reductive at first, this wine takes a while to reveal its beautifully refined and smoky nose of white peach, minty herbs, lemon, grapefruit, and spices. The wine proves still massively primary, tight, and intense on the focused, spicy, and zesty (almost racy) palate. There is still a touch of tartness in need of integration in the hugely long, bone-dry, and saline finish. This almost razor-sharp and even strict bone-dry Riesling will need a couple of years to fully shine, but the wait will be worth it. 2026-2040

2020er	Keller	Riesling Trocken von der Fels	12 21	91+
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The 2020er Riesling - von der Fels -, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, comes mainly from the Kirchspiel with in addition 2 declassified cask from the Abtserde. It offers a quite appealing and rich nose of minty and earthy herbs, rosemary, and thyme as well as plenty of spices, almond, ginger, pink grapefruit, and pear. The wine coats the palate with ample juicy and fresh juice before a quite tart, herbal, and intensely zesty side cuts through these flavors. The finish has even a broader and more powerful side. While the wine is already very impressive, it will only start to shine in a couple of years. There is even some upside as the wine gains finesse and elegance over the years. 2025-2035+

OTHER NOTEWORTHY WINES TASTED FROM THE ESTATE

2019er	Keller	Westhofener Morstein Spätburgunder Trocken GG Felix	96+
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The 2019er Morstein Spätburgunder Felix, as it is referred to on the front label, was made from 75-year-old vines and was vinified with 80% whole-bunch grapes. It offers a stunningly pure nose of blackberry fruit, fresh rose, peony, mint, herbs, black pepper, licorice, and a whiff of fine wood and spices. The wine proves marvelously precise and elegant on the refined and spicy palate. It is only medium-weighted but has huge intensity and length, and above all an extraordinary freshness. This is a breathtaking effort which manages to combine complexity with airiness. We would not be surprised if it eventually would warrant an even higher rating. It is that impressive! 2029-2044+



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2019er	Keller	Nieder-Flörsheimer Frauenberg Spätburgunder Trocken	18 21	95
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The 2019er Frauenberg Spätburgunder, as it is referred to on the front label, was made from 20-year-old vines (coming from a massale selection) and was vinified with 60% whole-bunch grapes. It offers a rather dark, very spicy nose, and superbly complex nose of black pepper, smoke, a hint of bacon, cassis, sandalwood, and herbs. The wine proves very focused and has lot of tension on the spicy and precise palate. It develops more and more presence as it develops. The finish is superb long, very spicy, and driven by black berried fruits. This gorgeous red wine is still very primary and will only really fully deliver in a couple of years. 2027-2039+

2019er	Keller	Dalsheimer Bürgel Spätburgunder Trocken GG	17 21	93
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The 2019er Bürgel Spätburgunder, as it is referred to on the front label, was made from 35-year-old vines and was vinified with 35% whole-bunch grapes. It offers a beautifully refined, discreet, and very floral nose with notes of raspberry, peony, beetroot, cassis, fine Indian spices, and a whiff of vanilla. The wine proves juicy and driven by red berried and sweet fruits on the palate, giving it a seemingly smooth and almost soft side. Yet the finish has all the classic acidity and tension of great Pinot from cooler regions. Some tannins also come through and add some weight, but are also in need of integration. The aftertaste is all about freshness, purity, and focus. This great Pinot Noir needs a few years to integrate its elements on the palate. 2024-2039

2020er	Keller	Scheurebe Trocken Alte Reben		92
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The 2020er Scheurebe Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is made from 75-year-old vines in the La Borne section of the Westhofener Morstein and was fermented to fully bone-dry levels (1 g/l of residual sugar). It proves quite reductive and driven by quite intense residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation at first. It then opens up to offer fresh notes of cassis, chamomile, minty herbs, and white flowers, all wrapped into a touch of whipped cream. The wine starts off on the round, aromatic, and fruity side on the palate and even seems to show some creamy presence, but the acidity and tension are quick to give a lot of focus and nerve to the bone-dry and lime-yuzu-driven finish. It needs a few years to integrate all its elements before true greatness. This is a very special expression Scheurebe in the making. 2024-2038

2019er	Keller	Spätburgunder Trocken Réserve du Fils		92
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The 2019er Spätburgunder - Réserve du Fils -, as it is referred to on the front label, is made from 15-year-old vines. It proves very attractive and perfumed and a whiff of volatile enhances the aromatics composed of strawberry, raspberry, rose, lots of spices, and herbs. The wine initially shows some roundness and cream, before acidity kicks in and makes for a very clean and pure feeling of fresh fruits on the palate. It is lighter in the long and well-delineated finish. This red wine proves a superb fresh and light-weighted rendition of Pinot Noir. 2024-2034

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Weingut Koehler-Ruprecht

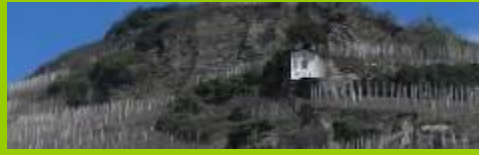
(Kallstadt – Pfalz)

2016er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken R	16 19	98+
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The 2016er Kallstadter Saumagen Auslese Trocken R, which will only be released later, offers an absolutely tantalizing and captivating nose which still is initially finely reductive as scents of grilled citrusy fruits are wrapped into great scents of whipped almond cream (from its spontaneous fermentation), plenty of refined flowery elements, and minty herbs. The wine combines huge depth, energy, and complexity on the palate with a most beautiful airy and delicate side. The length is already stunning and there is already a great sense of finesse and spicy herbs coming through. This dry Riesling is still very primary and will need quite some more years to fully develop its complexity. But there is the potential for perfection here. 2026-2046+

2017er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken R	12 18	95+
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The 2017er Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken R, which was released in April 2021, offers a truly gorgeous and hugely complex nose of fresh herbs, anise, orange blossom, almond, tangerine, candied grapefruit, cherry, elderflower, cassis, and blueberry. The wine still proves quite primary yet also very deep and hugely focused and still pretty much compact on the palate. The density of the wine is really breathtaking: It combines great intensity and even power with delicacy and finesse. This wine is already more impressive now than when we tasted it two years ago and has even some upside potential. What a great dry Riesling in the making! 2027-2047



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2018er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken R	16 19	94
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The 2018er Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken R, which will only be released in 2022, offers a quite captivating and aromatic nose of anise, fennel seeds, chamomile, Conference pear, minty herbs, lozenge, greengage, and almond cream. The wine starts off on the fruity and smooth creamy side on the palate, yet builds up in presence as it unfolds and delivers great intensity in the very long and focused finish. There is even a touch of power in the hugely long and imposing finish. There is still some tartness in need of integration and this is best left alone for another few years. 2024-2033+

2019er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken	13 20	94
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The 2019er Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken, which was released in May 2021, has a most appealing, refined, and beautifully complex nose of vineyard peach, chamomile, a touch of whipped almond cream, fine spices, and minty herbs. The wine delivers great focus and presence on the still slightly compact but already deep and intense palate. The finish is subtly light-feathered, very long and precise, even if not bone-dry. This is a beautiful wine in the making. 2025-2039 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2019er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken	14 20	93
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The 2019er Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken, which was released in September 2021, offers a quite ripe and very aromatic nose of pear puree, candied grapefruit, minty and aniseed herbs, rosemary, thyme, and licorice. The wine is driven by ripe and zesty acidity which brings focus to the otherwise more opulent and baroque palate. The fruit slowly gives way to a spicier side in the very long and intense finish. The aftertaste has plenty of smoke and primary elements of herbs and tartness. This is very impressive in a more forceful yet very engaging style. 2025-2034+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken	14 21	92
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The 2020er Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken, which will be released in September 2022, proves hugely aromatic and pure on the nose as beautiful scents of Williams's pear, tangerine, grapefruit zest, minty herbs, and plenty of spices emerge from the glass. The wine coats the palate with great ripe yet delicate yellow fruits and whipped almond cream wrapped into zesty and spicy flavors. There is a touch of opulence and smoothness but the wine remains well balanced and nicely focused in the very long and imposing finish. 2025-2035

2020er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken	13 21	92
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The 2020er Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Spätlese Trocken, which will be released in May 2022, offers an attractive nose of ripe yellow peach, apricot, strawberry, prune, herbs, spices, and mint. Some flowery elements join in as the wine breathes. It develops good presence on the palate, where the subtly fruity elements are wrapped into superbly herbal elements. Zesty and spicy elements round off the experience in the finish. This dry Riesling will need a couple of years to fully develop its complexity and truly shine. 2027-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2019er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Kabinett Trocken	12 20	92
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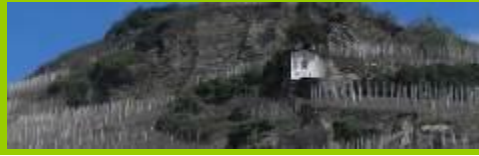
The 2019er Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Kabinett Trocken, which was released in December 2020, offers a superbly aromatic and refined nose of herbs, pear, yellow peach, yellow flowers, anise, and a hint of tangerine. The wine shows superb concentration (especially for a dry Kabinett) but also finesse on the palate, where some creamy and delicately ripe yellow fruits make for a light smooth feel. The finish has focus and a beautifully ripe and juicy acidity, which leaves a very clean feel of spices, grapefruit, and lime. This is really impressive. 2023-2034 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Kabinett Trocken	12 21	89
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The 2020er Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Kabinett Trocken, which will be released in December 2021, offers an attractive and spicy nose of candied yellow fruits, orange zest, a touch of pineapple, apricot, and toffee. The wine proves light-weighted and quite juicy on the fruity and smooth palate and leaves a light-feathered and fruity feel in the not bone dry-tasting finish (as the acidity feel is on the lower side). It proves already quite appealing and easy to drink but will only start to really blossom as of next year. 2022-2028

2020er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Riesling Kabinett Trocken	08 21	87
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The 2020er Kallstadter Riesling Kabinett Trocken, which was bottled in June 2021, was made from different plots in Kallstadt including some Saumagen this year. It offers a very aromatic and musk-driven nose of rose water, pink grapefruit, green apple, lemon, and quince, as well as some fine residues from its fermentation. The wine proves also very aromatic on the light-weighted and direct palate and leaves a dry rather than bone-dry feel in the nicely animating finish driven by candied grapefruit and peach. This dry Riesling already offers great drinking pleasure now and for the coming years. Now-2026



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OTHER NOTEWORTHY WINES TASTED FROM THE ESTATE

2020er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Chardonnay Spätlese Trocken	17 21	91+
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The 2020er Chardonnay Trocken, as it is referred to on the front label, is made from vines planted in 1988 in the Kallstadter Annaberg and Saumagen and was matured in small (228 and 300-liter) oak barrels before being bottled in July 2021. It will only be commercially released as of December 2021. It proves initially rather shy and almost muted and shows a light wood impact with fine and in no way disturbing scents of vanilla, and acacia, before it reveals a beautiful nose of greengage, yellow peach, fine pear, anise, and flowery elements. The wine delivers superb creamy and subtle notes of almond and some yellow fruits underpinned by a very light touch from the oak on the palate and leaves a refined and very elegant feel in the smoky, zesty, and focused finish. The persistence is quite stunning. This wine only needs a couple of years to integrate its light oak presence and even has some upside potential if it gains complexity. 2024-2032

2020er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Annaberg Chardonnay Spätlese Trocken	16 21	90
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The 2020er Kallstadter Annaberg Chardonnay Spätlese Trocken is made from vines planted in 1993 and 1991 and was matured in 600-liter oak barrel (*Halbstückfass*). It offers a superbly refined and spicy nose of tangerine, herbs, hay, thyme, yellow peach, a hint of apricot, and honeysuckle. The wine proves juicy and fruity as it coats the palate with light and delicate creamy flavors of anise and herbs. The finish is nicely focused, herbal, and spicy. The aftertaste proves both dense and beautifully persistent. This is a delicious Chardonnay made in a refined, filigreed, and pure way. 2023-2028

2020er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Chardonnay Kabinett Trocken	15 21	87
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The 2020er Chardonnay Kabinett Trocken is made from young vines (planted in 2014) and was matured in 600-liter oak barrel (*Halbstückfass*) and 1,200-liter oak barrel (*Stückfass*), among which some were new, before being bottled in June 2021. It offers an aromatic nose of Conference pear, almond, canned yellow peach, anise, star fruit, herbs, and light notes of vanilla. The wine proves delicate and flowery on the palate where the creamy side coupled to a lower feeling of acidity make for a direct and charming experience. This wine proves already very nice to enjoy now in its direct appeal. Now-2024

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Weingut Kruger-Rumpf

(Münster-Sarmsheim – Nahe)

NB: The Estate is certified organic along general EU guidelines.

2020er	Kruger-Rumpf	Dorsheimer Burgberg Riesling Trocken GG	51 21	93
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The 2020er Burgberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite imposing and captivating nose of honeysuckle, orange zest, apricot, strawberry, minty herbs, and pineapple, all wrapped into a dash of volatile acidity which enhances the complexity (rather than disturbs the aromatics). The wine proves structured and quite impressive on the palate, where it still has quite some tartness and tannins. The anise-driven and bone-dry finish is beautifully long and focused, yet also slightly hot, which would make us opt to enjoy this beautiful dry Riesling with more than a touch of Burgundian charm in the coming years. 2023-2028

2020er	Kruger-Rumpf	Münsterer Im Pitterberg Riesling Trocken GG	49 21	93
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The 2020er Im Pitterberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from old vines planted in the 1940s and 1960s and was fermented and aged in old Stückfass (1,200-liter oak barrel) on its gross lees until July. It offers a very complex and beautifully attractive nose of almond cream, candied grapefruit, anise, cherry, violet, minty herbs, and honeysuckle. The wine is superbly balanced and delivers great presence on the anise-driven palate. It is imposing and even a touch powerful, but not over the top. The finish is hugely long, structured, and quite compelling. This is a very impressive dry Riesling. 2024-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)



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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2020er	Kruger-Rumpf	Münsterer Dautenpflänzer Riesling Trocken GG	52 21	91
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The 2020er Dautenpflänzer Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a bone-dry Riesling (with less than 1 g/l of residual sugar) comes from old vines planted in the 1950s and was fermented and aged in old Stückfass (1,200-liter oak barrel) on its gross lees until July. It offers a superbly aromatic nose driven by anise, almond cream, candied grapefruit, cardamom, herbs, and a touch of riper elements including mirabelle and greengage, all wrapped into a hint of camphor and volatile. The wine proves juicy and very creamy on the well-structured and almond driven palate. There are plenty of spices and still a touch of initial tartness and tannins in need of integration, while the finish reveals already great presence and length. 2024-2032 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Kühling-Gillot

(Bodenheim – Rheinhessen)

NB: The Estate is certified organic (along general EU guidelines).

2020er	Kühling-Gillot	Niersteiner Pettenthal Riesling Trocken GG	56 21	93
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The 2020er Pettenthal, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a hugely reductive and smoky nose of almond, orange zest, candied grapefruit, bacon, and toast. It is only gradually that riper scents of fruits (yellow peach and raspberry) kick in. The wine is full of grip and energy on the palate driven by citrusy fruits, sesame, and fine buttery elements. The finish develops great persistence despite its lightness, with plenty of fresh and complex elements in the aftertaste. This singular dry Riesling made along the lines of great reductive Burgundian wines is really impressive. 2025-2035

2020er	Kühling-Gillot	Niersteiner Ölberg Riesling Trocken GG	58 21	92
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The 2020er Ölberg, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers quite some spicy and reduced notes of smoke, nut, herbs, and mustard seed. After some extensive airing, it proves more floral and refined as some yellow and riper fruits emerge from the glass. The wine comes over as focused and layered on the tart and slightly tannic palate. A nice sense of extraction and presence packed into plenty of energetic ripe and zesty acidity cleanses the palate. The wine leaves one with a straight, focused, and animating feel in the razor-sharp finish. This dry Riesling will not please everybody, but lovers of "Riesling upon Burgundy" styled wines will find much to like here in a few years' time. 2025-2033 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Kühling-Gillot	Niersteiner Hipping Riesling Trocken GG	57 21	90+
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The 2020er Hipping, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite smoky and ripe nose with hints of toffee, pear puree, yellow peach, star fruit, and juicy pineapple. The wine develops great grip and presence on the palate which is still under the impact of tartness and tannins. The finish, while still on the tart side, already hints at the freshness to come, even though the whole balance remains one of power at this stage. This imposing and impressive wine will need a couple of years to tame its vigor. It will then prove a great dry Riesling with some Burgundian elements and has even some upside potential if it gains finesse. 2025-2032 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Peter Jakob Kühn

(Oestrich-Winkel– Rheingau)

NB: The Estate is certified organic along general EU guidelines and certified biodynamic along DEMETER guidelines. The Estate does not refer explicitly to the GG status of its dry wines from Grosse Lage classified by the VDP on its labels, but only via the GG symbol embossed in the bottle.

2019er	Peter Jakob Kühn	Oestricher Doosberg Riesling Trocken GG	08 21	94
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The 2019er Doosberg Riesling trocken, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a captivating even if still slightly restrained nose of earthy spices, almond, nut oil, fresh herbs, cinnamon, black berry, pineapple, and a hint of toffee in the background. The wine comes over as superbly layered on the palate where juicy and ripe yellow fruits and even a touch of honey cream are wrapped into ripe zesty acidity. Minty herbs, nut cream, and plenty of citrusy fruits make for a lively and complex feel in the hugely long finish. There is still quite some tartness and phenolic presence at play, so that this little beauty of ripe yet playful expression of dry Riesling needs another couple of years to reveal its full grandness. 2024-2034 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)



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"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2019er	Peter Jakob Kühn	Mittelheimer Sankt Nikolaus Riesling Trocken GG	07 21	92
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The 2019er Sankt Nikolaus Riesling trocken, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is quite restrained and only delivers ripe and rich notes of toffee, nut cream, dried apricot, and honey. After extensive airing, it reveals subtler notes of herbs, licorice, and mirabelle. The wine proves quite compact but also marked by ripe flavors of toffee and buttery elements on the palate. This riper expression of Sankt Nikolaus GG will please lovers of mature wines: It will be best enjoyed in its youth before the oxidative side takes over. 2022-2027 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Künstler

(Hochheim – Rheingau)

2020er	Künstler	Kostheimer Weiss Erd Riesling Trocken GG	17 21	90
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The 2020er GG Kostheim Weiss Erd, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite aromatic and direct nose of pineapple, ginger-driven spices, mirabelle, greengage, canned yellow peach, rose water, and dried apricot. The wine is delicately smooth and juicy, and some acidity brings the right frame to the rather ample and fully aromatic palate. 2023-2028

2020er	Künstler	Rüdesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling Trocken GG	18 21	90
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The 2020er GG Rüdesheim Berg Schlossberg, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite herbal and smoky nose of anise, dried herbs, smoke, greengage, lime, and green apple, wrapped into a touch of toffee. The wine proves quite intense and even powerful on the palate and leaves a spicy and herbal feel in the very long and assertive finish. It will please lovers of more ostentatious and very herbal expressions of dry Riesling. 2024-2028 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Leitz

(Rüdesheim – Rheingau)

2019er	Leitz	Rüdesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling Trocken GG	83 21	91
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The 2019er Berg Schlossberg Rüdesheim GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, possesses a quite herbal and smoky nose of spearmint, freshly cut herbs, canned pineapple, and hot spices. The wine is driven at this stage by quite some tartness and phenolic presence on the powerful and quite broad palate which underline the riper side of this vineyard. It leaves one with a sense of quite some juicy fruits in the long, very spicy, and salty finish. Lovers of ostentatious and bigger expressions of dry Riesling will find much to enjoy here. 2025-2033 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Georg Mosbacher

(Forst - Pfalz)

2020er	Georg Mosbacher	Forster Pechstein Riesling Trocken GG	43 21	90
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The 2020er Pechstein GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite seductive and ripe nose of greengage, canned yellow peach, mirabelle, prune, nutmeg, and buttery elements. The wine is delicately smooth and fruity on the palate and leaves a more assertive and focused finish as nice ripe zesty acidity joins the party. This juicy but ripe expression of dry Riesling is very well made. 2024-2030 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Rappenhof

(Alsheim – Rheinhessen)

2020er	Rappenhof	Niersteiner Pettenthal Riesling Trocken GG	32 21	90
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The 2020er Nierstein Pettenthal Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a ripe and fruit driven nose of pear puree, pineapple juice, raspberry, almond cream, melon, and star fruit. The wine is also on the fruity and juicy side on the palate, yet shows nice focus and presence in the very long and well-delineated finish. 2023-2028

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Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz

(Siebeldingen – Pfalz)

NB: The Estate is certified organic along general EU guidelines and certified biodynamic along RESPEKT guidelines.

2020er	Rebholz	Birkweiler Kastanienbusch Riesling GG	21 21	91
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The 2020er Kastanienbusch GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, has a beautifully complex and fresh nose of candied lime, smoke, mint, herbs, greengage, candied grapefruit, and raspberry. The wine develops good presence and structure on the palate and leaves a refreshing, herbal, and zesty feel in the very long and straight finish. The razor-sharp feel in the aftertaste gives a bone-dry feel to this still rather primary dry Riesling. 2025-2035

2020er	Rebholz	Siebeldinger Im Sonnenschein Riesling GG	26 21	90+
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The 2020er Im Sonnenschein GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite restrained and smoky nose and needs a few minutes in the glass to reveal attractive notes of pear, star fruit, canned yellow peach, lozenge, strawberry, a touch of anise, and herbs. The wine proves straight and driven by zesty acidity on the palate and leaves a very spicy and bone-dry feel in the very long finish. This dry Riesling is still pretty much work in progress and could well exceed our high expectations if it gains finesse over time. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Rebholz	Riesling GG Ganz Horn	19 21	89+
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The 2020er "Ganz Horn" GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a comparatively restrained and closed nose and only hints at some fresh scents of mint and green herbs. Notes of pear, anise, and lime tree come through with airing. The wine proves dominated by bracing and racy acidity on the palate and leaves an intense and razor-sharp feel in the long and smoky finish. It proves still rough and almost unpleasant at the time and will need some extensive aging before true greatness, and there is clearly some upside potential here. 2026-2035+

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Weingut Prinz Salm

(Wallhausen – Nahe)

2019er	Prinz Salm	Wallhäuser Johannisberg Riesling Trocken GG	20 20	Auction 91
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The 2019er Johannisberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite captivating and very aromatic nose of anise, Conference pear, herbs, mint, melon, and lime. The wine has a great fruity and creamy presence on the palate, which make it come over as not fully dry. Buttery flavors of yellow peach and jasmine confirm the richer and riper side of the wine in the very long and quite imposing finish. The aftertaste is all about whipped almond cream and citrusy fruits, with a dash of pear and power. This dry Riesling will best be enjoyed in its youthful shine period. 2022-2027



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2018er	Prinz Salm	Wallhäuser Felseneck Riesling Trocken GG	02 20	90
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The 2018er Felseneck Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, proves very aromatic and ripe as plenty of juicy fruits including pear, yellow peach, apricot, and pineapple as well as almond cream and butterscotch dominate the aromatics. The wine proves almost Burgundian on the palate where juicy honeysuckle and buttery elements join the party. The finish is quite imposing and very long, with some fleeting tartness in need of integration. This aromatic and ripe expression of dry Riesling is best enjoyed with hearty food. 2022-2026

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Weingut Karl Schäfer

(Bad Dürkheim – Pfalz)

NB: The Estate is certified organic along general guidelines.

2019er	Karl Schaefer	Forster Pechstein Riesling Trocken GG	22 20	90
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The 2019er Pechstein GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a comparatively restrained and nicely fresh nose of herbs, anise, mint, white pepper, pear, rose water, and star fruit. The wine proves focused and very intense on the rather light-weighted palate. Aniseed herbs and lime drive the flavor profile in the very long and fully dry-tasting finish. This lighter and fresher version of dry Riesling is quite appealing. 2022-2027

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Weingut Joh. Bapt. Schäfer

(Rümmelsheim – Nahe)

2020er	Joh. Bapt. Schäfer	Dorsheimer Goldloch Riesling Trocken GG	16 21	90
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The 2020er Goldloch Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a very aromatic and almost fruity-styled nose of grapefruit, orange blossom, yellow peach, and almond cream, all wrapped into residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation and gooseberry (reminiscent of Sauvignon Blanc). The wine is delicately juicy and fruity on the palate, where some fresher flavors of gooseberry, mint, and cassis kick in. The finish is fully dry and light-weighted, yet there is some underlying power which adds length and depth to the experience. This light yet structured expression of dry Riesling will best be enjoyed in its primary and seductive phase. 2022-2027

2020er	Joh. Bapt. Schäfer	Dorsheimer Pittermännchen Riesling Trocken GG	15 21	89
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The 2020er Pittermännchen Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite aromatic and still very primary at first as scents of fermenting grapes wrapped in a whiff of volatile acidity emerge from the glass. These then give way to fresh scents of grapefruit, lime, herbs, mint, gooseberry, and cassis. The wine is rather light-weighted and very spicy on the palate, which is really driven by its acidity and freshness. This wine proves still rough and racy and needs a couple of years to integrate its bracing acidity. This light expression of dry Riesling will please lovers of racy dry wines. 2024-2030

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Weingut Schäfer-Fröhlich

(Bockenau – Nahe)

2020er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Bockenauer Felseneck Riesling Trocken GG	21 21	95
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The 2020er Felseneck Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite appealing and superbly complex reduction mixing some bakery and pastry elements to orange blossom and lime tree. After some airing, it reveals its sensational nose of citrusy fruits, herbs, mint, cassis, citrus, and plenty of spices. The wine proves razor-sharp on the smoky and straight palate. It has gorgeous energy and intensity in the hugely long and layered finish. The aftertaste brings lemon, yuzu, and salty elements. The purity and vibration of the wine are simply breathtaking. This bone-dry and racy dry Riesling is a must-buy for lovers of the genre. 2025-2033 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)



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2020er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Monzinger Frühlingsplätzchen Riesling Trocken GG	18 21	94
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The 2020er Frühlingsplätzchen Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a beautifully reductive and finely aromatic and flowery nose of lime tree, herbs, white peach, smoke, and lozenge. The wine proves very clean and vibrating on the palate, where a touch of cream adds even more playfulness to the experience. The finish remains however focused, razor-sharp, and bone-dry. Lovers of racy expression of dry Riesling will love this wine. 2024-2032

2020er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Bockenauer Stromberg Riesling Trocken GG	20 21	93
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The 2020er Stromberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, has a rather restrained yet smoky and reductive nose of lime, herbs, mint, greengage, earthy spices, and green apple. The wine starts off on a light fruity and very delicate and almost smooth side on the palate. It leaves a superbly precise and zesty feel in the very long and bone-dry tasting finish. A pungent sense of acidity drives the flavors in the aftertaste and adds raciness to the whole experience. 2024-2033

2020er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Monzinger Halenberg Riesling Trocken GG	19 21	92
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The 2020er Halenberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, proves quite reductive at first and only hints at smoky notes of nut oil and herbs. After some airing, it reveals riper elements including yellow peach, pear, candy floss, spices, and citrusy fruits. The wine is superbly compact and restrained on the palate, where tartness still dominates the whole experience. The finish is very long, focused, and bone-dry. This is pretty much work in progress and will need quite some time to fully integrate its elements. 2025-2032 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Schlossböckelheimer Felsenberg Riesling Trocken GG	17 21	92
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The 2020er Felsenberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is still marked by a bacon-driven reduction as well as some pungent smoky scents of gunpowder. It then gradually opens up to reveal its refined nose of lime tree, pear, apricot, orange blossom, and yellow peach. The wine is comparatively light-weighted on the linear yet refined palate. Some bracing acidity lifts up the aromatics in the very long and smoky finish. The aftertaste is all about racy lime and spices. This racy and bone-dry Riesling will please lovers of precise expressions of the genre. 2024-2032

2020er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Schlossböckelheimer Kupfergrube Riesling Trocken GG	16 21	92
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The 2020er Kupfergrube Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, initially proves very smoky and reductive and only gradually reveals refined and complex scents of pear puree, anise, spices, curry, candied grapefruit, blue berry, and melon. The wine is impressively driven by acidity on the racy and still very primary palate. The finish is fully dry and very spicy. There is great intensity and length. This beautifully racy expression of dry Riesling needs a couple of years to fully integrate all its elements. 2025-2035

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Weingut Schätzel

(Nierstein – Rheinhessen)

2020er	Schätzel	Niersteiner Ölberg Riesling GG		89
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The 2020er Ölberg, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers an aromatic and quite smoky nose of pear, herbs, anise, greengage, and gooseberry. The wine reveals a powerful and intensely zesty structure on the palate and leaves one with a racy and razor-sharp feel in the hugely long but also very sharp finish. There is however no disturbing tartness. The aftertaste is all about lime and mint. Lovers of racy and light expressions of dry Riesling will find much to like here. 2024-2028

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Weingut Spreitzer

(Oestrich-Winkel – Rheingau)

2020er	Spreitzer	Mittelheimer Sankt Nikolaus Riesling Trocken GG	34 21	90
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The 2020er St. Nikolaus GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite aromatic nose of ripe yellow fruits including William's pear, mirabelle, canned yellow peach, apricot, and a hint of exotic fruits (guava and mango). The wine is delicately juicy and fruity on the palate, where more exotic fruits join the party. It leaves one with a good sense of presence and even grip in the nicely zesty and pure finish. This wine will particularly appeal to lovers of demonstrative and fruit-driven expression of dry Riesling. 2023-2030

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Weingut St. Antony

(Nierstein – Rheinhessen)

NB. The Estate is certified organic along DEMETER guidelines

2020er	St. Antony	Niersteiner Pettenthal Riesling Trocken GG	33 21	89
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The 2020er Riesling Pettenthal GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite aromatic and attractive nose of pear puree, tangerine, star fruit, melon, and vineyard peach with plenty of spices. The wine coats the palate with ample juicy and ripe fruits and reveals a sense of immediate freshness in the more structured and not fully dry-tasting finish. This nicely made dry Riesling will appeal lovers of more immediate and fruit-driven expressions of the genre. 2023-2030

2020er	St. Antony	Niersteiner Zehnmorgen Riesling Trocken GG	30 21	88
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The 2020er Riesling Zehnmorgen GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers an aromatic and ripe and perfumed nose of William's pear, rose water, grapefruit zest, apricot, litchi, and melon. The wine proves also packed with fruity flavors on the palate, where some tartness cuts through its richness. The finish shows more herbal elements and quite some length and power. 2023-2027

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Weingut Stefan Vetter

(Karlstadt – Franken)

2019er	Stefan Vetter	Riesling Steinterrassen	(No AP)	92
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The 2020er Riesling Steinterrassen with lot number L16/2021 is bone-dry Riesling made from certified organic grapes picked in the Gambacher Kalbenstein, a vineyard on Muschelkalk and red sandstone which were fermented and aged without any intervention in small oak barrels for 20 months before being bottled with little sulfur added (15-18 mg). It offers a beautiful nose made of funky elements of pear, honey, citrusy elements, and quince. The wine is beautifully structured and subtly oxidative yet incredibly vivid and animating on the palate. It leaves a beautiful feel of candied fruits, spices, chalk, tartness, and herbs in the long finish. The precision and elegance in the aftertaste are simply remarkable. This gorgeous Riesling firmly made along "natural" lines is a real winner. Now-2027

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Weingüter Geheimrat J. Wegeler

(Oestrich-Winkel – Rheingau)

2020er	Geheimrat J. Wegeler	Rüdesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling Trocken GG	11 21	93
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The 2020er Berg Schlossberg GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a beautifully elegant and complex nose of aniseed herbs, bergamot, white flowers, smoke, almond, orange blossom, and pear. The wine proves full of grip and presence framed by a playful ripe and zesty acidity on the palate. The finish is layered, herbal, and hugely long. This racy yet superbly complex expression of dry Riesling is a winner. 2024-2030 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Robert Weil

(Kiedrich – Rheingau)

2020er	Robert Weil	Kiedricher Gräfenberg Riesling Trocken GG	42 21	92
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The 2020er Kiedricher Gräfenberg Riesling Trocken GG offers a very delicate yet nicely aromatic and complex nose of aniseed herbs, canned pineapple, apricot cream, greengage, yellow peach, and almond cream. The wine delivers hugely aromatic flavors including orange, tangerine, apricot, yellow peach, and Conference pear on the palate. It leaves a nicely intense and ripe zesty feel in the long and spicy finish. The aftertaste is still marked by a touch of tartness and some phenolic presence which still need to integrate. This full-on aromatic expression of dry Riesling proves delicious. 2024-2030 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Domdechant Werner

(Hochheim – Rheingau)

2020er	Domdechant Werner	Hochheimer Kirchenstück im Stein Riesling Trocken GG	17 21	91
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The 2020er Kirchenstück im Stein Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a beautifully refined and flowery nose of almond cream, a hint of coconut, dried white flowers, gooseberry, greengage, and bergamot. It proves full of finesse and elegance on the comparatively light-weighted and creamy (and not fully dry-tasting) palate. The finish is well delineated and long, with some tickly acidity adding freshness to the whole experience. 2023-2032

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Weingut Wittmann

(Westhofen – Rheinhessen)

NB: The Estate is certified organic along general EU guidelines and certified biodynamic along RESPEKT guidelines.

2020er	Wittmann	Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen Riesling Trocken GG	18 21	91+
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The 2020er Brunnenhäuschen Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite herbal and still restrained nose of rosemary, thyme, black berry, licorice, and prune. The wine starts off on the smoother and juicier side on the palate, yet quickly reveals quite some tartness and herbal elements which add structure and a sense of power. The finish is very herbal and quite sharp. Despite some hints of underlying complexity, the wine is very primary and rough at this stage and will need more than a couple of years to integrate all its elements and shine. It is not without upside, especially if it manages to slightly gain finesse over time. 2025-2030+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)



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2020er	Wittmann	Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG	19 21	91+
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The 2020er Morstein Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, proves quite restrained at first and needs some time to reveal its nicely aromatic nose of yellow peach, bergamot, almond cream, and William's pear, all wrapped into earthy herbs and a touch of camphor. The wine is quite imposing and powerful on the zesty and herbal palate. It leaves a rather harsh and rough side where lemon and yuzu fully dominate the finish at this stage. It will need quite some time to integrate its bracing acidity and reveal its charm. It could then exceed our rating especially as it develops more charm. 2025-2030+

2020er	Wittmann	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken GG	17 21	91
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The 2020er Kirchspiel Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a refined and aromatic nose of herbs, yellow peach, pear, yellow flowers, and almond cream. The wine proves broader and more structured on the palate than what one could expect from the nose. However, it proves pure but also driven by quite some zesty acidity right in the very long and fully dry-tasting finish. This beautiful dry Riesling cut along more ostentatious lines will need food to buffer off its structure. 2024-2030

2020er	Wittmann	Westhofener Aulerde Riesling Trocken GG	16 21	90
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The 2020er Aulerde Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers an attractive creamy nose of almond, coconut, earthy spices, rosemary, and pineapple. The wine is nicely structured on the palate, where zesty and herbal elements are wrapped into dry extract and a touch of power. The finish is very long, herbal, and zesty, with tartness and tannins in need of integration. This broad and aromatic expression of dry Riesling will please lovers of more ostentatious expressions of the genre. 2024-2028 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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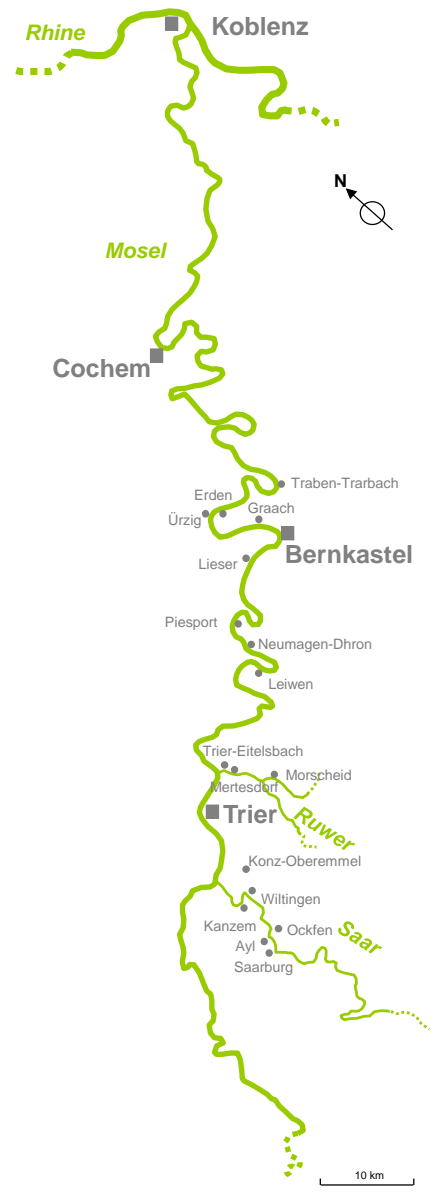
2020 Dry German Riesling: Highlights from the Mosel

For completion on our report on 2020 Dry German Riesling, we summarize here the tasting notes for the 2020 dry Riesling from the Mosel which prove of stunning quality. As for the wines outside the Mosel, we also added here late released wines, which come on the market now or will be coming on the market soon.

These were reviewed in the current Part III of the 2020 Vintage Report (Issue No 59), as well as in Part I and II of the 2020 Vintage Report (Issues No 57 and No 58), in which case the information is provided at the end of the tasting note.

- A.J. Adam**
- Clemens Busch**
- Cantzheim**
- Ansgar Clüsserath**
- Falkenstein**
- Fries**
- Fritz Haag**
- Julian Haart**
- Dr. Hermann**
- Kilburg**
- Knebel**
- Knebel Brüder**
- Peter Lauer**
- Schloss Lieser**
- Loersch**
- Carl Loewen**
- Dr. Loosen**
- Hermann Ludes**
- Materne & Schmitt**
- Maximin Grünhaus**
- Maximin Stadt**
- Josef Milz**
- Max Ferd. Richter**
- Selbach-Oster**
- Günther Steinmetz**
- Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Müller-Burggraef**
- Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch**
- Van Volxem**
- Stefan Vetter**
- Vollenweider**
- Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof**
- Weiser-Künstler**

- Neumagen-Dhron*
- Pünderich*
- Kanzem*
- Trittenheim*
- Niedermennig*
- Winningen*
- Brauneberg*
- Piesport*
- Erden*
- Wintrich*
- Winningen*
- Winningen*
- Ayl*
- Lieser*
- Leiwen*
- Leiwen*
- Bernkastel-Kues*
- Thörnich*
- Winningen*
- Mertesdorf*
- Kastel-Stadt*
- Trittenheim*
- Mülheim*
- Zeltingen*
- Brauneberg*
- Bernkastel-Kues*
- Bernkastel-Kues*
- Wiltingen*
- Karlstadt / Franken*
- Traben-Trarbach*
- Leiwen*
- Traben-Trarbach*





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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut A.J. Adam

(Neumagen-Dhron – Middle Mosel)

2019er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Trocken Réserve	09 21	94
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The 2019er Hofberg Réserve, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was fermented in Fuder with fruit picked in the front part of the main hill of the vineyard and matured for an additional year than usually for dry wines (hence the late AP). It offers a hugely engaging nose made of pear, herbs, spices, and cardamom. The wine proves rather backward yet a most gorgeously spicy sense comes through on the palate. Tart elements of minerals and herbs all packed into dark fruits make for a hugely impressive but quite powerful sensation in the finish. This wine really starts to shine after 3-4 days at the moment, which underlines its backwardness and the need to wait a few more years. 2025-2034 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2019er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Trocken Réserve	09 21	94
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The 2019er Hofberg Réserve, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was fermented in Fuder with fruit picked in the front part of the main hill of the vineyard and matured for an additional year than usually for dry wines (hence the late AP). It offers a hugely engaging nose made of pear, herbs, spices, and cardamom. The wine proves rather backward yet a most gorgeously spicy sense comes through on the palate. Tart elements of minerals and herbs all packed into dark fruits make for a hugely impressive but quite powerful sensation in the finish. This wine really starts to shine after 3-4 days at the moment, which underlines its backwardness and the need to wait a few more years. 2025-2034 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2020er	A.J. Adam	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Trocken GG	08 21	94
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The 2020er Goldtröpfchen, as it is referred on the consumer label (the reference to GG is provided in small print on the side of the label), was fermented in Fuder with fruit picked on partially un-grafted vines planted in 1909 and partially vines planted in the 1940s, both in the sector situated above the village of Ferres. It offers a superb nose made of passion fruit, pear, freshly cut apple, white flowers, and fine spices. The wine is beautifully playful and packed with intense yet juicy flavors on the dry palate and leaves a gorgeously tart and subtly racy feel in the fresh and animating finish. This is a gorgeous dry Riesling in the making! 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Trocken GG	07 21	93
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The 2020er Hofberg, as it is referred on the consumer label (the reference to GG is provided in small print on the side of the label), was fermented in Fuder with fruit picked on up 55 to 60-year-old vines situated in classical parts on the main hill of the vineyard. It offers a gorgeous nose made of melon, citrusy fruits, wet stone, herbs, and spices. The wine proves well balanced and yet packed with gorgeous flavors of fruits, minerals, and herbs on the dry rather than bone-dry palate and leaves a juicy and gorgeously tart feel in the long and intense finish. The aftertaste of this beautiful dry wine is still on the smoky side and will require a few years of patience to develop more fruitiness. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Häs'chen Riesling Trocken GG	06 21	91+
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The 2020er Häs'chen, as it is referred on the consumer label (the reference to GG is provided in small print on the side of the label), is a dry wine fermented in oak cask with fruit picked on un-grafted vines planted in 1933. It offers a gorgeous even if still slightly reduced nose made of mirabelle, greengage, smoke, citrusy fruits, and fine herbal elements. The wine develops quite some presence despite a low 12% of alcohol on the palate. Juicy fruits and smoke lead to a nicely playful and subtly racy feel in the finish. A hint of cardamom underlines the aromatic ripeness in the otherwise beautifully playful and animating finish. This wine is still quite primary so there could be some upside development down the road, especially as the flavors mellow away. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Riesling Trocken	05 21	91+
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The 2020er Dhroner, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was fermented in Fuder with fruit picked on 45-year-old vines in the middle part (slightly less steep) on the main hill of the vineyard. It offers a beautifully backward and structured nose made of cassis, herbs, fine spices, and minerals. The wine proves still rather backward and tart on the palate and, at first, only reveals some subtle elements of fruits in the long and hugely focused finish. The aftertaste is all about precision, delineation, and backward spiciness. This hugely impressive dry Riesling is really best alone for a few years and even has some upside potential. 2026-2032 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 57 – July 2021)

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"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Clemens Busch

(Pünderich – Terrassenmosel)

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Fahrlay Terrassen Riesling Trocken GG	19 21	95
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The 2020er Fahrlay Terrassen GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, was fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks from fruit harvested in a prime terraced part of the blue-slate Fahrlay sector. It proves still remarkably backward and does not offer much beyond some wet stone and smoke at first. It takes a while (think days rather than hours) for the wine to open up and reveal its stunning nose made of cassis, fine spices, herbs, flowers, and subtly creamy smoke. The wine is beautifully juicy on the dry but not bone-dry palate and leaves a superbly airy and playful feel in the long finish. Everything is there for making a stunning wine at maturity. But this beauty will test one's patience first. 2028-2040

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Fahrlay Riesling Trocken GG	17 21	94+
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The 2020er Marienburg Fahrlay GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, was fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks from fruit harvested in a blue slate part of the Marienburg vineyard. It offers a superb nose made of lemon zest, white flowers, raspberry, fine spices, and herbs. The wine is beautifully precise and playful on the nicely dry palate and leaves a superb feel of fresh fruits and subtly tart minerals in the finish. The aftertaste is all about multi-layered and finely chiseled flavors. What a huge success. We would not be surprised if it eventually exceeds our high expectations at maturity, as it develops its full balance. 2028-2040

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Felsterrassen Riesling	24 21	94
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The 2020er Marienburg Felsterrassen, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is legally dry wine (with 8 g/l of residual sugar) fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks from fruit harvested late in a prime terraced part of the grey-slate Falkenlay sector and which underwent an extended maturation on its lees. It offers a beautiful and subtly creamy nose driven by pear, vineyard peach, earthy spices, a dash of whipped cream, star fruit, ginger, plum, and fine smoke. The wine is juicy and also nicely smooth on the palate and leaves a superbly precise and zesty feel of orchard fruits, fine spices, and herbal elements in the beautifully tart finish. The aftertaste is precise and hugely focused. This is a gorgeous wine in the making! 2028-2040

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Raffes Riesling	21 21	94
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The 2020er Marienburg Raffes, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine (with 7 g/l of residual sugar) fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks from late-harvested fruit in a prime terraced part of the grey-slated Falkenlay sector and which underwent an extended maturation on its lees. It offers a stunning nose made of grapefruit puree, starfruit, mirabelle, earthy spices, and some smoky elements. The wine is nicely juicy and quite playful on the smooth and not bone-dry tasting palate. It is however only in the finish that this wine shows its remarkably finesse and potential. Layers upon layers of juicy fruit add to the overall sense of balance and precision to the aftertaste. This is a remarkable Riesling in the making! 2028-2040

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Falkenlay Riesling Trocken GG	18 21	93
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The 2020er Marienburg Falkenlay GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, was fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks from fruit harvested in a grey-slate infused part of the Marienburg vineyard. It proves still rather backward and only gradually reveals some nice flavors of smoke, pear, mirabelle, vineyard peach, cassis, herbs, and spices. The wine is beautifully juicy on the dry (but not bone-dry) palate and leaves a superbly playful feel of ripe fruits, spices, and smoke in the long finish. The potential is there and this wine now only needs a couple of years to reveal its finest. 2028-2040

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Rothenpfad Riesling Trocken GG	16 21	92+
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The 2020er Marienburg Rothenpfad GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, was fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks from fruit harvested in an iron-rich part of the Marienburg vineyard. It offers a great nose made of pear, vineyard peach, strawberry, laurel, cinnamon, and fine smoky elements. The wine proves impeccably balanced on the dry but not bone-dry palate. A ripe sense of zest provides the right structure for the elegant and playful flavors of fruits and spices right into the juicy finish. This is a gorgeous dry Riesling in the making, especially as it reveals all its charm with age. 2026-2040

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Trocken GG	15 21	92
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The 2020er Marienburg GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, was fermented spontaneously in traditional oak casks. It offers a beautiful and rather subtle nose made of herbs, wet stone, spices, a hint of citrusy fruits, apricot blossom, floral elements, and smoke. The wine is superbly playful on the light-footed and subtly creamy palate and leaves a nicely intense feel of herbs and spices in the long finish. The aftertaste is alluring but beautifully complex. This dry wine is made for lovers of subtler and delicately ripe but no less intense and persistent expression of the genre. 2025-2035



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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2020er	Clemens Busch	Riesling Trocken (Alter) Native	(No AP)	92
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The 2020er (Alter) Native is a dry Riesling made from grey-slate sectors of the Marienburg and was bottled un-filtered and with only minimal added SO₂. It offers a superb nose of lemon zest fine spices and herbs. The wine is beautifully playful and packed with fresh and zest flavors on the palate. The finish is nicely tart and very rewarding. The freshness and dynamic side of the wine are truly remarkable. This wine made along natural lines is a remarkable success. Now-2026

2018er	Clemens Busch	Riesling Trocken O	(No AP)	91+
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The 2018er Riesling Trocken O (O stands for Orange) is an un-filtered dry Riesling made from the grey-slate sectors of the Marienburg and saw 4 months of skin-maceration and extended aging in cask for 2 years. This orange-colored wine offers a ripe yet enticing nose made of almond, nuts, pear, fine herbs, a hint of toffee, orange zest, mango, and citrusy fruits. It proves quite marked by licorice at this stage on the palate and leaves a still rather abrupt feel in the already quite persistent and refined finish. This wine will require a few years to open up and will then prove a smashing example of orange wine, especially if it manages to develop a smoother side. 2023-2028

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Weingut Cantzheim

(Kanzem – Saar)

2020er	Cantzheim	Saar Riesling Trocken Der Wiltinger "Le Grand"	018 21	93
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The 2020er Saar Riesling Der Wiltinger 'Le Grand', as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes a selection of the best grapes harvested on old vines in the Wiltinger Klosterberg, Braunfels, Schlossberg, and Schlangengraben. It offers a beautifully reduced nose made of residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation, wet stone, citrusy elements, fine gingery spices, a dash of whipped cream, cassis, and smoke. The wine is gorgeously playful on the smooth (rather than bone-dry) yet firm palate and leaves a remarkably pure feel of fruits in the long finish. This is a great dry Riesling in the making! 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Cantzheim	Ayler Kupp Riesling Trocken Die Kupp	020 21	90+
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The 2020er Saar Riesling Die Kupp, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a legally dry wine made from Estate holdings in the east-facing part of the historic hill of the Ayler Kupp. It offers a nice and engaging feel of grapefruit, ginger, whipped cream, cassis, pear, quite some cardamom, and fine spices. The wine is subtly creamy on the fruity-driven palate but leaves a much firmer and more structured feel in the long and nicely tart finish. More herbal elements underline the seriousness of the wine in the aftertaste. This wine could exceed our expectations as it reveals more charm and freshness with age. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Ansgar Clüsserath

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Ansgar Clüsserath	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Trocken	14 21	92
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The 2020er Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Trocken was picked on 100-year-old un-grafted vines in a terraced part of the vineyard and was fermented and aged in a traditional Fuder. It offers a superbly aromatic and highly attractive nose of herbs, earthy spices, violet, smoke, rosemary, and black tea. The wine coats the palate with juicy candied citrusy fruits and plenty of herbs. Its slightly broader and more imposing side is well wrapped into spicy and zesty elements. It leaves a razor-sharp feel in the superbly long and salty finish. This is a superb dry Riesling in the making! 2025-2035

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Hofgut Falkenstein

(Konz – Saar)

2020er	Falkenstein	Krettnacher Ober Schäfershaus Riesling Spätlese Trocken	18 21	93
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The 2020er Krettnacher Ober Schäfershaus Riesling Spätlese Trocken (known internally as "Fuder Lorenz Manni") comes from 60-year-old vines planted in the similarly named Lieu-Dit in the Altenberg vineyard underpinned by Diabas elements. It offers a captivating, hugely complex, and animating nose of tangerine, orange blossom, lead pencil, thyme, lavender, candied grapefruit, yellow flowers, mint, cassis, lemon, and grilled and fresh pineapple. The wine coats the palate with plenty of ripe zesty citrusy fruits and spices, and leaves a very long and focused feel in the finish. There is great balance and beautiful flowery flavors in the zesty and focused aftertaste. The lightness makes it almost come over as an easy wine but make no mistake: There is a great and superbly complex dry Riesling in the making which only needs a few years of bottle aging in order to blossom. 2026-2040+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2020er	Falkenstein	Krettnacher Altenberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken	07 21	92
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The 2020er Krettnacher Altenberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken comes from 50-60-year-old vines in the Enkers part of the vineyard. It displays a beautifully flowery, spicy, and herbal nose of white peach, cassis, thyme, citronella, verbena, white pepper, and smoke. The wine develops finely zesty and flowery flavors on the superbly light and almost airy palate leaves a great sense of fruity smoothness in the nicely precise and zesty finish. The aftertaste has great focus and is packed with multi-layered and superbly playful flavors. This is a great dry Riesling. 2024-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2020er	Falkenstein	Krettnacher Auf dem Hölzchen Riesling Kabinett Trocken	21 21	91
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The 2020er Krettnacher Auf dem Hölzchen Riesling Kabinett Trocken comes from 50-60-year-old vines above the Ober Schäfershaus. It is quite reductive and smoky (flint stone) at first and needs a few minutes in the glass to reveal a very fresh, minty, and herbal nose of gooseberry, cassis, lime, greengage, and a hint of camphor. The wine proves beautifully zesty and light-weighted on the palate and leaves a quite herbal, racy, and tart finish. The aftertaste is all about blue-berried fruits, acidity, and smoke. This wine is a gorgeous ambassador of dry Kabinett wines characterized by light-footed intensity and cut. 2023-2030 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2020er	Falkenstein	Niedermenniger Herrenberg Riesling Kabinett Trocken Egon	19 21	91
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The 2020er Niedermenniger Herrenberg Riesling Kabinett Trocken Egon (the reference to this internal cask name is provided in small print on the label after the AP number) comes from over 50-year-old vines in the south-facing part of the vineyard situated just below the Estate's cellar. It offers a gorgeously reductive, herbal, and zesty nose of grapefruit, lemon, green herbs, smoke, ginger-driven spices, rosemary, mint, and cassis. The wine develops great presence and intensity wrapped into some ripe yet zesty and animating acidity on the palate. It leaves a great compact feel of focus and even a touch of sharpness in the very long finish. The aftertaste is salivating yet also still quite primary and backward. This wine will need a few years to reveal its inner beauty. 2024-2033 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2020er	Falkenstein	Niedermenniger Sonnenberg Riesling Kabinett Trocken Munny	09 21	90
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The 2020er Niedermenniger Sonnenberg Riesling Kabinett Trocken Munny (the reference to this internal cask name is provided in small print on the label after the AP number) comes from 60-70-year-old vines in the Lieux-Dits Unter den Röderchen and Beim Hasenbirnbaum. It offers a refreshing and very herbal nose of greengage, green apple, thyme, almond, cassis, lozenge, lime, white flowers, and quite some smoky elements. The wine develops good presence and even a touch of power on the palate driven by yellow peach is wrapped in grapefruit zest and lime. The acidity drives a quite racy and hugely smoky and spicy feel to the very long, herbal, bone-dry, and intensely tart finish. This wine, with a big acidic cut and quite some tartness, is best left alone for a few years in order to develop more roundness and elegance. 2024-2033 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Fries

(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

Weingut Fries is a traditional Estate in Winnigen with holdings in various vineyards of the village. It has the particularity of being a pioneer of Pinot Noir and red wines right after these grapes were allowed again in the Mosel in the 1980s. After some winemaking studies and stints at Pinot specialists such as Ziereisen (Baden) and de Montille (Burgundy), young Daniel joined the family Estate. 2019 was his first vintage. The style for Pinot Noir is one of elegance and finesse.

2019er	Fries	Uhlen Laubach Riesling Trocken	20 20	92
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The 2019er Uhlen Laubach, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, was made from fruit picked on 50-year-old vines trained on single pole and was fermented and aged in stainless steel on its gross lees for 9 months. It proves rather backward and only reveals some faint scents of strawberry, anise, gooseberry, mint, green apple, and some pungent and earthy spices. The wine is hugely zesty on the subtly smooth rather than bone-dry palate and leaves a hearty and nicely racy feel in the finish. A touch of harsh tartness dominates the aftertaste at this stage so we would rather opt to enjoy this wine in a few years only. 2025-2035

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Weingut Fritz Haag

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr "im Falkenberg" Riesling Trocken GG	11 21	Auction	93+
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The 2020er Juffer-Sonnenuhr "im Falkenberg" Riesling Trocken GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from the prime similarly-named Lieu-Dit situated at the lower western end of the vineyard and was fermented in large oak barrel. This cask sample offers a restrained yet elegant nose of whipped almond cream, orange blossom, fine minty herbs, lime, grapefruit, and smoke. The wine proves delicately creamy and juicy on the comparatively smooth and refined palate, which has quite some fruity presence. It leaves a beautifully mineral and compact feel in the hugely smoky, fully dry-tasting, and vibrating finish. There is true beauty here! 2024-2035+

2020er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG	08 21	93
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The 2020er Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a complex and multi-layered nose of cassis, greengage, candied grapefruit, orange blossom, and vineyard peach. The wine proves beautifully creamy but also superbly spicy and minty on the palate and leaves a nice sense of lightness and energy in the focused finish. The aftertaste is all about fine spices and smoke. This very subtle and filigreed expression of dry Riesling is a huge success. 2024-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Trocken GG	24 21	92
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The 2020er Juffer Riesling Trocken GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was fermented and aged in a mix of stainless-steel tank, Fuder, and large oak barrel. It offers a refined and beautifully restrained nose of bergamot, anise, white flowers, minty herbs, and pear. The wine is elegant and rather light-weighted on the juicy and almost suave palate. This makes for a dry rather than bone-dry feel, even if the finish shows good focus and freshness as herbal and zesty elements show up. The aftertaste is superbly clean, spicy, and dry-tasting. This light and elegant version of dry Riesling will be superb in a few years. 2025-2035

2020er	Fritz Haag	Kestener Paulinshofer Riesling Trocken GG	27 21	91+
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The 2020er Paulinshofer Riesling Trocken GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a bone-dry wine made in Fuder and stainless-steel tanks from vines located just under the Monzeler Kätzchen and at the right-hand side of the rocky part of the vineyard. It offers a comparatively smoky but also nicely fruity and attractive nose of minty herbs, licorice, spices, blackberry, candied grapefruit, and anise. The wine is nicely juicy and coats the palate with candied citrusy fruits and aniseed herbs. It develops more presence as it unfolds and shows more density and intensity. The long finish is nicely focused but still quite tart at this early stage. It needs a couple of years to integrate all these elements and has even some upside if it gains finesse and elegance. 2025-2035



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2020er	Fritz Haag	Monzeler Kätzchen Riesling Trocken GG	29 21	91+
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The 2020er Kätzchen Riesling Trocken GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is the first vintage of GG made from parcels situated in the steep and full-south-facing part of this vineyard situated just above the Kestener Paulinshofberger. An initial whiff of reduction quickly gives way to a nicely fruit-driven and finely aromatic nose of yellow peach, pear, raspberry, minty herbs, tangerine, licorice, and a hint of apricot. The wine starts off on the nicely light and fruit-driven palate, but quickly some bracing acidity and aniseed herbs take over and makes for a focused and slightly tart and earthy feel in the long and even powerful finish. The after-taste is fully dry and driven by lime and earthy spices. This racy dry Riesling needs a few years to integrate all its elements and truly shine and clearly shows its potential now that it has been bottled. There is even upside here if the wine manages to harness its racy side. 2025-2035

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Weingut Julian Haart

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Julian Haart	Wintricher Ohligsberg Riesling	20 21	96
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The 2020er Ohligsberg, as it is referred to on the red and silver consumer label, is a bone-dry wine made from fruit picked on almost century-old vines. It offers a most beautiful and complex nose with plenty of elegance and finesse. Scents of white flowers, cardamom, white pepper, lavender, cassis, pear, herbs, and mint come out of the glass. The wine is elegant and very delicate on the palate and leaves one with a fantastic sense of cut, energy, and salty elements in the finish. The aftertaste is beautifully focused, bone-dry, salty, and spicy. This wine is without doubt a strong candidate for dry Riesling of the vintage. 2024-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Julian Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling	19 21	95
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The 2020er Goldtröpfchen, as it is referred to on the red and silver consumer label, is a bone-dry wine fermented in stainless steel. It still proves hugely reductive and marked by quite some residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation at first. It takes a while to reveal its smoky, very spicy, and herbal nose with nuances of dried flowers, vineyard peach, almond, and candied grapefruit. The wine develops great energy and presence without any undue weight on the palate. The mid-palate still has some baby fat presence, but the finish is hugely long and persistent, with plenty of spicy and floral elements. This is a magnificent dry Riesling in the making. 2026-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Julian Haart	Piesporter Riesling	17 21	93
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The 2020er Piesporter, as it is referred to on the red and silver consumer label, comes from the Goldtröpfchen. It offers a beautifully fresh, spicy, and floral nose of green herbs, smoke, pepper, white peach, greengage, almond, and still residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation. The wine is very straight and focused on the lively and even racy palate. It finishes bone-dry, pure, and vibrating with salty and spices elements. This dry wine is superbly balanced and shines through its energy and finesse. 2024-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Dr. Hermann

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Dr. Hermann	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Trocken GG	24 21	93+
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The 2020er Erdener Treppchen Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a legally dry wine made from fruit picked in the prime Kriebslay part of the vineyard which was fermented and aged on its lees for 11 months. It offers a gorgeous and slightly ample nose made of greengage, elderflower, cassis, citrusy fruits, herbal elements, a dash of whipped cream, and smoke. The wine is gorgeously playful and intense on the palate but delivers its rich flavors of fresh fruits without excessive power and pressure. The wine delivers a comparatively powerful but hugely elegant feel of fresh fruits, a hint of smoke, and spices in the very long finish. This superb dry wine combines presence, freshness, and depth. A hint of harshness still needs to mellow away in the aftertaste. So, we would rather opt to wait a year or two before opening our bottles. We would not be surprised if it then even exceeds our high expectations, especially as it integrates its flavors. 2024-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)



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2020er	Dr. Hermann	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Trocken GG	25 21	92
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The 2020er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a legally dry wine made from fruit picked on 80-100-year-old vines in the Urglück part of the vineyard and was fermented and aged on its lees for 11 months. This bright-colored wine offers a huge nose of strawberry, cassis, whipped cream, floral elements, and also some wet stone, cardamom, and smoke. It proves smooth rather than bone-dry on the palate where creamy fresh citrusy fruits, a hint of cardamom, and red-berried fruits are wrapped into tart and zesty elements. The finish is juicy and fruity. This flavorsome Riesling will offer much pleasure over the coming years. 2025-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Kilburg – Weingut Geierslay (Wintrich – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Kilburg	Wintricher Ohligsberg Riesling Trocken	25 21	(90-93)
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The 2020er Ohligsberg Riesling Trocken, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a bone-dry Riesling (below 1 g/l of residual sugar) and comes from up to 40-year-old vines. The grapes were pressed with an old basket press and the wine was fermented and matured in stainless steel tanks. This cask sample offers a refreshing nose made of cassis, elderflower, smoke, grapefruit puree, and fine spices. The wine develops quite some presence on the palate and leaves one with a nicely full-bodied feel of minerals and fruits in the long and juicy finish. The aftertaste underlines the presence of this wine. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Reinhard & Beate Knebel (Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

2020er	Knebel	Winninger Uhlen Riesling GG	13 21	94+
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The 2020er Riesling Uhlen GG, as it is referred on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine which comes from old vines in the grey-slated Laubach part of the vineyard and which was fermented and aged on its fine lees in stainless steel (75%) and used small oak barrel (25%) for 9 months. It offers a beautiful and subtle ripe nose made of grapefruit zest, minerals, melon, pear puree, earthy spices, and fresh minty elements. The wine proves beautifully pure and smoothly dry (rather than bone-dry) on the palate and leaves a great complex feel of fruits, herbs, and fine spices in the long finish. This great dry wine combines depth and presence with elegance and finesse. What a great success! We would not be surprised if it eventually turns out to be a classic, especially as the wine reveals its depth. 2025-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling GG	12 21	93
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The 2019er Riesling Röttgen GG, as it is referred on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine which comes from old vines in the terraced part of the vineyard and which was fermented and aged on its fine lees in stainless steel (75%) and used small oak barrel (25%) for 9 months. This bright-yellow-colored wine offers a beautiful nose made of pear, vineyard peach, mirabelle, subtle earthy spices, and creamy elements. The wine is smoothly dry (rather than bone-dry) on the palate. More fruity elements are beautifully packed into tart and delicately racy notes. The finish is hugely deep, layered, and persistent. This is a superb dry Riesling in the making which combines presence, delicately, elegance, and finesse! 2025-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Knebel Brüder

(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

2020er	Knebel Brüder	Uhlen Roth Lay Riesling	N.A.	92
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The 2019er Uhlen Roth Lay, as it is referred on the consumer label, is a bone-dry wine (with 3 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked in this newly defined IGP composed of the south-facing and iron-rich sector of the Winninger Uhlen vineyard. It was fermented spontaneously and aged on its fine lees in a Stockinger tonneau for 10 months. It offers a beautiful nose made of white peach, pear, citrusy elements, floral elements, spices, and herbs. The wine is gorgeously playful and elegant on the palate and leaves a beautifully creamy, herbal, and subtly racy feel of fruits and spices in the long and ethereal finish. The aftertaste is juicy and packed with primary citrusy elements. This is a beautiful dry Riesling in the making! 2025-2040

2020er	Knebel Brüder	Winninger Röttgen Riesling	N.A.	91+
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The 2020er Röttgen, as it is referred on the consumer label, is a legally dry wine (with 4 g/l of residual sugar) which was fermented spontaneously and aged on its fine lees in a Stockinger tonneau for 10 months. It offers a quite smoky nose made of mirabelle, herbs, and spices. The wine is still rather backward on the palate and will need some time to integrate its tension between tart and lemony elements in the finish and blend them into the spices that one is left with in the aftertaste. Once that is done (give it 5 years at least), this dry Riesling could well prove even better than already anticipated! 2025-2035

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Weingut Peter Lauer

(Ayl – Saar)

2020er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Schonfels Riesling Trocken N°11 GG	11 21	96
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The 2020er Schonfels N°11 GG, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, comes from this steep south-east facing hill overseeing the Saar (legally part of the Ayler Kupp vineyard). It offers a magnificently fresh and elegant nose of white flowers, bergamot, minty herbs, grapefruit zest, lime, rosemary, and white peach. The wine delivers plenty of fresh flavors of mint and spices on the superbly focused palate. The finish has some crisp and chiseled citrusy fruits, and, above all, plenty of salty elements. The wine proves incredibly persistent and gorgeously intense, without any disturbing feel of power. It proves a stunningly complex dry Riesling in the making! 2026-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Unterstenberg N°12	12 21	94
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The 2020er Unterstenberg N°12, as it is referred to in the central part of the label, comes from this prime Lieu-Dit forming the south-southwest facing, front part of the original Kupp hill (at the foot of the hill), and was fermented down to dry levels of residual sugar (8 g/l). It offers a captivating and most refreshing nose of minty herbs, smoke, lime, spices (including ginger), white peach, and greengage. The wine develops more fruity elements on the palate, yet leaves a spicy and herbal feel in the superbly long, airy, and fully dry finish. The aftertaste is hugely minty, salty, and smoky, with some bitter-sweet tartness still in need of integration. This is a great dry Riesling in the making! 2025-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2020er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Trocken N°18 GG	18 21	94
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The 2020er Kupp N°18 GG, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, comes from the central part of the original Kupp hill. It proves rather reserved at first and only reveals some faint scents of smoke, roasted spices, cardamom, anise, fresh water, grapefruit, and greengage. The wine already shows some great finesse, presence, and intensity (from dry extract) on the palate and leaves a beautifully sharp, precise, and energetic fell of salt and spices in the very long and bone-dry finish. The aftertaste is all about smoke, herbs, and lime. This will need a couple of years to reveal all its complexity. 2025-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2020er	Peter Lauer	Biebelhausener Feils Riesling Trocken N°13 GG	13 21	93+
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The 2020er Feils N°13 GG, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, comes from this south-south-east facing Lieu-dit overseeing the Saar (legally part of the Ayler Kupp vineyard). It offers a beautifully refreshing and smoky nose of minty herbs, cassis leaf, pear, stone fruits, black pepper, grapefruit, raspberry, bergamot, and a hint of beeswax. The wine proves full of presence and intensity on the palate. Some fruity flavors of pear and peach add a sense of smoothness to the experience. The finish has more lightness, yet the whole thing remains on the riper side. It may however develop finesse and warrant an even higher score with time. 2026-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Schloss Lieser

(Lieser – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Schloss Lieser	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Trocken GG	33 21	95
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The 2020er Goldtröpfchen Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a breathtaking nose driven at first by a very refined touch coming from its spontaneous fermentation and then by very subtle spicy and smoky elements as well as white flowers, vineyard peach, minty herbs, and greengage. The wine proves straight and focused on the palate, where a just a hint of fruity elements quickly give way to almond cream and smoother elements. Yet the finish has (again) citrusy elements in spades and above all lime and yuzu. The wine proves airy and very delicate. This filigreed and very focused version of dry Riesling is gorgeous. 2025-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG	31 21	94
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The 2020er Juffer Sonnenuhr Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, proves very slightly reductive at first but quickly reveals a very attractive and aromatic nose of lime, spices, vineyard peach, orange blossom, licorice, a hint of earthy herbs and camphor. The wine proves superbly balanced and focused on the palate where some fine and juicy fruits are wrapped into smoky and citrusy fruits. The finish is fully dry, spicy, and beautifully long. There is a hint of power in the aftertaste which would make us opt to enjoy this beauty in its early stage of life. 2024-2032 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Schloss Lieser	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Trocken GG	29 21	93
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The 2020er Himmelreich Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a hugely primary and finely reductive nose with still quite some presence from its spontaneous fermentation as bakery elements kick in, as well as plenty of spices, smoke, herbs, mint, almond, and blueberry. The wine proves precise, focused, and very spicy on the linear and herbal palate. The bracing acidity makes for a fully dry and focused feel in the long finish. The aftertaste is razor sharp and all about lime and ginger-driven spices. This smoky and racy dry Riesling needs a couple of years to fully integrate its acidity. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Schloss Lieser	Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Trocken GG	30 21	93
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The 2020er Niederberg Helden Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is beautifully reductive and only gradually reveals a refined and captivating herbal and smoky notes of minty herbs, lime, white flowers, cassis, gooseberry, and almond. The wine is superbly balanced and proves both slightly creamy and fruit driven but also fresh and focused on the palate. The long finish is fully dry, deep, and complex. This is a great dry Riesling in the making. 2025-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Schloss Lieser	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG	32 21	92+
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, proves still very primary, smoky, and musky at first. However, it quickly shows more ripeness and fruity presence of vineyard peach, orange blossom, and lime. The wine is driven by quite some racy acidity, which makes it come over as linear and strict feel on the palate at the moment. The long finish is very spicy and driven by herbs and lime. This bone-dry Riesling is quite rough at this early time and needs a couple of years to integrate its acidity. It could well turn even better than anticipated if it gains finesse and elegance. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Loersch

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Loersch	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Jungheld Holzfass GG	N.A.	93+
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The 2020er Trittenheimer Apotheke Jungheld Holzfass, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, is a bone-dry wine (with 3 g/l of residual sugar) made from 80-120-year-old un-grafted vines in this prime south-west-facing sector of the Apotheke and which was fermented and aged in an acacia cask. This bright yellow-white colored wine proves still rather backward but already more than hints at greatness to come as gorgeously subtle flavors of zesty fruits, peach, earthy herbs, mint, and juicy pear emerge from the glass. The wine is hugely complex and impactful on the palate and leaves an almost powerful feel of herbs and spices in the long and beautifully dry finish. This gorgeous dry Riesling is still in its infancy but the potential is huge! 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Loersch	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Trocken Vogelsang	16 21	93
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The 2020er Trittenheimer Apotheke Vogelsang, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, comes from the similarly-named sector high up the central part of vineyard. This bright white-yellow-colored wine offers a beautiful nose made of pear, vineyard peach, subtle grapefruit, and hints of floral elements wrapped into delicately earthy spices. The wine is superbly light-feathered on the palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of fresh fruits and spices in the long and playful finish. A kick of zest adds precision and finesse to overall intense but stunningly light-footed after-taste. This wine is a stunning success and a must-buy for any lover of elegant dry Mosel wine. 2023-2032 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Loersch	Dhroner Hofberg Sängerei Riesling Trocken GG	20 21	92
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The 2020er Dhroner Hofberger Sängerei, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, is made from fruit picked on 50-year-old vines in this prime Lieu-Dit in the central part of the original Hofberg hill and was fermented and aged in a mix of cask and stainless-steel tank. It offers a gorgeous nose made of citrusy fruits, fine herbs, elegant spices, and floral elements. The wine is beautifully intense yet superbly delineated on the palate and leaves a stunning feel of herbs and spices in the long and juicy finish. The finesse and playfulness are really remarkable given the presence and aromatic intensity. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2019er	Loersch	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Jungheld Holzfass GG	22 20	92
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The 2019er Trittenheimer Apotheke Jungheld Holzfass, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, is a bone-dry wine (with 3 g/l of residual sugar) made from 80-120-year-old un-grafted vines in this prime south-west-facing sector of the Apotheke and which was fermented and aged in an acacia cask. This lightly yellow-colored wine offers a slightly ample and creamy nose made of pear, grapefruit, cardamom, earthy spices, and floral notes. The wine proves subtly creamy and ample on the palate (without however being overpowering) and leaves a slate-infused touch in the hugely creamy, spicy, and mineral finish. 2024-2034 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Carl Loewen

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Carl Loewen	Thörnicher Ritsch Riesling Trocken GG	11 21	93
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The 2020er Ritsch GG, as it is referred to on the front label, comes from old and partially still un-grafted vines and was fermented spontaneously and aged on its gross lees in traditional Fuder cask for 6 months. It immediately catches one's attention with its intensive and smoky notes of herbs, ginger, pear, candied grapefruit, almond, and pineapple. The wine is superbly delicate and smooth on the palate and delivers plenty of finesse and freshness in the hugely long, smoky, and intense finish. The aftertaste is intense, focused, and hugely multi-layered. This is a stunning dry Riesling in the making! 2024-2030 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)



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2020er	Carl Loewen	Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Riesling Trocken GG	12 21	92
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The 2020er Maximin Herrenberg GG, as it is referred to on the front label, comes from un-grafted vines planted in 1902 and was fermented spontaneously and aged on its gross lees in traditional Fuder cask for 6 months. It offers an aromatic and attractive nose of anise, pear, grapefruit, yellow peach, blackberry, apricot blossom, and plenty of herbs and a touch of camphor. The wine comes over as ample, supple, and almost smooth at first on the palate, before quite zesty and herbal flavors of lime, ginger, and pear kick in. It leaves one with some earthy and salty elements in the in the fully dry finish. This rather aromatic and ripe expression of dry Mosel Riesling will need a few years in order to integrate its tartness and reveal its full complexity. 2024-2028+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

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Weingut Dr. Loosen

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2015er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Unterst Pichter Riesling Trocken Alte Reben Réserve GG	67 17	94
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The 2015er Ürziger Würzgarten Unterst Pichter Reserve Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), is made from parcels of very old un-grafted vines in the prime Pichter sector and was fermented in oak with ambient yeasts and aged on its gross lees for 24 months before being bottled. It offers a breathtaking, undercooled, and superbly complex nose of aniseed herbs, smoke, spices, almond cream, honeyed yellow peach, muscade, quince, and fine buttery elements. The wine reveals a great creamy texture and plenty of superbly playful fruits wrapped into plenty of spices on the palate. This feeling carries over right into the hugely long and focused finish. The wine is still tight in the aftertaste but already hints at great refreshing elements of tangerine, minty herbs, and above all spices. 2024-2040

2015er	Dr. Loosen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Im Laychen Riesling Trocken Alte Reben Réserve GG	66 17	93
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The 2015er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Im Laychen Réserve Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), is made from very old un-grafted vines in the prime Laychen (central part) sector of the vineyard and was fermented in oak with ambient yeasts and aged on its gross lees for 24 months before being bottled. It captures one's attention with its superbly aromatic and captivating nose of almond cream, greengage, pineapple, orange blossom, vanilla cream, and smoke. The wine starts off on the round and fully creamy and juicy side on the palate but quickly gains focus and finesse. It is intense and dense. This beautiful dry Riesling already fires already on all cylinders. Now-2035

2015er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälat Riesling Trocken Alte Reben Réserve GG	68 17	92+
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The 2015er Erdener Prälat Reserve Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), is made from very old un-grafted vines and was fermented in oak with ambient yeasts and aged on its gross lees for 24 months before being bottled. It offers a captivatingly aromatic and smoky nose of lime, pineapple, prune, spices, herbs, a hint of camphor, licorice, and tar. The wine is very compact and has great dry extract, but also a smoother and softer side on the palate as ripe and even exotic fruits join the party. The finish is superbly long and structured, with a touch of power in the background. This is already very impressive but has clearly upside potential as it will gain finesse over the years. 2023-2035

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Trocken Alte Reben GG	49 21	(92-94)
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The 2020er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), comes from parcels of very old un-grafted vines in the prime Unterst and Oberst Pichter, Maxberg, and Layenhaus sectors, and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for almost 12 months. It offers a beautifully complex and superbly refined and aromatic nose of cassis, almond cream, William's pear, tangerine, orange, and spices. The wine is superbly playful on the palate, where its light juicy and fruity texture is wrapped into a blanket of spices. The finish is focused, long, and pure. This is a great dry Riesling in the making. 2026-2040

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Trocken Alte Reben GG	50 21	(91-93)
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The 2020er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), comes from very old un-grafted vines in the prime Onnerts and Herzlay sectors (situated just above and next to the Prälat), and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for almost 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling proves quite non-saying and smoky at first before fine scents of anise, minty herbs, grapefruit, floral elements, and licorice emerge from the glass. The wine is superbly playful and spicy on the very long and smoky finish. The after-taste is very pure and long. 2025-2035



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2020er	Dr. Loosen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken Alte Reben GG	48 21	(91-93)
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), comes from very old un-grafted vines in the prime Gewann Laychen (central part) and Sandpichter (near Zeltingen) sectors, and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for almost 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling proves smoky and flinty at first before it reveals its very refined and finely aromatic nose of tangerine, vineyard peach, Conference pear, dried white flowers, and almond. The wine is delicately juicy and elegant on the smooth rather than bone-dry palate. The finish manages to bring the right amount of freshness as zesty elements and spices kick in. A hint of tartness in the after-taste still needs to integrate before this beautiful wine will show its best. 2025-2035

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Trocken Alte Reben GG	47 21	(91-92+)
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The 2020er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), comes from very old un-grafted vines in the prime Stablay, Tirley, and Humberg sectors, and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for almost 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling offers a beautifully refreshing and zesty nose of citrusy fruits, pear, anise, herbs, and prune. The wine starts off on the juicy and fruity side (yellow peach, pear), which give it a creamy and smoother side. Yet the finish reveals great cut and intensity. There is a touch of tartness and power in need of integration. This great playful expression of dry Riesling now needs a few years to integrate its elements. 2024-2033

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Trocken GG	46 21	(91-92)
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The 2020er Graacher Domprobst Riesling, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is left for the back label), comes from un-grafted vines in the prime Lilienpfad sector and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling offers a beautiful attractive and aromatic nose of Conference pear, anise, smoke, ginger, herbs, and almond cream. The wine proves still primary on the palate where its juicy and slightly riper fruits are well wrapped into energetic and bracing spicy acidity. The finish is very spicy, even salty, and slightly broader in style at this stage. 2025-2035+

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Trocken GG	44 21	(90-92)
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Lay Riesling, as it is referred to on the main label (the reference to GG is found on the back label and on the bottle itself), comes from the Haergarten sector (situated around the Estate), and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in oak for 12 months. This cask sample ready for bottling proves quite reductive at first and marked by residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation. Minty herbs, grapefruit, and white flowers, all wrapped into a lot of spices make for very fresh aromatics. The wine reveals a very dynamic and zest driven-side on the palate and leaves one with a great sense of focus in the finish. There is quite some potential here. 2025-2040

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Weingut Hermann Ludes

(Thörnich – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Hermann Ludes	Thörnicher Ritsch Riesling Spätlese Trocken	04 21	92
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The 2020er Thörnicher Ritsch Riesling Spätlese Trocken was made from fruit picked at 88° Oechsle in a prime vineyard situated in the central part of the vineyard. It offers a gorgeous nose made of reductive elements (nut, wet stone, spices) which gradually give way to beautifully refreshing scents of herbs and spices. The wine is beautifully playful on the palate and leaves a stunningly fragrant and feather-light feel in the long and refined finish. This dry wine will prove irresistible to lovers of feather-light and fragrant expressions of the genre! Packing so many flavors into 11.5% of alcohol strength remains one of the great features of dry Mosel Riesling! 2022-2028 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Materne & Schmitt

(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

2019er	Materne & Schmitt	Lehmener Lay Riesling	07 20	94
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The 2019er Lehmener Lay Riesling is a bone-dry wine (with less than 1 g/l of residual sugar) picked in the finest terraced parts of the vineyard planted with over 40-year-old vines. It offers a beautifully backward nose made of candied lemon, bergamot, white flowers, subtle spices, and fresh herbal elements. The wine proves superbly focused on the palate and packed with spicy flavors and other great herbal elements. The wine leaves a hugely long, animating, and multi-layered feel in the finish. This is a superb dry Riesling in the making! 2024-2034 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2019er	Materne & Schmitt	Lehmener Ausoniusstein Riesling	06 20	92
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The 2019er Lehmener Ausoniusstein Riesling is a bone-dry wine (with less than 2 g/l of residual sugar) which comes from over 40-year-old vines in this underrated steep-sloped east-south-east-facing vineyard. It offers a beautiful nose made of ripe pear, fine herbal elements, and spices. The wine is long, dark, and beautifully multi-layered on the palate and leaves a ripe and spicy feel in the long finish. This slightly riper expression of dry Riesling proves however gorgeously complex and persistent. 2024-2034 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2019er	Materne & Schmitt	Winniger Hamm Riesling	05 20	90+
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The 2019er Winniger Hamm Riesling is fully dry wine (with 4 g/l of residual sugar) made from over 50-year-old vines in the terraced parts of the vineyard. It offers a rather subtly ample nose driven by mirabelle, poached pear, saffron, star fruit, candied lime, herbs, and cardamom. The wine proves packed with spicy and herbal flavors on the palate and leaves a feel of minerals and poached fruits in the long finish. This wine is really still quite reduced and hence better left alone for a few years. It could then easily prove a positive surprise. 2024-2034 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

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Maximin Grünhaus – Weingut der Familie von Schubert

(Mertesdorf – Trier-Ruwer)

2020er	Maximin Grünhaus	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Trocken GG	26 21	93
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The 2020er Maximin Grünhaus Abtsberg Riesling Trocken GG was fermented spontaneously and matured in traditional old Fuder casks. It offers a beautifully restrained yet complex nose of smoke, herbs, lavender, lime, grapefruit, cassis, lead pencil, white flowers, and fine spices, packed into primary scents of residues from its spontaneous fermentation. The wine proves very precise and refined on the zesty and focused palate and leaves a superb feel of cut and intensity in the finish. While it is still on the primary side, the wine already shines with its very spicy, very salty, and smoky side. It will take a few years for it to reach its maturity. 2026-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Maximin Grünhaus	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Trocken GG	25 21	91+
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The 2020er Maximin Grünhaus Herrenberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was fermented spontaneously and aged in traditional Fuder cask. It offers a superbly attractive and finely aromatic nose of citrusy fruits (lemon, grapefruit, tangerine), some floral nuances, anise, herbs, lavender, a hint of blueberry, and mint. The wine is fine and delicately juicy on the palate, which shows focus and intensity thanks to a most lively and refreshing ripe acidity. The finish is smoky, fully dry, and very spicy and the aftertaste proves slightly broader and hotter. There is quite some tartness at play, which needs to integrate before true greatness. This very promising GG may even turn out better than anticipated as it develops more finesse. 2024-2033 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Maximin Grünhaus	Maximin Grünhäuser Bruderberg Riesling Trocken GG	24 21	90
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The 2020er Maximin Grünhaus Bruderberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was fermented spontaneously and aged in traditional Fuder cask. It offers a quite smoky and herbal nose with also fruity presence (peach, apricot, pineapple, banana), earthy spices, caraway, and a hint of camphor. The wine proves delicately juicy and initially not fully dry in taste, yet it develops more presence and a broader side in the intense, herbal, and smoky long finish. There is some aniseed tartness in the background which still needs to integrate. We would opt to enjoy this dry Riesling in its youth on its flamboyant side and before the powerful side may take over. 2022-2028 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Maximin Staadt

(Kastel-Staadt – Saar)

2018er	Maximin Staadt	Kastel-Staadter Maximiner Prälät Spätlese Trocken GG Alte Reben Carlito	03 20	92
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The Saar Riesling Spätlese Trocken Carlito, as it is referred on the consumer label (the reference to vineyard and vintage is left for the back label), is a bone-dry wine made from revived 50-year-old vines in this up to recently nearly abandoned vineyard. It saw extensive pre-fermentation cold soak (48 hours) and was fermented and aged on its gross lees for 14 months before being bottle with little sulfur added. It offers a beautiful nose of dried fruits, fading white flowers, some camphor, and citrusy zest. The wine proves subtly creamy and deliciously spicy on the palate and leaves a gorgeously harmonious feel in the long and beautifully dry finish. Now-2028 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2018er	Maximin Staadt	Serriger Antoniusberg Riesling Trocken Antonius	06 20	91
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The Saar Riesling Trocken Antonius, as it is referred on the consumer label (the reference to vineyard and vintage is left for the back label), was fermented and aged in oak for 10 months before 50% underwent its malolactic fermentation for 14 days. It offers a subtly ample nose made of whipped cream, fine spices, herbal elements, candied grapefruit zest, a hint of cardamom, and white flowers. The wine is nicely smooth yet balanced on the palate and leaves a beautifully creamy yet subtly zesty feel in the finish. The freshness comes through in the aftertaste. Now-2028 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

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Weingut Melsheimer

(Reil – Middle Mosel)

2018er	Melsheimer	Riesling Trocken	21 21	91+
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The 2018er Riesling Trocken AP 21 21 comes from different vineyards around Reil and Burg and was fermented with ambient yeasts and aged in traditional wooden casks for two years and then in stainless steel for one year before being bottled in fall 2021 (hence the late AP number). This hay-colored wine immediately captures one's attention through subtle and hugely appealing notes of oak treatment which wrap scents of pear, spices, herbs, and a touch of whipped cream. The wine proves superbly smooth and develops a structure more of a Chardonnay packed into a smooth rather than bone-dry feel on the palate. The finish is smooth and still needs to firm up. This gorgeous wine with more than a flair of Burgundian charm will benefit from a few years in bottle in order to absorb its tail of smoothness. It could then easily prove even more attractive than currently anticipated. This is a really nice and hugely positive surprise! 2024-2033

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Weingut Josef Milz

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Josef Milz	Trittenheimer Felsenkopf Riesling Trocken GG	25 21	92
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The 2020er Felsenkopf GG, as it is simply referred to on the consumer label, comes from this single vineyard solely-owned by the Estate which is situated in the Laurentiusberg part of the vineyard. This bright-white colored wine offers a captivating nose made of pear, greengage, citrusy fruits, ginger, bergamot, and lots of pungent notes of smoke. The wine is beautifully playful and balanced on the palate, where a subtle touch of zest provides the ideal backdrop for some alluring fruits. The finish is still completely dominated by minerals and smoke but the potential is clearly there. 2025-2035

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Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Max Ferd. Richter

(Mülheim – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken Uralte Reben GG	42 21	95
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken Uralte Reben GG is a bone-dry wine (with 3 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked on un-grafted vines planted in 1890. It proves rather backward at first and really needs a few moments to reveal some subtle but still faint scents of white peach, herbs, fine spices, and floral elements. The wine is hugely focused but beautifully deep on the palate. A touch of zest frames the flavors at the moment and enhances the tart side in the nicely firm and focused finish. The aftertaste is simply a thing of beauty as layer upon layer of fine fruity flavors are enhanced by minerals, spices, and herbs. This hugely impressive dry Riesling now only needs a few years of bottle aging to reveal its splendor. What a great success! 2025-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG	43 21	93
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The 2020er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG was made with fruit picked in the Falkenberg part of the vineyard. It offers a subtly creamy and beautifully aromatic nose driven by pear, melon, apricot blossom, whipped cream, smoke, and spices. The wine feels smooth and delicately creamy but remains stunningly light-footed on the palate. Flavors of ripe fruits add to this great sensation of subtle smooth and delicate presence right into the finish. The aftertaste reveals some fresh fruit, a hint of smoke, more creamy elements, and a touch of presence. This is a beautiful even if slightly ampler expression of dry Riesling in the making! 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett Trocken	20 21	92
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The 2020er Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett Trocken is a fully dry wine (with 4 g/l of residual sugar) made from grapes harvested at 82° Oechsle from 40-year-old un-grafted vines in the Hasenläufer sector. It offers a stunning nose made of vineyard peach, herbs, spices, and fresh juicy orangey elements. The wine is gorgeously perfumed and playful on the palate and leaves a structured feel of herbs, orchard fruits, and zesty minerals in the finish. This is an absolutely stunning dry Riesling in the making and a must-buy if ethereal lightness is your thing. 2022-2030 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2020er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Trocken Alte Reben	36 21	92
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The 2020er Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Trocken Alte Reben was made with fruit picked on 80-90-year-old vines in the central part of the vineyard just below the Kammer. It offers a rather subtle and nicely enticing nose made of elderflower, apricot blossom, gooseberry, peach, mint, chalky minerals, and subtle smoky elements. The wine is nicely fresh and spicy on the nose and proves beautifully focused and packed with complex flavors on the palate. The lightness is that of a Kabinett and the depth and subtle ripeness of flavors that of a Spätlese. The finish is beautifully animating and refreshing. What a gorgeous light-footed wine in the making! 2025-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Max Ferd. Richter	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Alte Reben	41 21	92
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The 2020er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Alte Reben is a dry wine (with 7 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit on 80-90-year-old vines in the original Domprobstbann part of the vineyard. It proves still rather backward and only gradually reveals some faint scents of wet stone, minerals, citrusy fruits, melon, fine spices, and smoke. The wine develops a subtly creamy side on the overall very light-feathered and delineated palate and delivers a superb feel of citrusy fruits, mirabelle, and earthy spices in the long and delicately creamy finish. This combination of refined creaminess and elegant light-footedness is really enticing. 2025-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Max Ferd. Richter	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett Trocken	21 21	92
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The 2020er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett Trocken is a dry wine (with 5 g/l of residual sugar) made from grapes harvested at 82° Oechsle from 80-year-old un-grafted vines. It offers a beautifully restrained nose made of pear, fine spices, a hint of apricot blossom, and smoke. The wine is beautifully airy and finely chiseled on the palate and leaves a superb fresh, intense, and spicy feel in the dry finish. This is a gorgeous dry Riesling made in a beautifully light-footed style. 2022-2030 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

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Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Selbach-Oster

(Zeltingen – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Selbach-Oster	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG	34 21	(94-96)
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2020 Sonnenuhr Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from the lower third and rocky part of the slope (but not directly near the river). This cask sample offers a stunning nose of white peach, elderflower, cassis, and a subtle hint of oak impact (the wine was partially aged in 3–4-year-old casks). The wine proves stunningly creamy yet packed with flavors delivered with great presence and multi-layered finesse. The finish is rich, subtle, and elegant. This is a truly remarkable dry Riesling in the making! 2025-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2019er	Selbach-Oster	Zeltinger Schlossberg Riesling Trocken Bömer	25 21	93
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The 2019er Bömer, as it is simply referred to on the consumer label, is made from fruit picked in this prime sector of the vineyard and was fermented and aged in cask until Spring 2021 (hence the late AP number). It offers a gorgeous nose made of elderflower, melon, ripe fruits, and fine spices. The wine proves beautifully playful on the not bone-dry tasting palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of herbs and spices. The wine is beautifully long and multi-layered. A touch of tartness still needs to integrate in the aftertaste. 2027-2034 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Selbach-Oster	Zeltinger Schlossberg Riesling Trocken GG	33 21	(92-94)
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This cask sample of the 2020er Schlossberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a beautifully fresh nose made of white peach, white flowers, herbs, and spices. The wine is hugely deep and playful on the palate. The wine develops great presence with a touch of power in the long and juicy finish. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Selbach-Oster	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Trocken GG	17 21	92
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The 2020er Domprobst Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from a parcel located just under the Domprobst lettering. It offers a rather animating nose made of white peach, mint, fine herbs, and smoke. The wine develops great presence and proves slightly assertive on the palate. It leaves a gorgeous feel of herbs and spices in the focused finish, which is superbly packed with flavors. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Selbach-Oster	Bernkasteler Graben Riesling Trocken GG	31 21	(91-94)
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The 2020er Graben Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from un-grafted vines in the prime Graacher Tor sector of the vineyard. This cask sample offers a nice and elegant nose made of cassis, pear, cardamom, and fine herbs. The wine is gorgeously playful and elegant on the palate, where a feel of grip is nicely wrapped into minerals and fine herbs. The wine offers great potential and finesse. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Günther Steinmetz

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Günther Steinmetz	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling "GB"	26 21	94
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The 2020er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr "GB" (a wordplay on Grosser Brauneberger) is a legally dry wine with an engaging nose made of ripe pear, citrusy elements, cardamom, herbs, and spices. The wine proves beautifully filigreed on the palate. Here, a touch of zest adds to the sense of rich focus. This leads to a great and nicely tart feel of minerals and fresher fruits than on the nose, and, above all, beautifully smoky elements in the finish. The aftertaste is long, multi-layered, and almost forcing one to go for more. This is a stunning dry Riesling in the making. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

2020er	Günther Steinmetz	Piesporter Treppchen Riesling "von den Terrassen"	24 21	94
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The 2020er Piesporter Treppchen Riesling "von den Terrassen" is a legally dry wine (with 7 g/l of residual sugar) picked on 90-year-old vines in the steep-hill "vor dem Berg" sector of the vineyard situated just next to the Wintricher hill. It offers a beautifully aromatic yet also quite subtle nose made of mint, vineyard peach, pear, aniseed herbs, a dash of whipped cream, and smoke. The wine proves smooth rather than bone-dry on the palate and leaves a superbly fruity feel in the long and airy finish. The aftertaste is all about floral elements, vineyard peach, herbs, and fine spices. We would opt to wait a little bit before cracking open any bottle in order to give the wine the chance to firm up. It will then truly shine. 2030-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Günther Steinmetz	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling "GD"	22 21	93
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The 2020er Dhroner Hofberg "GD" (a wordplay on Grosser Dhroner) is a legally dry wine made from fruit picked in the classical part of the vineyard. It still proves massively reduced and only gradually reveals some scents of cassis, herbs, spices, a hint of apricot blossom, and minty elements, all wrapped into chalky minerals and residual elements of oak (the wine did see some fully used barrique). The wine is firm and structured yet also gorgeously light-footed and playful on the nicely dry-tasting rather than bode-dry palate and leaves a superb feel of fruits, minerals, and herbs in the long finish. This is a gorgeous Riesling with quite some cut, great delineation, and lots of presence in the making. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Günther Steinmetz	Kestener Paulinshofberg Riesling "GK"	28 21	93
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The 2020er Kestener Paulinshofberg "GK" (a wordplay on Grosser Kestener) is a bone-dry wine (with less than 2 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked on 50-year-old vines. It proves still slightly reduced at first and only gradually reveals its beautiful nose of gooseberry, pear, melon, mint, cassis, smoke, and wet stone. The wine is beautifully playful and subtly juicy on the nicely dry and filigreed palate. It leaves a gorgeous feel of fruits, flowers, mint, and minerals in the long finish. The aftertaste is airy, herbal, and quite frankly hugely alluring. This is a gorgeous dry wine with huge presence, delicacy, and freshness: What a great success. 2025-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2019er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Müller-Burggraef	Bernkasteler Graben Riesling GG	03 21	92
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The Bernkasteler Graben Riesling GG is a dry wine made from old vines next to the Bernkasteler Doktor and was fermented and aged in Doppelstückfass (2,400-liter oak barrel) for 17 months (hence the late AP number). It offers a rather backward nose made of herbs, lime, elderflower, spices, and minerals. The wine is subtly creamy but also rather firm on the palate, where a touch of cardamom adds a touch of power to the experience. The finish is nicely intense but also assertive. 2022-2031 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2019er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Müller-Burggraef	Bernkasteler Lay Riesling GG	04 21	91
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The Bernkasteler Lay Riesling GG is a dry wine made from fruit picked in the Olk part of the vineyard still trained on single pole and was fermented and aged in Doppelstückfass (2,400-liter oak barrel) for 17 months (hence the late AP number). It offers a subtly creamy nose made of pear, mirabelle, apricot blossom, fine herbal elements, and spices. The wine is nicely intense yet precise on the palate and leaves an assertive feel in the long finish. Some power underlined by cardamom comes through in the aftertaste. 2022-2031 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Trocken GG	12 21	92
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The 2020er Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Trocken GG is a legally dry wine fermented and aged in Fuder. It proves superbly smoky and aniseed on the nose and also offers nice and subtly fruity scents including tangerine, grapefruit, and yellow peach. The wine starts off on the zesty and fresh side, but slowly gains in weight and presence on the slightly broader and smoother palate, yet the finish is very focused thanks to some bracing acidity and herbal elements kicking in. The aftertaste is very smoky and hugely long. 2024-2035

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Weingut Van Volxem

(Wiltingen – Saar)

2020er	Van Volxem	Scharzhofberger Riesling GG	16 21	93
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The 2020er Scharzhofberger Riesling GG is a legally dry wine made from up to 50-year-old vines situated in the upper part of the vineyard. It offers a beautifully complex and refined nose of anise, elderflower, bergamot, pear, lime, chamomile, and plenty of minty herbs. The wine is superbly playful and light-weighted on the palate. It then gradually develops more presence, yet the finish is beautifully focused, spicy, and even sharp (without any aggressive side). The aftertaste is fully dry and immensely spicy. 2024-2035

2020er	Van Volxem	Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Alte Reben GG	19 21	92
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The 2020er Altenberg Alte Reben GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine made from over 50-year-old vines in the historic part of the Altenberg hill. It offers a beautifully focused and pure nose of greengage, almond, grapefruit, vineyard peach, grilled spices, cassis, rose, and jasmine. The wine has good presence and grip on the palate and leaves a clean and focused feel in the finish. There is an underlying feel of tartness still in need of integration. The aftertaste is all about smoke, grapefruit, and herbs, with just a touch of power coming through. 2024-2032

2020er	Van Volxem	Saarburger Schonfels Riesling Trocken GG	23 21	92
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The 2020er Schonfels Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, comes from the Lieu-Dit auf Schonfels, a steep south-east-facing vineyard in the Saarburger Fuchs vineyard which forms the continuation on the Saarburg side of the Ayler Schonfels. It offers a very floral, elegant, and refined nose of anise, Conference pear, star fruit, white peach, and jasmine. The wine is rather light-weighted and creamy with a soft and smooth acidity on the dry rather than really bone-dry palate. The finish is superbly focused and spicy as well as airy and delicate. This is a beautiful smooth expression of dry Riesling in the making. 2024-2035

2020er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Gottesfuss Riesling Alte Reben GG	20 21	91+
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The 2020er Gottesfuss Alte Reben GG, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine made from over 120-year-old, ungrafted vines. It offers an attractive and aromatic nose of almond cream, anise, grapefruit, dill, thyme, and rose. The wine is very delicate and smooth on the palate, where some yellow juicy fruits make for a delicately ripe side. The finish is broader, very spicy, and also quite tart at this early stage. The aftertaste is more light-weighted and elegant. This needs a couple of years to integrate its elements and has some upside potential if the palate gains presence and finesse. 2024-2030

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Mosel Fine Wines

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Stefan Vetter

(Karlstadt – Franken)

2020er	Stefan Vetter	Riesling Trocken Donner Vetter	(No AP)	92
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The 2020er Donner Vetter, as it is referred to on the commercial label, comes from 45-year-old vines tended by the related A.J. Adam Estate in the Dhroner Hofberg. It underwent a light pre-fermentation cold soak (due to the travel of the grapes from the Mosel to the Franken region) before being pressed, fermented spontaneously, aged in wooden casks without any sulfur added for 9 months, and bottled unfiltered with a small 15-18 mg/l of sulfur added. This bright colored wine offers a show-stopping nose made of fresh fruits, a hint of chalkiness, floral elements, and just a fleeting sense of funk. The wine is precise, focused, and gorgeously elegant on the palate. It leaves a sensationally playful finish with a great feel of fresh fruits, deepness, and elegance. This is a truly remarkable wine with just a hint of funk and lots of stunningly complex and fresh flavors. What a success! Now-2025+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

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Weingut Vollenweider

(Traben-Trarbach – Middle Mosel)

2018er	Vollenweider	Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Aurum	15 20	94
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The 2018er Goldgrube Aurum, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a legally dry wine (with 5 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked on the oldest, over 100-year-old un-grafted vines in the vineyard and which was fermented for 18 months in cask before being bottled (hence the late AP number). It offers a stunningly vibrant, yet subtle nose made of gooseberry, pear, melon, bitter lemon, slate, whipped cream, and some earthy spices. The wine is packed with flavors lifted up by a beautifully ripe sense of acidity on the palate and leaves a truly mouthwatering even if not bone-dry feel in the finish. The wine is still quite primary at the moment, but all elements are there to make a cracking dry Riesling at maturity. What a great success! 2028-2038 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2019er	Vollenweider	Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling	09 20	93
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The 2019er Goldgrube Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a legally wine (with 5 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked on up to 100-year-old un-grafted vines. It offers a truly engaging nose made of cassis, elderflower, bitter lemon, melon, pear, a hint of apricot blossom, smoke, and a dash of whipped cream. The wine is quite racy and focused on the palate. Mouthwateringly juicy fruits give way to a dry tasting feel in the long finish. A hint of tartness in the aftertaste rounds off the pleasure of drinking this wine. This is a gorgeous dry-tasting Riesling in the making! 2024-2034 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2019er	Vollenweider	Schimbock	10 20	93
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The 2019er Schimbock, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a dry wine (with 4 g/l of residual sugar) made from Riesling grapes harvested in a similarly-named sector of the Traber Würzgarten situated in the continuation of the Wolfer Goldgrube and which were fermented and aged in traditional oak for 13 months. It offers an intense nose made of pear, quince, bitter grapefruit, cardamom, whipped cream, elderflower, and fine herbal elements. The wine is nicely racy and engaging on the palate and leaves a juicy and long feel in the slightly powerful finish. The intensity and finesse in the aftertaste of this dry Riesling are remarkable. 2024-2034 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

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Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Mehringer Layet Riesling Trocken GG	32 21	92
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The 2020er Layet GG, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is dry wine made from fruit picked on up to 100-year-old vines planted on small terraces in the similarly named and privileged class I Lieu-Dit in the Mehninger Blattenberg. The wine was fermented and matured in an equal mix of Fuder and stainless-steel tanks. It offers a beautifully aromatic and attractive nose of anise, pear, smoke, herbs, bergamot, and grapefruit. The wine proves superbly balanced on the palate, and some juicy fruits add a smoother side to the well-delineated finish. The aftertaste is all about minty herbs and smoke. This is a superb dry Riesling with great finesse. 2024-2033

2020er	Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Trocken GG	30 21	92
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The 2020er Goldtröpfchen GG, as it is referred to on the central part of the consumer label, is a tank-fermented dry wine made from fruit picked in a parcel of 70-year-old vines situated above the village of Ferres. The nose proves superbly attractive and complex as some delicate floral scents are accompanied by apricot, lead pencil, minty herbs, prune, lavender, and thyme. The wine comes over as rather imposing on the palate, where juicy and fruity elements make for a dry-tasting rather than a bone-dry feel. The finish is very long and also slightly powerful. A hint of tartness still needs to integrate. This is already very impressive and will best be enjoyed in its youth before the more opulent side takes over the lead. 2023-2028

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Weingut Weiser-Künstler

(Traben-Trarbach – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Steffensberg Im Löwenbaum Riesling Trocken	07 21	92+
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This 2020er Enkircher Steffensberg Im Löwenbaum Riesling Trocken is a bone-dry wine (with 3 g/l of residual sugar) made fruit harvested in the prime Löwenbaum sector of the vineyard (classified "dark red" on the old Prussian taxation map). It offers a subtly ample but still nicely precise nose made of white peach, a hint of melon, a dash of blood orange, smoke, cardamom, and whipped cream. The wine proves packed with juicy and slightly ripe flavors on the palate and leaves a feel of melon, citrusy fruits, and smoke wrapped into ripe acidity in the long finish. The aftertaste is incredibly persistent despite the wine only showing 12% of alcohol. We would not be surprised if it eventually even exceeds our high rating. 2023-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

2020er	Weiser-Künstler	Trabener Gaispfad Riesling Kabinett Trocken	11 21	92
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The 2020er Trabener Gaispfad Riesling Kabinett Trocken is a fully dry wine made from fruit picked at 85° Oechsle on 80-year-old un-grafted vines. It offers a beautifully subtle and engaging nose made of herbs, spices, smoke, and only a hint of lemon at this early stage. The wine is light-footed yet packed with lemony and zesty flavors on the palate and leaves a stunningly focused and mouthwatering feel in the long and animating finish. This combination of lightness, raciness, and intensity is simply stunning! 2023-2035 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Issue No 57 – July 2021)

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Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Annual Auctions

Every year, three winemakers' associations, the Bernkasteler Ring, the VDP Mosel / Grosser Ring, and the VDP Nahe-Ahr-Pfalz-Rheinhausen each hold an Auction at which some of the best wines of its members are auctioned off. This year (2021), these Auctions will be held for the first time in November, on November 11-12-13.



We regularly get many questions about these Auctions:

- What are these Auctions?
- How did these Auctions come about?
- What wines are being sold at these Auctions? Are they the same as those available in the shops?
- Who should buy at the Auctions? Is it really worth it?
- How to acquire auction wines?
- How does one recognize auction bottles on the open market?

We provide here a full detailed package in which we answer all these questions and provide detailed tasting notes for the wines which will be sold off at these events.



Mosel Fine Wines

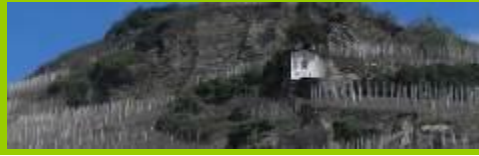
"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Annual Auctions – An Introduction

THE ANNUAL AUCTIONS IN A NUTSHELL

<p>What are these Auctions?</p>	<p>The annual German wine Auctions are not your usual wine Auctions organized by the well-known commercial auction houses. Instead, they are events organized by grower associations at which member Estates directly sell some of their wines directly to the public, with commissioners as intermediaries.</p>
<p>How did the Auctions come about?</p>	<p>The Auctions were set up in the 19th century essentially as an efficient manner to capture value vs. the powerful trading houses. These Auctions gradually structured around grower associations by the turn of the 20th century, also to improve the traceability of the wines. Until the middle of the 20th century, Auctions were to be the standard approach for selling wines, with commissioners as intermediaries. With the development of Estate bottling and direct sales, the Auctions became an annual event dedicated to selling off selected high quality and rare wines only. Two grower associations emerged in the Mosel, and each one organizes an Auction of wines from its members on an annual basis (in Trier). In parallel, the annual Auction of the VDP Nahe in Bad Kreuznach was opened up to members of the VDP Ahr, Pfalz, and Rheinhessen.</p>
<p>Which wines are sold at these Auctions?</p>	<p>The vast majority of the wines brought to these Auctions are special wines (not sold via traditional sales channels) made from particularly prized parcels or the result of painful selections. Most wines are usually from the latest vintage, although any Eiswein, BA, and TBA is from older vintages. In addition, some Estates may bring mature rarities or rare large format bottles from wines which are or were also sold via regular channels (or sometimes wines which were already sold at an Auction in the past).</p>
<p>How to participate at the Auctions?</p>	<p>These Auctions are held as of this year (2021) in November. Private individuals as well as professionals can bid at these Auctions (even if not being able to participate live). It is however advisable to contact a commissioner prior to bidding on the best way to handle any import or duty issues into your country.</p>
<p>Should one buy at the Auctions? Is it worth it?</p>	<p>Auction wines represent a pinnacle of Riesling, which is not surprising as these are the result of painstaking selections. Consequently, they are not cheap and often sell at a significant premium. However, this premium needs to be relativized in the case of fruity-styled, sweet, and noble-sweet auction wines are heavily de-classified. Some relative bargains can however be made, which allow one to get the "best of Riesling" at reasonable prices. The question of whether the premium and effort of buying at Auctions is worth it is a very personal one. Auction bottles do not necessarily need to be acquired at the Auction itself, some Estates and wine merchants / importers offer them also later.</p>
<p>How does one recognize an auction wine?</p>	<p>In principle, all auction bottles carry a round sticker to distinguish them from regular ones. In practice, not all do carry a sticker and then only the AP number can help out. AP numbers may not be very consumer friendly but a little effort may allow one to make some bargains.</p>



Mosel Fine Wines

“The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling”

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

HOW DID THESE AUCTIONS COME ABOUT?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Two grower associations emerged in the Mosel, which each organizes an Auction of wines from its members in Trier on an annual basis.

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

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

Each of these two grower associations organizes one Auction per year. Both take place in Trier (the location varied over the years). Up to 2020, the date was always in September. **This changed to November as of 2021.** Here are the dates:

BERNKASTELER RING		VDP MOSEL / GROSSER RING	
<u>Place:</u>	Tagungszentrum der IHK Herzogenbuscher Strasse 12 54292 Trier	<u>Place:</u>	FourSide Plaza Hotel Trier Zurmaiener Strasse 164 54292 Trier
<u>Timing:</u>	November 11, 2021 09.00-11.00: Pre-tasting 13.00 onwards: Auction	<u>Timing:</u>	November 12, 2021 09.00-11.00: Pre-tasting 13.00 onwards: Auction



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In parallel, the annual Auction of the VDP Nahe in Bad Kreuznach was opened up to members of the VDP Ahr, Pfalz, and Rheinhessen.

In each region of Germany, a branch of the VDP was gradually set up, which all held their own days of Auction, sometimes twice a year, sometimes at a common location for the region sometimes by villages. These Auctions were historically Riesling-centric. After World War II, the VDP Nahe relaunched its annual Auction which was traditionally held in Bad Kreuznach and obligatory to its members. In early 1990s, the VDP Nahe served as "incubator" to the burgeoning VDP Ahr (which, at the time, held too few members for being a separation organization). Consequently, these Estates were allowed (and expected) to also participate to this Auction. This tradition then remained even after the VDP Ahr was set up as a separate organization. Subsequently, the participation to the Bad Kreuznach Auction was also opened up (but without obligation) to members of the VDP Pfalz and the VDP Rheinhessen.

This Auction in Bad Kreuznach traditionally takes place on the Saturday. As for the Trier Auctions, the timing moved to November as of 2021. In 2021, it will take place on November 13:

VDP NAHE, AHR, PFALZ, AND RHEINHESSEN

<u>Place:</u>	Cineplex Bad Kreuznach Kreuzstrasse 57-67 55543 Bad Kreuznach
<u>Timing:</u>	November 13, 2021 09.00-11.00: Pre-tasting 14.00 onwards: Auction

WHAT WINES ARE BEING SOLD AT THE AUCTIONS?

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

Still today, which wines are being sold via the Auctions remains a major source of confusion, even to the most experienced Mosel wine lovers. In principle, each Estate has the freedom to decide which wine(s) to auction off: A young wine, a mature one, a special cask, etc. The only restriction is that any Eiswein, BA or TBA has to have seen at least two winters (i.e. are at least 2 years old) before going to Auction. For the rest, every winemaker has a free hand. In practice the winemakers bring essentially special wines to the Auctions. These are often made from a particularly old or prized parcel or come from a painful selection of berries, which are then bottled separately (i.e. with a distinct AP number). These wines are therefore not available via traditional sales channels, although some wine merchants buy some extra bottles to add them on their list, or some Estates may offer them ex-cellar after the Auction, at least at the hammer price achieved during the Auction (if there are some remaining bottles). Some growers do however sell larger formats of regular wines (often their GG) at these Auctions. These wines are of course also available (in regular formats), via their regular sales channels.

Most wines are usually from the latest vintage, although any Eiswein, BA and TBA is from older vintages.

Most wines brought to the Auctions are likely to be from the latest vintage (i.e. from the 2020 vintage for the Auctions held in November 2021), although several producers, in particular from the Bernkasteler Ring, regularly bring older bottles to these Auctions. This is certainly the case for any Kabinett, Spätlese, and Auslese as well as most dry and off-dry wines (even though a growing number of Estates now bring dry wines with prolonged aging in cask to the Auction). Of course, red wines (as can be sold at the Bad Kreuznach Auction) are usually two years old. The practice varies widely for Eiswein, BA or TBA bottlings. Some Estates tend to bring these wines to the Auctions immediately or soon after the minimum two years period. Other Estates prefer to let them mature somewhat in their cellars before bringing them to Auction.

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

Some producers also sell large formats of top regular wines (i.e. with the same AP number) via these Auctions. As of 2019, this includes magnums of GGs at the VDP Mosel / Grosser Ring Auction. Finally, some mature rarities regularly appear at these Auctions as well. In 2021, this includes a few magnums of the 1991er Saarburger Rausch Eiswein by Geltz-Zilliken and some bottles of the 1971er Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Auslese by Lehnert-Veit.

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

Auction wines represent a pinnacle of German wines, which is not surprising as these are the result of painstaking selections.

We have personally been avid buyers of auction wines for many years as these bottlings represent the essence of Riesling greatness. Simply put: Not all auction wines are magical but our greatest German Riesling wine memories have nearly all come from auction wines (at least from those Estates that are members of these grower associations). The greatness of auction wines is underlined in our 10-Years-After and 20-Years-After Retrospectives which we publish every year in our spring Issue. As you can see for yourself, auction bottlings are always among the very best of any vintage. And this should not come as a surprise, as auction wines are the result of special careful selections. Imagine a Burgundy Domaine making a special selection of its finest fruit in its finest vineyards, and offering the resulting wines separately via an Auction. This would be the equivalent in Burgundy if they held a Trier Auction system (the annual Auction by the Hospices de Beaune is different as it sells the full collection of the Estate of unfinished wines in cask, which then have to be aged elsewhere and bottled subsequently).



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

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

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

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

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

While auction wines can hardly be called cheap, some of these wines can prove relative bargains. At each Auction, there are always a few bottlings which offer particular value, either because they sell for hardly more than their regular equivalent or the quality difference more than justifies the premium. In particular, the Bernkasteler Ring Auction offers great opportunities to acquire superb wines at reasonable prices.

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

Anyone who "only" wants a good Riesling for everyday drinking is probably best served by buying regular (i.e. non-auction) wines from his / her favorite Estate(s). However, anyone seriously interested in German Riesling who wants to get his / her hands on some true gems should make the effort to secure some bottles and let them age properly for future great tasting moments. In addition, lovers of Eiswein, BA and TBA often have no choice but to go through the Auctions to be able to get their hands on some of the finest examples by the likes of Dönnhoff, Fritz Haag, Keller, Joh. Jos. Prüm, Egon Müller as these Estates generally only sell their best Eiswein, BA, and TBA through the auction channel.

HOW TO ACQUIRE AUCTION WINES?

The Auctions are held as of this year in November, with the wines available for tasting in the morning and sold in the afternoon.

As of 2021, the Auctions are held on three consecutive days in November. The Bernkasteler Ring holds its one on the Thursday (November 11). The VDP Mosel / Grosser Ring follows suit on the next day, the Friday. The Bad Kreuznach Auction, including Estates from the VDP Nahe, Ahr, Pfalz, and Rheinhessen, then completes the three days of Auction on the Saturday. These Auctions are open to the public. However, one needs to register in advance to participate as seats are limited and early registration is often mandatory. The participant then gets the possibility to taste the wines in the morning and the wines are then auctioned off in the afternoon in a so-called "wet Auction," i.e. the wines are served again while they are being auctioned off (except for a few rare and / or old bottles).

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

Technically speaking, only the accredited commissioners are actually allowed to bid at these Auctions. However, anyone who wishes to acquire some bottles at these Auctions can do so by placing bids with their wine merchant / importer (if they offer this service) or by contacting directly one of the accredited commissioners to these events. We provide the full contact details of these commissioners at the end of this introductory section.

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

After the Auctions, the commissioners will contact the successful bidders for payment and shipment. Within the European Union, as far we understand the law, wine lovers can work directly with a commissioner if he / she fetches the bottles himself / herself or takes care of shipment, import administration, and duties into his / her country of residence (wine lovers may still choose for easiness to work via a wine merchant / importer to avoid the logistics hassle). For bidders from outside the European Union (and in particular from North America or Asia), further shipping / importing restrictions may apply. In any case, we strongly advise wine lovers to contact a commissioner or his / her wine merchant / importer prior to bidding to check how this is best organized. The end price paid for the wines will be composed of the hammer price, to which one needs to add a commission fee (a few percentage points of the hammer price) for the accredited commissioners, shipping costs as well as any import duties and VAT (or sales tax).

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

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

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

- At the Auction organized by the Bernkasteler Ring, a bid price is traditionally expressed in terms of the equivalent 75cl bottle, even if only half bottles are offered (this is a relic of the days in which casks were sold prior to bottling and hence the price determined per "unit"). You should therefore take extra-care when placing your bids for half-bottles or magnums to make sure that you define them correctly. In case of doubt, we recommend that you ask your commissioner.



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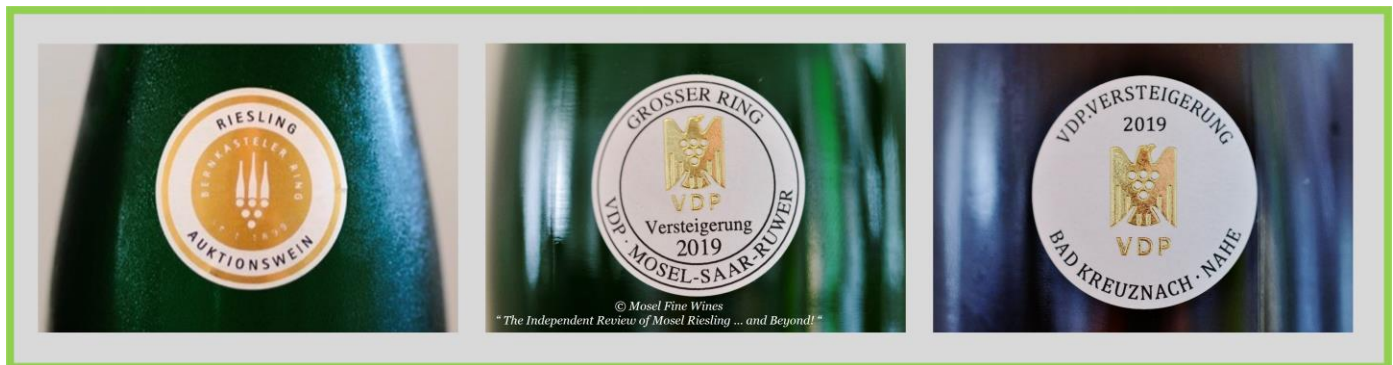
- At the Auctions organized by the VDP, different formats of bottles (standard, magnum, half-bottle, etc.) are auctioned off separately. This procedure regularly results in some bizarre price formation, whereby half-bottles can turn out to be nearly as expensive as full bottles. Astute participants to these Auctions can regularly extract a (relative) bargain here.

Auction bottles do not necessarily need to be acquired at the Auction itself, some Estates and wine merchants / importers offer them also later. Despite being made in minute quantities, auction wines can be found on the open market. Our experience is that many leading wine merchants / importers specialized in German wines throughout the world often acquire some auction wines to enhance their catalogue (either immediately or for release after some years). Also, some Estates offer the possibility to acquire their auction wines at the Estate after the Auction, usually at or close to the hammer price. Going for this secondary market can therefore be an alternative option to acquire some of these auction wines, and one that does not require the hassle of preparing bids and importing the resulting wines. Of course, the price for these wines will be higher than the one at the Auction. For those of you who want to buy these auction wines on the market, you should carefully read the next section, and some bottles may not be directly recognizable as being auction wines even though they are!

HOW DOES ONE RECOGNIZE AUCTION BOTTLES ON THE OPEN MARKET?

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

In order to differentiate them from regular wines, auction bottlings do carry a round sticker, usually above the front label or stuck to a corner of the label with the indication "Riesling Auktionswein" without any additional information for the Bernkasteler Ring or "Versteigerung" and the year in which it was auctioned in the case of the VDP. As an image speaks more than a thousand words, we have attached pictures of past auction bottlings here below.



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

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

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

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

This is also one of the reasons why Mosel Fine Wines has been providing full tasting notes with AP numbers for both the Bernkasteler Ring and the VDP Auctions in Trier since 2008 and for the VDP Auction in Bad Kreuznach since 2015. Readers will find many more auction wines, also with full AP details, in our annual April Issue dedicated to mature Riesling. In addition, subscribers to both Mosel Fine Wines and CellarTracker can also check very easily if a particular lot on sale at a shop or a commercial Auction is actually an auction bottling via the searchable database integrated into CellarTracker.



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LIST OF ACCREDITED COMMISSIONERS

Only Commissioners may to bid at these wine Auctions. We provide here the list of accredited Commissioners to the 2021 events (as given in the respective auction catalogues on October 31, 2021), in alphabetic order:

Bernkasteler Ring Trier Auction	VDP Trier Auction	VDP Bad Kreuznach Auction
<p>Elmar Bergweiler Weinkommission Hauptstrasse 144 D-54470 Bernkastel-Wehlen Phone: +49 6531 91400 Fax: +49 6531 3709 Email: info@ElmarBergweiler.com</p>	<p>Bergweiler, Elmar Hauptstrasse 144 D-54470 Bernkastel-Wehlen Phone: +49 6531 91400 Fax: +49 6531 3709 Email: info@ElmarBergweiler.com</p>	<p>Weinkommission Hans Haber Inh. Sigrid Haber Ockenheimer Chaussee 16a D-55411 Bingen Phone: +49 6721 42281 Email: weinkommissionhaber@gmx.de</p>
<p>Dünweg, W. Römerstrasse 16 D-54347 Neumagen-Dhron Phone: +49 6507 2213 Fax: +49 6507 6257 Email: N.A.</p>	<p>Dünweg, W. Römerstrasse 16 Postfach 28 D-54347 Neumagen-Dhron Phone: +49 6507 2213 Email: N.A.</p>	<p>Weinkommission Heinz Koch Eberbacher Strasse 89 D-65346 Eltville-Erbach Phone: +49 6123 62748 Email: Heinz.Koch2812@t-online.de</p>
<p>Karl A. Ress GmbH Am Hendelberg 15 D-65375 Oestrich-Winkel 3 Phone: +49 6723 91900 Fax: +49 6723 919090 Email: agi@ress-wein.de</p>	<p>Karl A. Ress Wein KG Am Hendelberg 15 D-65375 Oestrich-Winkel Phone: +49 6723 91900 Fax: +49 6723 919090 Email: agi@ress-wein.de</p>	<p>Karl A. Ress Wein KG – Export-Service Am Hendelberg 15 D-65375 Oestrich-Winkel Phone: +49 6723 91900 Fax: +49 6723 919090 Email: agi@ress-wein.de / viktoria@ress-wein.de</p>
<p>J. & H. Selbach GmbH & Co. KG Gänsfelderstrasse 20 D-54492 Zeltingen Phone: +49 6532 95380 Fax: +49 6532 4014 Email: selbach.zeltingen@t-online.de</p>	<p>Selbach, J. & H. GmbH & Co. KG Postfach 1104 D-54492 Zeltingen/Gewerbegebiet Phone: +49 6532 95380 Fax: +49 6532 4014 Email: selbach.zeltingen@t-online.de</p>	<p>Weinkommission J. u. H. Selbach GmbH & Co. KG Gänsfelderstrasse 20 D-54492 Zeltingen Phone: +49 6532 95380 Fax: +49 6532 4014 Email: office@selbach-oster.de</p>
	<p>Johann Hild e.K. Bahnhofstrasse 33 D-54457 Wincheringen Phone: +49 6583 527 Fax: +49 6583 1517 Email: info@hild-wein.de</p>	<p>Weinkommission Marlies Grumbach St. Nikolaus Weinhandels GmbH Hauptstrasse 159 D-54470 Bernkastel-Kues Phone: +49 6531 2081 Fax: +49 6531 2084 Email: marlies@wineland-ltd.com</p>
	<p>Dr. Fabian Freisberg Wein- und Kunsthandel Brahmsstrasse 5 D-56075 Koblenz Phone: +49 170 303 79 69 Email: post@fabianfreisberg.de</p>	<p>Weinkommission Allendorf, Ulrich Allendorf Kirchstrasse 69 D-65375 Oestrich-Winkel Phone: +49 6723 918513 Fax: +49 6723 918540 Mobile: +49 160 1529711 Email: ulrich.allendorf@allendorf.de</p>



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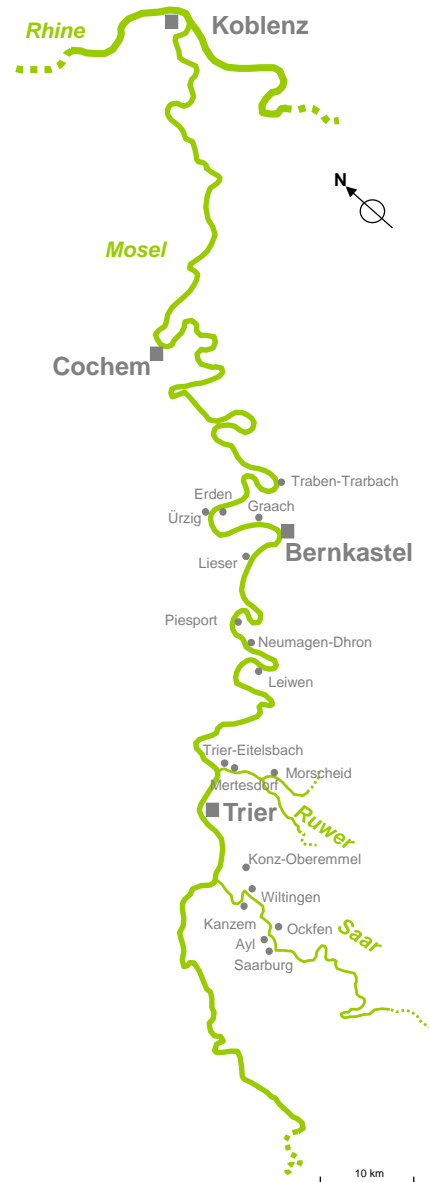
By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Annual Auctions | Tasting Notes – 2021 Bernkasteler Ring Trier Auction

We provide here a review of recommended wines that will be auctioned off by the Bernkasteler Ring in Trier on November 11, 2021, and that we can recommend on quality grounds. This includes wines from the following Estates (presented in alphabetic order).

Erben von Beulwitz
Clüsserath-Eifel
Martin Conrad
Reinhold Franzen
Albert Kallfelz
Karp-Schreiber
Kees-Kieren
Kerpen
Lehnert-Veit
Meulenhof
Peter Neu-Erben
Paulinshof
Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler
Philipps-Eckstein
Rebenhof
F.J. Regnery
Richard Richter
Andreas Schmitges

Mertesdorf
Trittenheim
Brauneberg
Bremm
Zell-Merl
Brauneberg
Graach
Wehlen
Piesport
Erden
Wiltingen
Kesten
Bernkastel-Kues
Graach
Ürzig
Klüsserath
Winningen
Erden





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Weingut Erben von Beulwitz

(Mertesdorf – Trier-Ruwer)

2020er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese Alte Reben Fass 4	04 21	Auction	93+
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The 2020er Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese Alte Reben Fass 4 is a white-green-colored wine with a gorgeous nose of cassis, minty herbs, whipped cream, and spices. The wine is dominated by a touch of round creaminess on the palate but the underlying feel of zest is nicely coming through in the long finish. This gorgeously suave yet animating Auslese could well exceed our already high rating as it develops more cut with age. 2030-2050

2015er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese Alte Reben Fass 4	04 16	Auction	92+
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The 2015er Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese Alte Reben Fass 4 proves completely closed down and does not reveal much beyond some faint scents of candied lemon, earthy spices, and melon. The wine proves on the hard side on the palate. It is only the finish and above all the aftertaste that it reveals the beauty currently buried deep into the wine. This wine is best left alone for quite a few years in order to get the most out of it. 2028-2045

2004er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Beerenauslese	02 05	Auction	92
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The 2004er Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Beerenauslese is a bronze-colored wine with a slightly oxidative nose made of dried fruits, spices, earthy spices, and furniture polish. The wine proves nicely racy, focused, and playful on the straight palate and leaves a racy feel in the finish. More oxidative notes come through in the aftertaste. This BA will particularly please lovers of the oxidative expressions of noble-sweet Riesling. Now-2029

2020er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Kabinett Fass 9	09 21	Auction	92
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The 2020er Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Kabinett Fass 9 offers a playful and quite animating nose of cassis, minty herbs, and smoky elements. The wine proves on the subtly creamy side on the palate at first before a nice touch of zest kicks in. Yellow fruits then underline the subtle Spätlese side of this wine in the gorgeously playful and persistent finish. 2030-2050

2020er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben Fass 6	06 21	Auction	92
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The 2020er Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben Fass 6 offers a beautiful nose of cassis, mint, apricot blossom, and whipped cream. The wine proves racy but also subtly creamy on the palate and leaves a hugely satisfying feel of Auslese-styled creaminess in the apricot-infused finish. Despite the presence, the wine remains gorgeously playful and airy in its subtly rich style. 2030-2050

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Weingut Clüsserath-Eifel

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Clüsserath-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Trocken Fährfels GG	02 21	Auction	91+
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The 2020er Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Trocken Fährfels GG still proves rather reduced and only gradually reveals a beautiful nose of pear, herbs, and minerals. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate and delivers a stunningly airy and fresh feel in the finish. It is only in the aftertaste that a touch of power comes through. The whole thing still feels on the primary and austere side. We would not be surprised if it eventually proves to be even finer than we currently anticipate at maturity. 2024-2030

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Martin Conrad

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

NB: The Estate is in reconversion for organic certification as of 2020.

2020er	Martin Conrad	Veldenzer Kirchberg Riesling Auslese Alte Reben GK	24 21	Auction	91
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The 2020er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** offers a quite direct nose made of melon, elderflower, and whipped cream. The wine proves nicely creamy, herbal, and zesty on the palate and leaves a nicely long feel in the hearty and slightly direct finish. Great flavors of fruits and spices make for a superb feel in the aftertaste. 2030-2050

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Weingut Reinhold Franzen

(Bremm – Terrassenmosel)

2011er	Reinhold Franzen	Neefer Frauenberg Riesling Beerenauslese	12 12	Auction	95
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The 2011er Neefer Frauenberg Riesling Beerenauslese was made from botrytized fruit picked at 161° Oechsle and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This already golden-colored wine offers a superb nose made of dried fruits, honey, almond paste, cream, and melon. It proves rich and multi-layered on the palate and leaves a hugely complex feel of fruits, spices, and earthy elements in the finish. Some sweetness still needs to integrate in the aftertaste. This gorgeous BA will prove stunning at its peak, in a few years, when the sweetness will have better integrated. What a great success! 2031-2061

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Weingut Albert Kallfelz

(Zell-Merl – Terrassenmosel)

2018er	Albert Kallfelz	Merler Königslay-Terrassen Riesling Beerenauslese	45 19	Auction	93
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The 2018er Merler Königslay-Terrassen Riesling Beerenauslese was made from botrytized fruit picked at 125° Oechsle and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. It offers a nicely refreshing nose made of mint and whipped cream, which develops into almond cream after some airing. The wine proves nicely fresh and animating on the palate despite all the sweetness at play and leaves a straight and direct feel of honey and apricot in the long finish. This great dessert wine needs another couple of years to fully deliver. 2028-2058

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Weingut Karp-Schreiber

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Karp-Schreiber	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG	09 21	Auction	91
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The 2020er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG offers an attractive nose made of pear, herbs, cassis, smoke, and still reductive elements from its fermentation. The wine shows a little touch of power but remains nicely balanced on the palate and leaves a satisfying feel in the long finish. Freshness and presence define the aftertaste. 2024-2030

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Weingut Kees-Kieren

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Kees-Kieren	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese ***	26 21	Auction	92+
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The 2020er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese *** was made from botrytized fruit picked at a full 145° Oechsle and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar (205 g/l). It offers a beautiful nose of elderflower, mint, white peach, melon, and whipped cream, all wrapped into some nicely floral elements. The wine proves hugely creamy but also remarkably sweet and round at the moment and leaves a sense of candy floss and richness in the hugely persistent finish. This big Auslese may well warrant a higher rating at maturity if it manages to absorb harmoniously its sweetness. 2035-2060

2020er	Kees-Kieren	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese **	22 21	Auction	91
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The 2020er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese ** was made from fruit picked at 91° Oechsle and fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar (112 g/l). It offers an attractive nose made of white and yellow peach, herbs, whipped cream, and fine spices. The wine comes over as precise but also packed with the creaminess of a rich Auslese on the palate and leaves an intense and still slightly sweet feel in the otherwise precise and elegant finish. The aftertaste is rich and nicely satisfying. 2030-2050

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Weingut Kerpen

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2002er	Kerpen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese *	15 03	Auction	94
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The 2002er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese * AP 15 (a wine first auctioned off in 2003) offers a stunning nose of herbs, spices, beeswax, citrusy elements, and smoke. The wine is beautifully airy, intense, and balanced on the palate and leaves a magnificent long feel of mature Riesling with flavors herbs, spices, fresh and dried fruits, and beeswax in the long and pure finish. This wine has evolved gorgeously well! Now-2032

2020er	Kerpen	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese **	18 21	Auction	92
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The 2020er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese ** was made from 50% botrytized fruit picked at 108° Oechsle and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (82 g/l). It offers a gorgeous nose of almost Ruwer raciness as gooseberry, mint, and citrusy fruits emerge from the glass. Then, some riper notes of peach and even a hint of apricot join the party as the wine gains from airing. The feel on the palate is one of precision, balance, and subtle creaminess. The wine leaves one with a subtly racy and nicely direct yet layered feel of fresh fruits in the long finish. This beautiful Auslese is made in an upfront but no less appealing style. 2030-2050

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Weingut Lehnert Veit

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

NB: The Estate was trading under the name Wwe Lehnert-Veit back in the early 1970s and this bottle is released under that label.

1971er	Wwe Lehnert-Veit	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese	02 72	Auction	93
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The 1971er Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese proves still beautifully golden-colored and offers a superb nose almond, nut, dried fruits, and aniseed herbs, as well as just a hint of caramel fleeting in the background. The wine proves nicely filigreed on the palate (think Spätlese rather than big modern Auslese) and leaves a subtle and elegant feel in the great and fully mature finish. It is beautifully vibrant and yet so silky and balanced. This is a great Auslese at full maturity. Now

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Weingut Meulenhof

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Meulenhof	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett Alte Reben	09 21	Auction	92
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The 2020er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett Alte Reben was made from fruit picked at 89° Oechsle on over 80-year-old vines and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (52 g/l). It offers an absolutely gorgeous nose made of cassis, grapefruit, mint, and dried herbs. The wine proves relatively powerful and creamy on the palate (it does have 9.5% alcohol) and is still slightly on the sweet side in the long finish. This wine, firmly cut along the lines of a big Spätlese or even a light Auslese, is truly remarkable in its fresh but intense style. 2028-2040

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Weingut Peter Neu-Erben

(Wiltingen – Saar)

2020er	Peter Neu-Erben	Wiltinger Klosterberg Riesling Kabinett	07 21	Auction	92
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The 2020er Wiltinger Klosterberg Riesling Kabinett is a fruity-styled wine with a fine nose of pear, vineyard peach, whipped cream, and subtle spices. It proves beautifully subtle and spicy on the fresh and animating palate and leaves a still slightly sweet feel in the otherwise stunningly elegant finish. This wine cut along the lines of an Auslese from the 1990s now only needs a decade to blend its components and fully shine. 2030-2050

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Weingut Paulinshof

(Kesten – Middle Mosel)

2019er	Paulinshof	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Spätlese Nr. 25		Auction	92
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The 2019er Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Spätlese Nr. 25 offers a slightly ripe but hugely engaging nose made of melon, elderflower, honey, and whipped cream. The wine proved beautifully creamy, racy, and full of impact on the palate yet proves also nicely subtle and layered in the finish. This is a gorgeous wine with Spätlese race and Auslese creaminess in the making. 2029-2049

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Weingut Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

1995er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	46 96	Auction	96
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The 1995er Bernkasteler Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese was made from fruit picked at 162° Oechsle and was fermented down to fully noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. It proves already completely bronze-colored and offers a stunning and nicely mature nose of apricot, date, orange peel, herbs, spices, tea, and smoky elements. The wine is stunningly racy and focused on the palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of almond, dried fruits, and beeswax wrapped into Eiswein-like lemon-sorbet in the finish. This superb TBA will particularly appeal to lovers of focused and racy expressions of the genre. Now-2035



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2011er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Auslese Alte Reben	23 12	Auction	94
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The 2011er Bernkasteler Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Auslese, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a gorgeous nose of white peach, melon, elderflower, whipped cream, slate, and a hint of petrol. The wine is quite rich and creamy yet also nicely animating on the palate where more of these fresh and almost "Ruwer-styled" flavors add charm and raciness to the experience. The finish is nicely long and multi-layered. This sweet wine completely transcends the ripe and soft nature of the 2011 vintage: What an immense success! Now-2031

2020er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	19 21	Auction	92
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The 2020er Bernkasteler Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Spätlese, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is made from fruit picked at 85° Oechsle and fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (69 g/l). It offers a gorgeous nose of cassis, herbs, fine spices, a dash of whipped cream, and smoke. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate where zesty notes are nicely wrapped into creamy elements. The finish is hugely long and leads to a superbly animating feel in the aftertaste. This is a stunning Spätlese (with some Auslese elements) in the making! 2030-2050

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Weingut Philipps-Eckstein

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

2018er	Philipps-Eckstein	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Beerenauslese ***	29 19	Auction	96
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The 2018er Himmelreich BA, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is made from botrytized fruit harvested at a full 148° Oechsle and was fermented down to fully noble-sweet levels of residual sugar (230 g/l). This yellow-colored wine offers a beautiful nose made of melon, peach, mint, and almond cream. It proves ripe, deep, and subtly oily on the palate but it is still completely marked by the underlying sweetness in the long finish. This deeply sweet wine is really only work in progress at this stage but will prove a stunner at maturity, but expect to wait more than a decade. 2033-2068

2012er	Philipps-Eckstein	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese ***	33 15	Auction	92+
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The 2012er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese *** was made with botrytized fruit picked at 125° Oechsle and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This yellow-hay-colored wine offers a ripe nose of dried fruits, spices, herbs, and almond infused in honey. The wine is full-on round and rich on the palate but already leaves a superbly complex feel in the long finish. There is quite some upside here if the wine manages to harness its richness at maturity. 2027-2042

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Weingut Rebenhof

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Rebenhof	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese Fass 8	18 21	Auction	92
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The 2020er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese Fass 8 was made from clean fruit picked at 118° Oechsle and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (137 g/l). It offers a beautiful nose of cassis, strawberry, honey, almond, herbs, and spices. The wine has the creamy elegance of a Auslese lange GK on the palate and leaves a direct yet superbly delineated feel in the long finish. The aftertaste is filled with beautiful flavors of honey and apricot. 2030-2050

2020er	Rebenhof	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese Urglück	15 21	Auction	91+
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The 2020er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese Urglück was made from fruit picked at 92° Oechsle and was fermented down to barely sweet levels of residual sugar (57 g/l). It proves still massively reduced and shy and only offers faint scents of white peach, pear, and some minerals at this stage on the nose. The wine is nicely light-footed on the subtly rich palate and leaves a quite direct sense of flavors in the slightly sweet finish. This Spätlese really needs quite some time to reveal its potential. It could then easily exceed our rating. 2030-2050



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2020er	Rebenhof	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese Trocken Alte Reben	12 21	Auction	90
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The 2020er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Trocken Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from 70-100-year-old vines in the Grand Lay part of the vineyard. It offers a rather upfront and fruit-driven nose of cassis, pear, a hint of apricot, smoke, and spices. The wine proves on the firm and grippy side on the palate and leaves a nicely direct feel of fruits and spices in the assertive and dry finish. 2024-2030

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Weingut F.J. Regnery

(Klüsserath – Middle Mosel)

2020er	F.J. Regnery	Klüsserather Bruderschaft Riesling Spätlese		Auction	90
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The 2020er Klüsserather Bruderschaft Riesling Spätlese (the auction lot) offers a ripe nose of pear, greengage, lime, herbs, and spices. The wine comes over as round and still slightly sweet on the palate and leaves a soft and earthy feel in the long finish. A sense of power adds to the overall round feel of this Auslese-shouldered wine. Patience will be needed for the underlying finesse to develop. 2030-2050

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Weingut Richard Richter

(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

2015er	Richard Richter	Winniger Röttgen Riesling Trockenbeereauslese	12 20	Auction	97
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The 2015er Winniger Röttgen Riesling Trockenbeereauslese offers a stunning nose made of orange peel, backed mango, dried date, almond paste, and lemon zest. The wine delivers a stunning feel of fruits and spices wrapped into citrusy zest on the palate and leaves superbly playful notes of honey, apricot, and spices in the long and lingering finish. Despite the typical oily structure of top-end TBA, the wine remains beautifully precise and complex. This is a glorious success! 2025-2045

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Weingut Andreas Schmitges

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

2018er	Andreas Schmitges	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese **	17 19	Auction	94
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This 2018er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese ** was made from partially botrytized fruit picked at 115° Oechsle and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar (124 g/l). This yellow-green colored wine offers a superb nose of cassis, melon, whipped cream, spices, and herbs. The wine proves gorgeously intense and superbly balanced on the palate and leaves a superb sense of zest (packed into a touch of petrol) in the long and hugely animating finish. The aftertaste is pure, complex, and screams for more. 2028-2048

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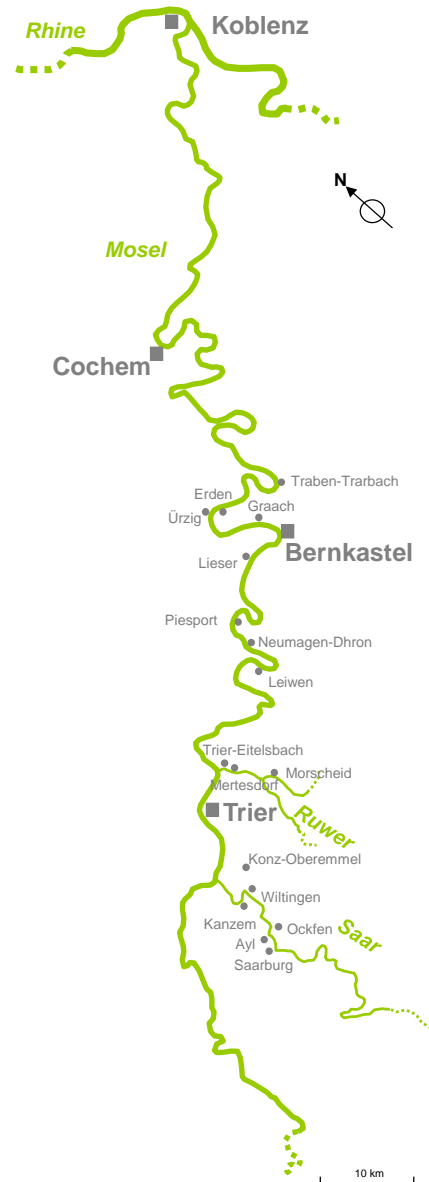
By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Annual Auctions | Tasting Notes – 2021 VDP Trier Auction

We provide here a review of wines that will be auctioned off by the VDP Mosel / Grosser Ring in Trier on November 12, 2021, and that we can recommend on quality grounds. This includes wines from the following Estates (presented in alphabetic order).

- A.J. Adam**
- Clemens Busch**
- Geltz-Zilliken**
- Fritz Haag**
- von Hövel**
- Knebel**
- Peter Lauer**
- Le Gallais**
- Dr. Loosen**
- Maximin Grünhaus**
- Josef Milz**
- Egon Müller**
- von Othegraven**
- Joh. Jos. Prüm**
- Willi Schaefer**
- Schloss Saarstein**
- Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch**

- Dhron*
- Pünderich*
- Saarburg*
- Brauneberg*
- Oberemmel*
- Winningen*
- Ayl*
- Kanzem*
- Bernkastel-Kues*
- Mertesdorf*
- Trittenheim*
- Wiltingen*
- Kanzem*
- Wehlen*
- Graach*
- Serrig*
- Bernkastel-Kues*





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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut A.J. Adam

(Neumagen-Dhron – Middle Mosel)

2020er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Kabinett Alte Reben	14 21	Auction	94+
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The 2020er Hofberg Kabinett, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the reference to Alte Reben is left for the back label), was made from fruit picked at 79° Oechsle on over 65-year-old vines in a steep part of the backside of the main Hofberg hill and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (48 g/l). It offers a superb nose made of lemon zest, green herbs, fine spices, and a subtle hint of mango and sage which are so typical for this vineyard. The wine is subtly creamy but also hugely zesty on the palate and leaves a beautiful feel of herbs, earthy spices, passion fruit sorbet, and pear in the long and beautifully balanced finish. The aftertaste is hugely long and incredibly playful. What a superb wine in the making! 2030-2060

2020er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Häs'chen Riesling Spätlese	16 21	Auction	94
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The 2020er Häs'chen Spätlese, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was made from fruit picked at 89° Oechsle on over 100-year-old un-grafted vines in this east-facing vineyard solely tended by the Estate and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (70 g/l). It offers a beautiful and subtly earthy nose made of apricot, cassis, bergamot, a hint of almond, whipped cream, and spices. The wine is beautifully full-bodied on the palate and leaves a nicely creamy feel of fruits, herbs, and spices in the incredibly long finish. A touch of tart lemon zest adds great depth to the aftertaste. This gorgeous Spätlese is a true winner! 2030-2050

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Weingut Clemens Busch

(Pünderich – Terrassenmosel)

NB: The Estate is certified organic (along EU guidelines) and biodynamic (along RESPEKT guidelines).

2018er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese Fass 1890	18 21	Auction	100
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The 2018er Marienburg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the reference to Fass 1890 is left for the back label), is a separation auction bottling (the Estate produced three different TBAs in 2018) made from fully botrytized fruit picked at 242° Oechsle and was fermented down to fully noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This superbly golden-colored wine offers a remarkable nose of baked pineapple and mango, whipped cream, almond paste, dried raisin, herbs, and fine spices. Despite its sweet oiliness on the palate, the wine proves already hugely complex and subtle. Layer upon layer of candied exotic fruits, Christmas spices, and almond-driven elements add to the incredible pleasure of enjoying this wine. The finish is intensely long, alluring, and captivating, and this despite the youthful sense of sweetness which still needs to integrate. While it is truly stunning already now if you do not mind its syrupy structure, it would be a pity not to wait more than a decade and get the same thrill with more depth and even better integrated sweetness. But what a stunner in the making! 2033-2098

2020er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienberg Riesling Kabinett Fass 2034	05 21	Auction	93+
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The 2020er Marienburg Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the reference to Fass 2034 is provided in small print on the back label), was made from fruit picked at 85° Oechsle in the classical part of the vineyard and was fermented down to fully fruity-styled levels of residual sugar. It offers a slightly backward nose made of greengage, smoke, herbs, wet stone, and fine spices. The wine proves beautifully airy and playful on the palate, where white peach and apricot blossom add a sense of ripeness to the overall refreshing experience. After extensive airing, more juicy white peach driven fruitiness joins the party and gives even more depth to the beautifully playful and enticing flavors. The finish is long and hugely satisfying. This may still be on the restrained side of things at the moment but the potential is huge. 2030-2050

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Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

(Saarburg – Saar)

2020er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein	02 92	Auction	98+
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This show-stopper of a wine delivers a hugely complex nose of mirabelle, backed pineapple and canned yellow peach. Freshness and creaminess woe for attention on the palate as the juicy fruits are superbly balanced by a most beautiful acidity. The finish is airy, multi-layered and, quite frankly, mind-bogglingly lively and fresh. What a stunning effort! Now-2031 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No. 34 – April 2017)

2020er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Kabinett	02 21	Auction	93
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The 2020er Rausch Kabinett, as it is referred to on the front label, with AP 02 (an auction lot) was picked during the last week of the harvest and was fermented to fully fruity-styled levels of residual sugar. It offers a discreet and initially reserved yet very elegant, fresh, and minty nose of lime tree, candied grapefruit, aniseed herbs, lozenge, rhubarb, and lead pencil. The wine proves delicately juicy and creamy on the superbly fruity yet focused palate, which has some Spätlese presence. Intense herbal and minty flavors make for a hugely animating and very long feel in the finish. Candied lime and grapefruit driven acidity add depth and freshness to the experience. This is a great fruity-styled wine in the making, which now only needs a decade to fully blossom. 2030-2045

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Weingut Fritz Haag

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese #14	14 21	Auction	96+
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The 2020er Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese #14, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar. It offers a magnificent floral and complex bouquet of vineyard peach, cassis, smoke, grapefruit, tangerine, whipped cream, and spices. The wine is still rather compact, juicy, and rich on the palate, where even some exotic fruits come through and make for an Auslese richness, yet the wine is wrapped into a refreshing creamy and delicate structure. This gorgeous Spätlese is a true winner! 2030-2050

2020er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	13 21	Auction	95
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The 2020er Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the consumer label, delivers a very pure and floral and deeply complex nose of anise, whipped cream, yellow peach, herbs, and smoke. The wine offers great finesse and lightness on the palate where some juicy fruits are wrapped into zesty and spicy elements. The finish has energy and already tastes more off-dry than fully fruity or sweet. It proves very playful, intense, and energetic and leaves a great sense of grip and persistence in the precise and smoky finish. This is a magnificent Kabinett in the making! 2028-2050

2020er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr "im Falkenberg" Riesling Trocken GG	11 21	Auction	93+
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The 2020er Juffer-Sonnenuhr "im Falkenberg" Riesling Trocken GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from the prime similarly-named Lieu-Dit situated at the lower western end of the vineyard and was fermented in large oak barrel. This cask sample offers a restrained yet elegant nose of whipped almond cream, orange blossom, fine minty herbs, lime, grapefruit, and smoke. The wine proves delicately creamy and juicy on the comparatively smooth and refined palate, which has quite some fruity presence. It leaves a beautifully mineral and compact feel in the hugely smoky, fully dry-tasting, and vibrating finish. There is true beauty here! 2024-2035+

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Weingut von Hövel

(Oberemmel – Saar)

2020er	von Hövel	Kanzemer Hörecker Riesling Auslese	20 21	Auction	92
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The 2020er Kanzemer Hörecker Riesling Auslese is made from partially (10%) botrytized fruit picked at 95° Oechsle in this vineyard solely tended by the Estate and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (65 g/l). It offers a rather suave nose made of passion fruit, almond paste, earthy spices, herbs, and fine smoky elements. The wine is playful and juicy on the overall rather light-footed palate and leaves a nicely firm and satisfying feel in the long finish. Lemon zest adds pep to the complex finish, where the sweetness is already well integrated. This light-weighted expression of Auslese will prove quite delightful in its juicy and playful style in a decade. 2030-2045

2020er	von Hövel	Kanzemer Hörecker Riesling Trocken GG	13 21	Auction	91
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The 2020er Monopollage Kanzemer Hörecker Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the neck label, offers a captivating and very smoky nose of herbs, white flowers, candied grapefruit, mint, spices, lime, and gooseberry. The wine proves nicely balanced and refined on the gently smooth and delicately creamy palate. The finish develops the focus and lightness so typical of the Estate, but still the wine has complexity and finesse. While not fully bone-dry, this wine is a very pleasing and subtle light-footed expression of dry Riesling which shines through finesse and elegance. 2024-2035

2020er	von Hövel	Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Kabinett	22 21	Auction	91
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The 2020er Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Kabinett AP 22 (an auction lot) was made from fruit picked at 86° Oechsle and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (42 g/l). It offers a rather enticing nose made of melon, pear, herbs, and spices. The wine feels almost off-dry on the subtly creamy palate filled with ripe passion fruit, melon, and tart smoky elements. The finish is still a bit abrupt but full of typical bergamot and passion fruit sorbet. The balance in the aftertaste is still slightly on the sweet-sour side but gains more depth as the wine breathes and juicy flavors of white peach come through. It should therefore nicely integrate with age. 2030-2050

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Weingut Knebel

(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

2020er	Knebel	Winniger Röttgen Riesling Auslese lange GK	04 21	Auction	96
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The 2020er Winniger Röttgen Riesling Auslese lange GK was made from almost only clean fruit picked at approx. 115° Oechsle and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar (186 g/l). A touch of volatile acidity quickly gives way to beautiful BA-styled scents of almond, candied exotic fruits, and nut paste, all wrapped into spices and herbs. The wine is subtly oily and unctuous on the palate at first before a beautifully lively kick of acidity packed into a whiff of volatile acidity brings the whole experience to life. The finish is long, playful, deep, and multi-layered with honeyed elements adding sweetness to the aftertaste. The acidity makes it already beautifully balanced now but this gorgeous dessert wine will only truly shine in a decade. 2030-2060

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Weingut Peter Lauer

(Ayl – Saar)

2020er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Spätlese N°23	231 21	Auction	96
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The 2020er Kupp Spätlese N°23, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, was harvested on the original Kupp hill and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (72 g/l). It captures one's attention with beautifully aromatic and superbly complex notes of mango, pineapple, coconut cream, almond, candied grapefruit, passion fruit, orange zest, and vanilla, all delivered with the intensity of an Auslese. The wine proves superbly playful and almost light-weighted on the peach-driven palate and leaves one with the great feeling of lightness of a Spätlese in the smooth and very delicate finish. This tastes fully ripe yet retains the core of freshness that defines Spätlese. It now only needs a decade (or even more) to fully integrate all its elements and truly shine. 2030-2060



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2020er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Schonfels Riesling Trocken N°11 GG	11 21	96
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The 2020er Schonfels N°11 GG, as it is referred to on the central part of the label and which will be sold in magnums at the Auction (the same wine is sold via regular channels in 75cl bottle), comes from this steep south-east facing hill overseeing the Saar (legally part of the Ayler Kupp vineyard). It offers a magnificently fresh and elegant nose of white flowers, bergamot, minty herbs, grapefruit zest, lime, rosemary, and white peach. The wine delivers plenty of fresh flavors of mint and spices on the superbly focused palate. The finish has some crisp and chiseled citrusy fruits, and, above all, plenty of salty elements. The wine proves incredibly persistent and gorgeously intense, without any disturbing feel of power. It proves a stunningly complex dry Riesling in the making! 2026-2040 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 58 – September 2021)

2020er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Kabinett N°5	05 21	Auction	95
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The 2020er Kupp Kabinett N°5, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, was harvested on the original Kupp hill and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (52 g/l). It proves quite aromatic and highly attractive with notes of guava, mango, passion fruit, pineapple juice, pina colada, anise, herbs, and mint. The wine is also quite exotic on the palate driven by ripe flavors of fruits and cream delivered with clear Spätlese intensity. The finish is magnificently wrapped into ripe zesty fruits which give a stunning feel of dynamic to the wine. The finish is beautifully fresh and hugely persistent. 2028-2050

2020er	Peter Lauer	Biebelhausener Feils Riesling Spätlese N°24	24 21	Auction	95
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The 2020er Feils Spätlese N°24, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, was harvested in this continuation on Ayl soil of the Saarfeliser vineyard and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (78 g/l). It offers a superbly aromatic and very attractive nose of William's pear, mango, apricot, whipped almond cream, and minty herbs, as well as some floral elements with airing. The wine comes over as fully fruity and sweet on the smooth and delicately creamy palate. It proves superbly elegant and even light-weighted in the stunningly intense finish. This will be a great Spätlese in a decade or more. 2030-2050

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Weingut Le Gallais

(Kanzem – Saar)

2020er	Le Gallais	Wiltinger braune Kupp Riesling Spätlese	07 21	Auction	95+
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The 2020er Wiltinger braune Kupp Riesling Spätlese AP 07 (an auction lot) was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar. It proves beautifully spicy and herbal at first before some stunningly aromatic yet refined scents of William's pear, mango, guava, melon, orange, and almond, as well as some reductive and fine scents from its spontaneous fermentation join the party. The wine proves quite juicy on the palate where it unleashes its botrytized impact with round and exotic flavors of honeyed peach, pineapple, and mango. The finish is intense, almost powerful, and slightly broader in style. This stunner is really only work in progress. It could well prove more focused after a decade of cellaring and be even better than initially anticipated. 2030-2050+

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Weingut Dr. Loosen

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese lange GK	42 21	Auction	(94-97)
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The 2020er Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese lange GK was made with fruit picket at a full 160° Oechsle and fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This cask sample offers a magnificent and hugely complex and aromatic nose of honey, orange zest, passion fruit, mango, minty herbs, licorice, raisin, apricot, and dried apricot. The wine is superbly playful and animating on the palate, as the sweetness is well wrapped into zesty and animating acidity. There is quite some power coming through on the hugely long and structured palate which adds a lot of depth and focus to the wine. This baroque and juicy TBA-like dessert wine is hugely impressive. 2028-2050



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2020er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese GK	41 21	Auction	94
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The 2020er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese GK was made from fruit picked at 92° Oechsle and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (70 g/l). It offers a most beautiful and delicately elegant nose of almond cream, aniseed herbs, pineapple, spices, smoke, and bergamot. The wine proves very compact, intense, and herbal on the zesty and focused palate. The finish is magnificently long and precise, and proves already more off-dry than fully sweet. It leaves an almost racy feel in the super long but still raw and primary finish. This Spätlese will need a decade to fully integrate its elements and shine. 2030-2050

2013er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälat Riesling Alte Reben Reserve GG	60 15		92+
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The 2013er Prälat Reserve GG is made from very old un-grafted vines. It is fermented in oak with ambient yeasts and aged on its gross lees for 24 months before being bottled. A whiff of volatile acidity gives way to big scents of apricot, passion fruit, exotic fruits, and brown sugar on the nose. The wine proves rather complex and elegant as honeyed and apricot infused flavors come through on the delicately racy palate. The finish is beautifully elegant and refined, even if still on the sturdy and firm side in the after-taste. This only needs a few years of bottle aging to develop its full magic and has quite some upside potential if it gains in finesse. 2018-2028+ (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 32 – October 2016)

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Maximin Grünhaus – Weingut der Familie von Schubert

(Mertesdorf – Ruwer-Trier)

2020er	Maximin Grünhaus	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett Nr. 64	13 21	Auction	95
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The 2020er Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett Nr. 64 was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar. It immediately captures one's attention with its aromatic and complex scents of apricot, candied grapefruit, yellow peach, hints of exotic elements (including mango, star fruit, and guava), bergamot, honey, and marzipan. The wine combines aromatic and exotic ripeness on the palate with fresher elements of herbs, spices, and zest. The finish is very intense and almost powerful, yet the zesty acidity brings everything in focus and adds depth and liveliness to the experience. Forget about Kabinett here, this is already playing into Auslese territory in terms of ripeness and presence, but as such, this wine proves a breathtaking effort! 2030-2050

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Weingut Josef Milz

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Josef Milz	Trittenheimer Felsenkopf Riesling Trocken GG	25 21		92
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The 2020er Felsenkopf GG, as it is simply referred to on the consumer label and which will be sold in magnums at the Auction (the same wine is sold via regular channels in 75cl bottle), comes from this single vineyard solely-owned by the Estate which is situated in the Laurentiusberg part of the vineyard. This bright-white colored wine offers a captivating nose made of pear, greengage, citrusy fruits, ginger, bergamot, and lots of pungent notes of smoke. The wine is beautifully playful and balanced on the palate, where a subtle touch of zest provides the ideal backdrop for some alluring fruits. The finish is still completely dominated by minerals and smoke but the potential is clearly there. 2025-2035

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Weingut Egon Müller

(Wiltingen – Saar)

2020er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese GK	09 21	Auction	(97-99)
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The 2020er Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese GK was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. It immediately captures one's attention with highly aromatic and exotic scents of pink grapefruit, mango, raisin, herbs, pineapple, dried apricot, lead pencil, anise, Conference pear, pineapple, and a touch of white mushroom. It offers a magnificent botrytis presence on the palate with a rich, oily, and unctuous texture. Honeyed peach, orange, grapefruit, mango, and pineapple are some of the nuances that come through in the very intense, sweet, and juicy finish. This is a magnificent and flamboyant dessert wine in the making! 2035-2080

2020er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese	08 21	Auction	97+
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The 2020er Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese AP 08 (an auction lot) was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar. It offers a magnificent nose of anise, vineyard peach, herbs, honeyed pear, apricot, greengage, and a hint of beeswax. The wine proves magnificently juicy but also still quite restrained at this early stage. The wine is beautifully structured with still a touch of "baby fat" to burn on the palate but already hints at greatness to come in the splendidly focused, intense, and pure finish. This sweet wine will easily require more than a decade to fully shine, yet the long patience will more than be rewarded. What a stunner in the making! 2035-2060

2020er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett Alte Reben	04 21	Auction	95
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The 2020er Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett Alte Reben was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar. It offers a beautifully minty and flowery nose with scents of white peach, lily flower, lead pencil, herbs, smoke, and a touch of bacon from its spontaneous fermentation. The wine proves gorgeously pure and airy on the palate underlined by a quite superbly zesty structure. It delivers a beautiful minty side, spices, and fine aromatic notes of pink grapefruit and pear in the focused, layered, and vibrating finish. This is a magnificent Kabinett in the making! 2032-2050

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Weingut von Othegraven

(Kanzem – Saar)

2020er	von Othegraven	Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Kabinett	05 21	Auction	93
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The 2020er Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Kabinett AP 05, the auction bottling with its historic inspired label, was made from fruit harvested at 81° Oechsle from vines planted in 1957 and was fermented down to barely fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (55 g/l). It proves still very reductive and smoky at first. Scents of lead pencil, herbs, sulfur, and bacon-like residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation only give gradually way to subtle and refined floral notes, lime zest, fresh almond, and vineyard peach. The wine offers quite some intensity on the palate where an animating touch of zest gives a great balance to the underlying richness. The finish is still primary and leaves a very long and more off-dry than fully fruity finish. Vivid and herbal flavors of lime round off the experience in the aftertaste of this impressively racy Kabinett. 2028-2040

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Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese lange GK		Auction	(96-99)
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The 2020er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese lange GK was made from botrytized fruit and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This cask sample captures one's attention as myriads of ripe and candied exotic fruits come out of the glass, all enhanced by an initial whiff of volatile, as well as raisin, honeyed acacia, smoke, dried apricot, juicy pear, and passion fruit. The wine proves subtly syrupy and beautifully unctuous at first. Then, a zesty and ripe kick of acidity joins the party and gives a beautifully playful side to this juicy TBA-like dessert wine. As usual, expect extensive aging to get the most out of this truly magnificent noble-sweet wine. 2040-2080



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2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	Auction	(95-97)
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK Auction was made from botrytized fruit and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This cask sample proves still very primary and smoky, yet already delivers honeyed and flowery notes of ripe and roasted pineapple, acacia honey, mirabelle, greengage, elderflower, coconut cream, and apricot. The wine is hugely sweet and coats the palate with exotic and already overripe flavors of juicy and honeyed fruits. The finish is suave, delicate, and immensely long. This is a little jewel of LGK-styled Auslese. 2035-2060

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	Auction	95
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese Auction was made from partially botrytized fruit and was fermented down to fully sweet levels of residual sugar. The wine offers a most attractive and ripe nose of mirabelle, quince jelly, spices, pineapple, honeyed peach, and brown spices. It proves luscious, beautifully honeyed, and suave on the intense and focused palate. The aftertaste is magnificently smoky and well-delineated. This little jewel of juicy Auslese GK-styled Riesling will need more than a decade to fully blossom. 2035-2055

2020er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	Auction	95
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The 2020er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Auction was made from clean fruit and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar. Initial residual scents from the spontaneous fermentation quickly give way to a magnificently refined and floral nose of white peach, minty herbs, anise, a hint of tangerine, and smoke. The wine is superbly well-balanced, precise, and layered on the smooth and very delicate and suave palate. The aftertaste is superbly smoky and well-delineated, and clearly leans towards a lightly fruity-styled rather than a sweet wine. This is pure Joh. Jos. Prüm delight! 2032-2050

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Weingut Willi Schaefer

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett	01 21	Auction	96+
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The 2020er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett AP 01 (an auction lot) is a fruity-styled wine made from fruit picked early in the prime Nikolauslay sector of the vineyard. It offers a superb even if truly backward nose of melon, wet stone, herbs, and spices. After some airing, fresher elements of mint, lime, and chalk add a lively side to the aromatics. The wine is gorgeously playful, dense but light-footed on the palate where notes of lime zest, a hint apricot blossom, and flowers come through. It leaves a great light-footed and precise feel of subtly creamy fruits in the long and multi-layered finish. This is still quite "raw" and will really only truly shine in a decade or more. But what a great Kabinett made in the light and engaging style of the Spätlese-Auslese from the 1990s. 2030-2050

2020er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	13 21	Auction	96
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The 2020er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese AP 13 (an auction lot) is a sweet wine made from fruit picked late mainly in the prime Gerdsgrub and a little bit in the Nikolauslay sector of the vineyard. It offers a beautifully pure and hugely complex nose of melon, gooseberry, ginger, minty herbs, floral, and smoky. The wine offers a subtle sense of seemingly soft creaminess at first before a gorgeously refreshing kick of zest joins the party and adds a lively side to the experience. The finish is smooth, rich, and underpinned by a quite remarkable sense of lime-infused zest. This stunning Spätlese will need a long cellaring time to reveal all its facets. 2035-2060

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Weingut Schloss Saarstein

(Serrig – Saar)

2019er	Schloss Saarstein	Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Beerenauslese	13 20	Auction	95
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The 2019er Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Beerenauslese was made from botrytized fruit picked at 130° Oechsle on the main hill of the vineyard and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This golden-colored wine offers a beautifully subtle nose made of cassis, greengage sorbet, almond cream, honeyed spices, apricot, dried fruits, and smoky elements. The wine coats the palate with luscious but superbly chiseled flavors of fruits and spices. Far from being big, this dessert wine remains utterly focused, precise, and multi-layered right into the long finish. Honeyed elements underline the suave richness in the absolutely superb aftertaste. This gorgeous dessert wine is well on its way to provide immense focused and finely detailed pleasure in a decade. This is quite a success! 2029-2059

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Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2020er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	08 21	Auction	95
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The 2020er Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese AP 08 (an auction lot) offers a gorgeously attractive and refined nose of aniseed herbs, orange blossom, laurel, thyme, white mint, almond, and herbs. The wine proves stunningly focused and energetic on the playful and superbly complex palate. The finish is hugely long and focused. There is an underlying sense of ripeness, but it is gloriously well-wrapped into a straight and focused structure. The aftertaste is all about zest, spices, and smoke. This is a stunning Spätlese in the making. 2030-2050

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Dönnhoff

Gunderloch

Keller

Prinz Salm

Oberhausen

Nackenheim

Westhofen

Wallhausen

Nahe

Rheinhessen

Westhofen

Nahe



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Weingut Hermann Dönnhoff

(Oberhausen – Nahe)

2020er	Dönnhoff	Oberhäuser Brücke Riesling Trocken GG	32 21	Auction	92+
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The 2020er Oberhäuser Brücke Riesling Trocken GG, which uses the old classic label of the Estate, is still very primary and takes a while to reveal its highly aromatic nose of pear, greengage, yellow peach, apricot, anise, orange zest, and green apple, all wrapped into a hint of camphor, licorice, and volatile acidity. The wine proves very subtle and fruity on the palate, where the acidity is quick to join the party and adds a razor-sharp feel to the finish. It clearly needs to integrate for the wine to fully shine and it even has some upside potential. 2024-2032

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Weingut Gunderloch

(Nackenheim – Rheinhessen)

2020er	Gunderloch	Nackenheimer Fenchelberg Riesling Trocken GG	13 21	Auction	91
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The 2020er GG Fenchelberg Riesling Trocken, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a superbly restrained and complex nose of anise, herbs, almond, star fruit, raspberry, jasmine, and a hint of coconut. The wine is delicately smooth and juicy on the palate. It develops more finesse and focus as it unfolds. The finish offers good length and freshness, with just a touch of tartness still needing to integrate. 2024-2030

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Weingut Keller

(Dalsheim-Flörsheim – Rheinhessen)

2020er	Keller	Piesporter Schubertslay Riesling Kabinett Alte Reben	35 21	Auction	95+
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The 2020er Schubertslay Kabinett -Alte Reben-, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was made from fruit harvested at 80° Oechsle from 120-year-old un-grafted vines. It was harvested at 80° Oechsle and was fermented down to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (39 g/l). It offers a very primary yet subtly elegant and deeply complex nose of anise, pear, almond cream, rose, minty herbs, greengage, and lime tree. The wine proves superbly dense and complex on the palate, where layers of complexity make for a ravishing experience. The finish proves focused, airy, and very pure. There is an underlying sense of ripeness, which is however superbly contained into the zesty side of the wine. This is a gorgeous Kabinett, which even has some upside as it develops over time. 2030-2050

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Weingut Prinz Salm

(Wallhausen – Nahe)

2019er	Prinz Salm	Wallhäuser Johannisberg Riesling Trocken GG	20 20	Auction	91
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The 2019er Johannisberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a quite captivating and very aromatic nose of anise, Conference pear, herbs, mint, melon, and lime. The wine has a great fruity and creamy presence on the palate, which make it come over as not fully dry. Buttery flavors of yellow peach and jasmine confirm the richer and riper side of the wine in the very long and quite imposing finish. The aftertaste is all about whipped almond cream and citrusy fruits, with a dash of pear and power. This dry Riesling will best be enjoyed in its youthful shine period. 2022-2027

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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:

January
2022

Look-Back & Background Stories

- 2020 Vintage Look-Back & Highlights by Category
- 2021 Auction Look-Back
- 2021 Vintage – What is in Store?
- Background Articles on Mosel and Riesling

April
2022

Mature Riesling

- 2012 "10-Years-After Retrospective"
- Notes from the Cellar
- Other Articles on Maturing Riesling

June-November
2022

2021 Vintage Reports

- Vintage Review
- Detailed Estate Reviews & Recommended Wines
- Dry German Riesling
- Auctions coverage

In Parallel

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

- News
- Wines of the Month
- Vintage Highlights
- 2022 Growing Conditions
- Updates of our TN database (via CellarTracker)
- Interesting Articles from other Sources

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