



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling ... and Beyond!"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Issue No 61

Maturing Riesling



2012 Retrospective

Notes from the Cellar

Vintages since 1940



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Issue No 61 – May 2022

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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 wider perspectives 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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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 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 Estates 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.

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 German 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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Table of Contents – Estates Covered in this Issue

We provide here an alphabetic overview (based on LAST NAMES) of the Estates covered in this Issue:

Estate	Section of Issue No 61		
	2012 Retrospective	Notes from the Cellar	Past Mosel Vintages
A.J. Adam	Link		
Alzinger	Link		
C.H. Berres		Link	
Erben von Beulwitz	Link	Link	
Bischöfliches Priesterseminar Trier		Link	
Albert Boxler	Link		
Georg Breuer	Link	Link	
Dr. Bürklin-Wolf	Link		
A. Christmann	Link		
Jos. Christoffel jr.	Link	Link	
Dönnhoff	Link		
Erben Stephan Ehlen		Link	
Geschw. Ehses-Berres		Link	
Emrich-Schönleber	Link		
Karl Erbes	Link		
Dr. Fischer – Bocksteinhof	Link		
Reinhold Franzen		Link	
Geltz-Zilliken	Link	Link	
Fritz Haag	Link	Link	
Reinhold Haart	Link		
Dr. Hermann	Link		
Heymann-Löwenstein		Link	
von Hövel	Link		
Immich-Batterieberg	Link		
Anton Itschert		Link	
Karhäuserhof		Link	

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Estate	Section of Issue No 61		
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Keller	Link	Link	
Kerpen		Link	
Koehler-Ruprecht	Link		
Peter Jakob Kühn	Link		
Peter Lauer	Link		
Lehnert-Veit		Link	
Schloss Lieser	Link		
Carl Loewen	Link		
Dr. Loosen	Link		
Maximin Grünhaus	Link	Link	
Alfred Merkelbach	Link	Link	
Meulenhof	Link		
Meyerhof		Link	
Egon Müller	Link		
G.F. von Nell	Link		
Nikolaihof	Link		
Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Link	Link	
Pfarrgut St. Brixius Oberemmel		Link	
Ewald Pfeiffer		Link	
Johann Pfeiffer		Link	
Philipps Eckstein	Link		
Joh. Jos. Prüm	Link	Link	
Martin Prüm	Link		
Rebholz	Link		
Johann Peter Reinert		Link	
Max Ferd. Richter	Link		
Willi Schaefer	Link	Link	
Schäfer-Fröhlich	Link		
Clemens von Schorlemer		Link	

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Seehof	Link		
Staatsweingut Trier		Link	
Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch	Link		
Trimbach	Link		
Weiser-Künstler	Link		
Weltner	Link		
Wittmann	Link		



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Latest Vintages: An Update on 2020 – 2013

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

2020	The 2020 wines have put on some flesh and some ripeness over the last few months but many retain their beautiful crispy sharpness. Chances are that the finest will stay open for a few more months but that they could then go through a more muted period. We can therefore only advise you to enjoy the wines on their primary fruit now, if that is what you fancy.
2019	The finest 2019 wines continue to show some of their youthful and quite irresistible combination of elderflower, cassis, orchard fruits, and a hint of creamy ripeness. As expected, the wines are gradually developing a slightly fatter side but one which remains beautifully framed by the lively acidity. It is such a lovely vintage and we can understand anybody who just opens bottle after bottle. We expect that the dry and off-dry wines in particular will develop a harder side in a year or so.
2018	The 2018 wines continue to show a little bit more cut than early on and the wines made from early harvested fruit are still quite irresistible at this stage. The wines made from fruit harvested late and with high sugar density continue to remain on the flabby and either cloying (if sweet) or feeling hot and slightly alcoholic (if dry-tasting). The finest wines are really made to age though.
2017	As we expected, the acidity packed in the 2017 wines has led these wines to shut down, sometimes quite heavily so. Overall, the 2017s are still enjoyable thanks to their fruit / acid combination (including for the dry wines), but they no longer have their early shine and gloss. It is now best to leave one's finest bottles alone.
2016	After a phase of presence and precision early on, the 2016 wines show a slightly mellower side. Some continue to be utterly enjoyable, a trait shared with the 1997 vintage with which 2016 is often compared, yet many 2016 wines do not have their early shine and precision. Much as 1997, the vintage is unlikely to become completely muted and hard, but we would still opt to leave the top wines alone for a while.
2015	Most 2015 wines are well and truly in their closed phase. The incredible depth of fruit makes the fruity-styled and sweet wines remain enjoyable, but they do not yet show any of the cut and finesse that will eventually prove their hallmark at maturity. The dry wines are still not in a good spot, being slightly disjointed, powerful, and not showing much of their early potential at this stage. We have an inkling that this great vintage will test our patience, like 1990 did.
2014	The early heterogeneity of the 2014 vintage is slowly fading away. Many wines are now giving the early signs of coming out of their shell again. The wines affected by gin, saffron, and mushroom flavors start to lose their fruity opulence and a spicier side comes through. One can start to test the odd bottle, if curiosity urges one to do so.
2013	The fruity-styled 2013 wines are still quite hard and un-yielding, making the underlying acidity feel sharp and sometimes even out of balance. The better dry wines have come out of their early armor of smoke and tannins if any, but the acidity gives them an austere and sharp side. Also, the top botrytized wines are in a quite muted phase, even if they may prove quite enjoyable as the sweetness provides the right balance to the acidity. Overall, this is a vintage to still lay down and wait for.



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10-Years-After Retrospective: 2012 – The Vintage at a Glance

The Growing Conditions

NB: A detailed account of the 2012 growing conditions can be found in Issue No 22 (July 2013)

The growing season proved not the easiest one with uneven flowering and pressure from rot in July.

The season started early in 2012 and the summer saw rather average conditions equivalent to those over long term, yet this is only true on paper. The vintage required a lot of efforts and nerves from growers as yields were severely impacted by the uneven flowering. This was followed by quite some rain and pressure from *Peronospora* in July. Even more work in the vineyards than usual was needed and yields fell even further.

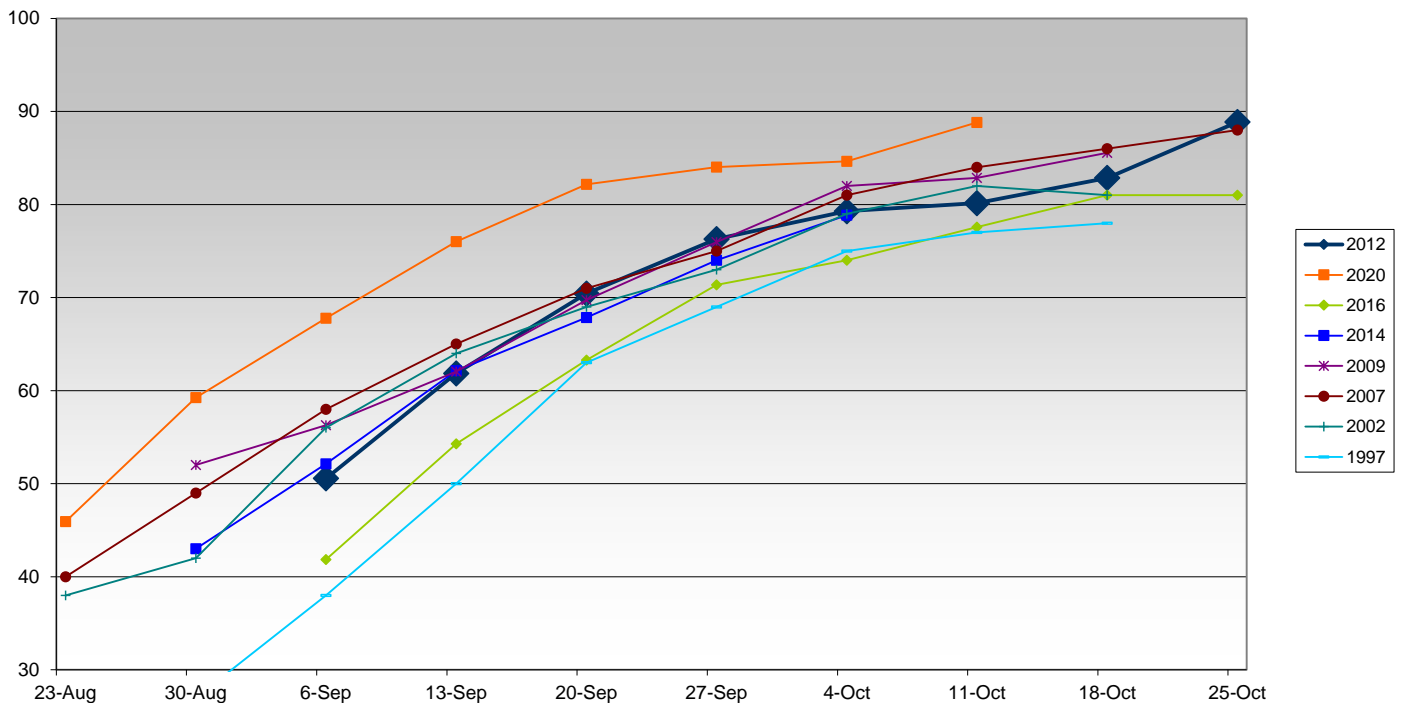
The defining factor of the vintage was the good autumn, which made sugar density levels soar yet acidity levels remained high.

September saw normal temperatures and hardly any rain. This allowed grapes to develop gradually and gain in sugar density. However, the temperatures were not high so that acidity levels remained high. Also in October, the weather made for the high acidity levels to remain in the grapes.

The harvest was a late one and benefitted from sunny and dry weather. Some Eiswein was possible later in the season.

The harvest was a late one (by today's standards) and happened mostly under good, dry, and not too warm weather. As a consequence, acidity levels remained high and little botrytis developed. While this was not very auspicious for botrytized wines, growers with an eye on noble-sweet wines were rewarded with not one but two spells of frost suitable for Eiswein.

Evolution of Sugar Levels (° Oechsle) - 2012 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages (Bereich Trier)



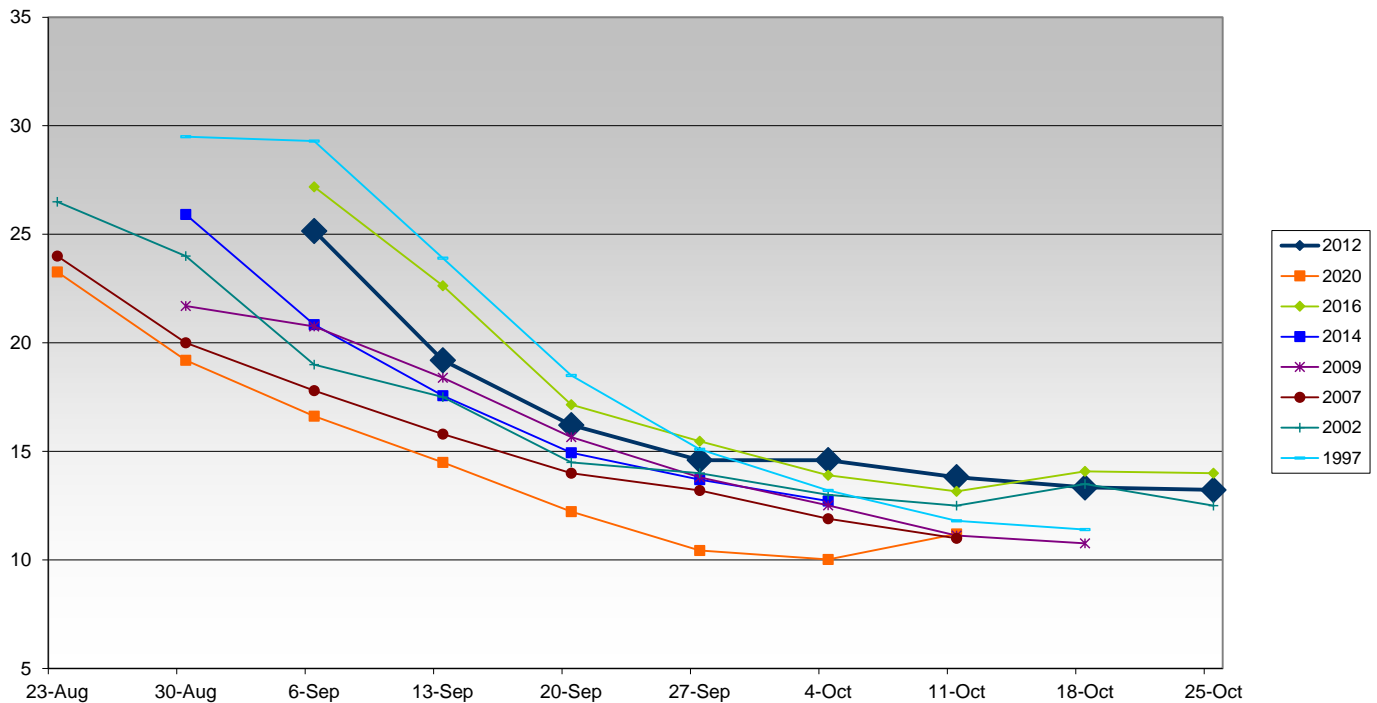


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Evolution of Total Acidity Levels (g/l) - 2012 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages (Bereich Trier)



Source: German Ministry of Agriculture - Rheinland-Pfalz

The Vintage Style

The 2012 wines proved bright, refreshing, and open for business.

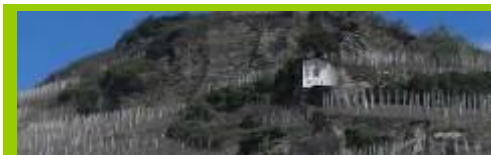
The not overly hot vintage led to wines with typical Mosel Riesling flavors including grapefruit, peach, freshly cut apple, and smoke. The bright acidity made the wines hugely appealing young. Many growers compared the vintage with such classics as 2004, 2002, 1993, or 1975 ... and for good reasons: at the top, everything screamed "classic" in 2012.

Their classic brightness made for quite some immediate appeal with the public.

Unsurprisingly, the appeal and classic nature of 2012 proved an instant hit with wine lovers who were looking forward to such a vintage since almost a decade (2008 being the exception). The low yields added to the public's early buying into the vintage.

We urged our readers to focus on Kabinett and Spätlese and keep an eye open for the top dry wines.

We thought that the vintage was particularly successful at Kabinett and Spätlese levels, but we also ranted against the fact that too many wines labelled as Kabinett and Spätlese were actually declassified Auslese. But overall, with a little guidance from our side, readers were able to buy some truly classic Mosel fruity-styled wines. The botrytis-free aromatic precision profile of the grapes was also, on paper at least, ideal for great dry Riesling but we were a tad cautious as the acidity was not always well integrated. But overall, we were really quite hot on the vintage.



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10-Years-After Retrospective: 2012 Fruity / Sweet Wines Today – A Tale of Zest and Ripeness

Our tastings of fruity-styled and sweet Riesling showed that 2012 proved a ripe vintage with some zest or a zesty vintage with some ripeness, depending on the nature of each wine. Here the key facts.



2012 yielded loads of wines zesty-fruity balance but also sometimes riper elements.

2012 was a vintage which was marked by a good but not remarkably hot growing condition and one which was saved by the autumn. The result are wines with an underlay of sunshine (expressed in juicy but also sometimes ripe flavors) as well as quite some firm acidity. When all elements integrate, 2012 is a pure joy and some Estates were able to produce truly stunning wines. However, some wines were also marked by riper elements, a tribute to the hot August and sometimes also with a dash of petrol-slate infused notes.

Most 2012 fruity and sweet wines are open for business ... but many require a bit of patience for a whiff of sulfur to blow off.

The subtle ripeness and juiciness make for very open and forthcoming wines overall. Most of the wines proved to be open and very pleasant, in a rounder and richer style than expected but with great charm. However, the touch of zest makes some wines feel somewhat backward at first and, although aromatically ready, they benefited from a touch of airing. A few wines were however really still quite backward. We could not really detect any "pattern" among these wines, so we suspect that the sulfur treatment may also have played a role.

The sweet spot is clearly the high quality full-south-facing vineyards of the Middle Mosel.

Usually, a vintage favored fruity-styled wines over sweet ones (or vice versa) as the growing conditions are rarely ideal for both. In 2012, we saw a completely different pattern: The wines from the top vineyards (in particular from the Middle Mosel) showed a better integration of acidity and more flavor complexity. In particular, the Erdener Prälät seems to have enjoyed one of its best vintages ever that year. However, also examples from the top vineyards of the Saar (in particular a truly stupendous auction Spätlese from the Saarburger Rausch by Zilliken) fared well.

The 2012 Kabinett wines are true to their Prädikat, whereas the picture is much more contrasted for other fruity-styled and sweet wines.

The 2012 Kabinett wines very largely show true freshness and zest from the vintage, even if some are a little bit higher than usual in terms of alcohol level (around 9%). These wines were still very young, both in color and in terms of aromas. It proved much more contrasted for Spätlese and Auslese wines which showed sometimes showed the riper side of the vintage and / or higher levels of residual sugar, which were not yet fully integrated. And yet these wines showed notes of evolution (no worry, we are not talking about oxidation here, just aromatic ripeness) and made them already very approachable.

Our early assessment (back in 2013) has been largely confirmed: Kabinett wines were real Kabinett, Spätlese had the juiciness expected from the Prädikat and Auslese were subtly almond-infused in 2012.



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All in all, the 2012 vintage proves a rather ready vintage for fruity-styled and sweet wines, especially for lovers of delicately creamy and fruit-driven wines. The vintage does however also reveal a touch of ripeness sometimes underlined by a dash of petrol which, combined with its zesty acidity, makes it quite distinctive from all other recent vintages.

10-Years-After Retrospective: 2012 Fruity / Sweet Wines Today – Vintage Highlights

2012 Vintage Highlights – Fruity Wines *

2012er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	02 13	Auction	97
2012er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese #14	14 13	Auction	95
2012er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	21 13	Auction	95
2012er	Martin Prüm	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Spätlese	05 13		94
2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	08 13		94
2012er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett	03 13		94
2012er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	10 13		94
2012er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Spätlese	02 13		94
2012er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett	04 13	Auction	93+
2012er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	05 13	Auction	93
2012er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	03 13		93
2012er	von Hövel	Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese	06 13		93
2012er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett	05 13		93
2012er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett	11 13		93
2020er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese	06 13		93
2012er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	17 13		93
2012er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese	08 13		93
2012er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett	13 13		93
2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Spätlese	18 13		93
2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	20 13		93
2012er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese 11 Monate Hefelager	37 13		92
2012er	Reinhold Haart	Wintricher Ohligsberg Riesling Spätlese	12 13		92
2012er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett	38 13		92
2012er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese	31 13		92
2012er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	12 13		92
2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett	07 13		92
2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Kabinett	22 13		92
2012er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese	14 13		92
2012er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch	Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Kabinett	12 13		92
2012er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Kabinett	03 13		92
2012er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	02 13		91+

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



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2012 Vintage Highlights – Sweet and Noble Sweet Wines **

2012er	Karl Erbes	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese *	13 13	98
2012er	Dr. Loosen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Beerenauslese	79 13	97
2012er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese *** GK	05 13	96
2012er	Dr. Hermann	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese GK	12 13	96
2012er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese	01 13	95
2012er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	09 13	95
2012er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese	15 13	94
2012er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	11 13	94

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

10-Years-After Retrospective: 2012 Dry / Off-Dry Wines Today – Roundness with some Brilliance

We tasted quite a wide range of dry (including many leading GGs) and off-dry Riesling from the 2012 vintage throughout Germany. The wines proved open and aromatic, but can often not hide some roundness and tartness.



The 2012 dry and off-dry Riesling are ready and full of charm.

With very few exceptions, the dry and off-dry Riesling are superbly open for business and ready to drink. The ripeness of the vintage is clearly noticeable and many wines show aromatic and fruity presence. This makes them come over as very charming and complex, in a very appealing way. The aromatics are really gorgeous and it is a vintage which proves quite easy to understand.



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The best 2012er dry and off-dry Riesling are truly remarkable but some wines cannot hide roundness and tartness.

Most of the wines we tasted for our 10-years-after retrospective showed quite some roundness and fruity presence on the palate, mainly due to the slightly higher levels of residual sugar (around 6-8 g/l), something which was often the "norm" back then, so that the wines almost never taste really bone-dry today. Also, acidity levels should be rather high on paper, we often found that while present, the acidity was rather nicely integrated, often through vinification process (deacidification or, at least, partially malolactic fermentation), but also as said before thanks to the higher residual sugar. The wines were also often marked by tartness and in a few cases even bitterness, coming in most cases from the pre-fermentation cold soak, a technique used to add body and buffer the acidity. In addition, yields were not really low and the wines rarely showed huge dry extract.

Mosel as a region starts to make an impact in dry wines as well.

The finest Estates of Germany for the production of dry wines, such as Georg Breuer, Keller, or Koehler-Ruprecht, fared particularly well in 2012. This might not come as a huge surprise given their spotless record of the previous years. What proves striking is that the Mosel as a region starts to make a real impact on top dry Riesling winemaking. While 2009 showed some potential, Estates such as Fritz Haag, Max Ferd. Richter, and particularly Dr. Loosen (with its stunning bottlings of GG Réserve) pointed out that the Mosel has more to offer than only off-dry or sweet wines.

Overall, 2012 proved a rather contrasted one for dry wines. Overall, the vintage will especially suit lovers of smoother and fruitier version of the genre. If you are looking for racy, pure, and tense wines, it is better to skip the 2012 vintage ... except if you can lay your hands on the few stunners that we highlighted in our tasting notes.

10-Years-After Retrospective: 2012 Dry / Off-Dry Wines Today – Vintage Highlights

2012 Vintage Highlights – Dry / Off-Dry Riesling

2012er	Georg Breuer	Rüdesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling	01 13	97
2012er	Keller	Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen Abts E® Riesling Trocken GG	38 13	96
2012er	Wittmann	Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG	19 13	96
2012er	Dönnhoff	Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Trocken GG	29 13	95
2012er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Trocken Alte Reben Reserve GG	66 14	95
2012er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken R	10 13	94+
2012er	Peter Jakob Kühn	Mittelheimer Sankt Nikolaus Riesling Trocken GG	07 13	94
2012er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Neuenbersch Fass 17	19 13	94
2012er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG	08 13	93
2012er	Keller	Dalsheimer Hubacker Riesling Trocken GG	35 13	93
2012er	Carl Loewen	Riesling 1896	12 13	93
2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese Trocken	42 13	93
2012er	Trimbach	Riesling Clos Sainte Hune		93
2012er	Georg Breuer	Rauenthaler Nonnenberg Riesling	03 13	92+
2012er	Emrich-Schönleber	Monzinger Halenberg Riesling Trocken GG	12 13	92+
2012er	Dr. Bürklin-Wolf	Deidesheimer Hohenmorgen Riesling Trocken GC	28 13	92
2012er	Dönnhoff	Norheimer Dellchen Riesling Trocken GG	28 13	92
2012er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Batterieberg Riesling	06 13	92
2012er	Keller	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken GG	34 13	92
2012er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Stirn Fass 15	14 13	92
2012er	Rebholz	Birkweiler Kastanienbusch Riesling Trocken GG	21 13	92
2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese Feinherb	25 13	92
2012er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling	05 13	91+
2012er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Steffensberg Riesling	03 13	91+
2012er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Bockenauer Felseneck Riesling Trocken GG	28 13	91+



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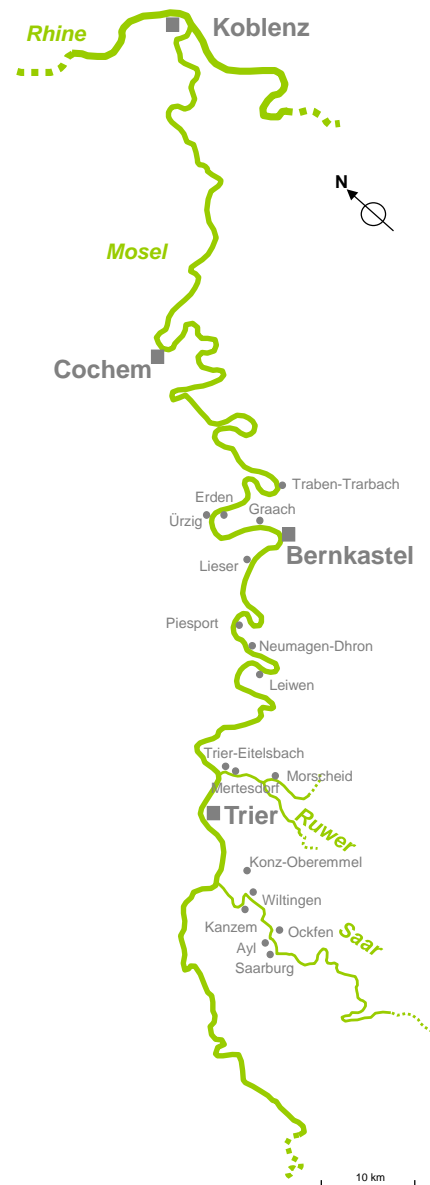
"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling ... and Beyond!"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

10-Years-After Retrospective: 2012 – Tasting Notes

We had the opportunity to re-taste 90 Riesling from the 2012 vintage over the last few weeks from the following Estates:

A.J. Adam	<i>Neumagen-Dhron</i>
Alzinger	<i>Dürnstein</i>
Erben von Beulwitz	<i>Mertesdorf</i>
Albert Boxler	<i>Niedermorschwihr</i>
Georg Breuer	<i>Rüdesheim</i>
Dr. Bürklin-Wolf	<i>Wachenheim</i>
A. Christmann	<i>Gimmeldingen</i>
Jos. Christoffel jr.	<i>Ürzig</i>
Dönnhoff	<i>Oberhausen</i>
Emrich-Schönleber	<i>Monzingen</i>
Karl Erbes	<i>Ürzig</i>
Dr. Fischer - Bocksteinhof	<i>Ockfen</i>
Geltz-Zilliken	<i>Saarburg</i>
Fritz Haag	<i>Brauneberg</i>
Reinhold Haart	<i>Piesport</i>
Dr. Hermann	<i>Erden</i>
von Hövel	<i>Oberemmel</i>
Immich-Batterieberg	<i>Enkirch</i>
Keller	<i>Florsheim-Dalsheim</i>
Koehler-Ruprecht	<i>Kallstadt</i>
Peter Jakob Kühn	<i>Oestrich-Winkel</i>
Peter Lauer	<i>Ayl</i>
Schloss Lieser	<i>Lieser</i>
Carl Loewen	<i>Leiwen</i>
Dr. Loosen	<i>Bernkastel-Kues</i>
Maximin Grünhaus	<i>Mertesdorf</i>
Alfred Merkelbach	<i>Ürzig</i>
Meulenhof	<i>Erden</i>
Egon Müller	<i>Wiltingen</i>
G.F. von Nell	<i>Trier-Olewig</i>
Nikolaihof	<i>Mautern</i>
Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	<i>Bernkastel-Kues</i>
Joh. Jos. Prüm	<i>Wehlen</i>
Martin Prüm	<i>Brauneberg</i>
Rebholz	<i>Sieboldingen</i>
Max Ferd. Richter	<i>Mülheim</i>
Willi Schaefer	<i>Graach</i>
Schäfer-Fröhlich	<i>Bockenua</i>
Seehof	<i>Westhofen</i>
Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Thanisch)	<i>Bernkastel-Kues</i>
Trimbach	<i>Ribeauvillé</i>
Weiser-Künstler	<i>Traben-Trarbach</i>
Weltner	<i>Rödelsee</i>
Wittmann	<i>Westhofen</i>





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"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling ... and Beyond!"

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10-Years-After Retrospective: 2012 – Detailed Tasting Notes (90 Wines)

Weingut A.J. Adam

(Neumagen-Dhron – Middle Mosel)

2012er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Riesling	02 13	90
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The 2012er Dhroner, as it is referred to on the front label, is a still a light-golden colored wine with some CO₂ at opening. An initial whiff of reduction and sulfur quickly gives way to a charming fruity nose of pear, pineapple, orange, and lemon, as well as plenty of spices and rosemary. The wine shows a comparatively supple and fruity side on the palate but gains in presence and focus as it builds up. The finish delivers great length and cut as earthy spices and lemon peel add a light touch of bitterness which makes one salivate. Now-2027

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Weingut Alzinger

(Dürnstein – Wachau)

2012er	Alzinger	Loibner Steinertal Riesling Trocken Smaragd		91
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The 2012er Smaragd Steinertal Riesling, as it is referred to on the front label, has a light, smoky, and minty nose of fresh fruits, green apple, elder, white peach, canned pear, white flowers, anise, and lozenge, wrapped into a hint of camphor and almond cream. The wine reveals quite some energy and purity as light fruity elements interplay with zesty flavors and bracing acidity on the palate. These are quickly joined with creamier elements. The finish proves assertive, tart, and with quite some presence. Overall, this dry Riesling from the Wachau manages to integrate its powerful side well, yet we would opt to drink our remaining bottles in the coming years to avoid any heat coming through. Now+

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Weingut Erben von Beulwitz

(Mertesdorf – Trier-Ruwer)

2012er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	05 13	Auction	92
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The 2012er Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben (au auction lot) proves already yellow-colored and offers an aromatic nose made of mirabelle, creamy elements, and a touch of marzipan, all wrapped into enticing and fresher notes of whipped cream, fresh mint, and lemon. The wine develops the overall creamy sensation of a high-end Auslese on the palate where more of the telltale (and quite irresistible) flavors of mint and citrusy fruits provide the right frame to the riper, creamier and more almond-infused flavors. The finish is beautifully long and elegant. Now-2042

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Domaine Albert Boxler

(Niedermorschwihr – Alsace)

2012er	Albert Boxler	Riesling Grand Cru Sommerberg E		?
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The 2012er Grand Cru Sommerberg Riesling, as it is referred to on the front label (the reference to "E" is left for the back label), offers a very aromatic and perfumed nose of pineapple, banana, macerated William's pear, grapefruit, apricot, tangerine, melon, green apple, petrol, and hot spices. The wine proves powerful and quite broad on the palate, where tartness and bitter-sweet fruits make for an intense and very large finish. The after-taste is all about macerated pear and alcohol. Drink up

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Weingut Georg Breuer

(Rüdesheim – Rheingau)

2012er	Georg Breuer	Rüdesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling	01 13	97
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The 2012er Berg Schlossberg, as it is referred to on the front label, immediately captures one's attention with its absolutely magnificent and oh-so refined nose of white flowers, fine spices, lime tree, cassis, orange blossom, gooseberry, jasmine, pear, and bergamot. The wine proves superbly airy yet at the same time intense, dense (but without weight), dynamic, and energetic. Only the mid-palate shows a light smoother and more subtle side. The finish is almost endless and has a gorgeous spicy and racy acidity. What a breathtaking and multi-layered Riesling! Now-2037

2012er	Georg Breuer	Raenthaler Nonnenberg Riesling	03 13	92+
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The 2012er Nonnenberg Monopol, as it is referred to on the front label, proves still restrained and even slightly muted at first as scents of smoke and herbs only gradually slowly give way to cardamom, white mint, greengage, vineyard peach, and anise, and with a hint of petrol with airing. The wine proves straight and refined on the palate with light-weighted presence and finesse, where a touch of sweetness makes for a not fully bone-dry experience. The finish is particularly long, spicy, and herbal. Fine tartness and earthy spices are wrapped into candied grapefruit. This needs a few more years to develop its complexity and could easily warrant a higher rating at maturity. 2027-2037+

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Weingut Dr. Bürklin-Wolf

(Wachenheim – Pfalz)

2012er	Dr. Bürklin-Wolf	Deidesheimer Hohenmorgen Riesling Trocken GC	28 13	92
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The 2012er Hohenmorgen G.C., as it is referred to on the front label, has a light yellow-golden color and offers a superb nose of fresh herbs, greengage, caraway, mint, almond, underbrush, tar, toast, and a hint of coconut. The wine proves elegantly focused and straight on the herbal, minty, and zesty palate. As of the mid-palate it becomes slightly broader and more opulent, but without any undue power or heat. The finish is appealingly dry and very persistent, with just a touch of fine cream in the aftertaste. This is a great dry Riesling from the Pfalz. Now-2032

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Weingut A. Christmann

(Gimmeldingen – Pfalz)

2012er	A. Christmann	Königsbacher Idig Riesling Trocken GG	33 13	90
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The 2012er Idig GG, as it is referred to on the front label, offers an aromatic and captivating nose of spices, herbs, cardamom, white flowers, lime, pineapple, mint, fennel, and a touch of camphor. The wine proves quite intense and powerful on the palate, and leaves a broad feel of bitter-sweet fruits and some tartness. There is a strong sense of power in the very long and intense finish, and proves slightly creamy in the after-taste. This impressive ripe and ostentatious Riesling is now at its best and better enjoyed sooner rather than later. Now

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Weingut Jos. Christoffel jr.

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Erdener Prälät Riesling Auslese *** GK	05 13	96
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The 2012er Erdener Prälät Riesling Auslese *** (with a golden capsule) offers a hugely captivating and ripe nose of candy floss, butter cream, lemon curd, Victoria sweet pineapple, honeyed yellow peach, minty herbs, candied grapefruit, passion fruit, and elderflower. The wine proves amply rich and creamy on the aromatic and exotic palate. Candy floss, fresh apricot, candied citrusy fruits, and honey lead to great focus and precision on the mid-palate and in the hugely long and layered finish. Despite all the smoothness at play, the wine is airy and even light. There is a sort of magic balance between ripeness and finesse here. What a great Prälät Auslese! Now-2062

2012er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	02 13	91+
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The 2012er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese offers a still very primary and still marked by quite some sulfur. It then reveals a hugely aromatic nose of fresh bakery yeasts, William's pear, coconut cream, white peach, lavender, anise, dill, and thyme, all wrapped into smoke and a hint of petrol. The wine proves delicately juicy and still compact (as Auslese bottlings can be) on the superbly playful palate as plenty of zesty elements kick in and add a joyful and hugely impressive refreshing side. The finish is all about tension and purity, and proves as clear as water. The aftertaste mixes the fruit ripeness, a touch of almond, and lime. This still very youthful looking Spätlese is hugely impressive and still needs a few more years. 2027-2042

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Weingut Dönnhoff

(Oberhausen – Nahe)

2012er	Dönnhoff	Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Trocken GG	29 13	95
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The 2012er Hermannshöhle Riesling -GG-, as it is referred to on the front label, proves superbly aromatic and very pure nose of herbs, tangerine, candied grapefruit, mint, cherry, cardamom, pear, and jasmine, wrapped into fine earthy spices and a hint of camphor. It is fresh and very dynamic on the zesty and energetic palate. The racy acidity running through the wine is hugely impressive. The finish is bone dry, racy, and quite herbal. This is a very elegant, superbly complex, and zesty expression of dry Riesling. Now-2032+

2012er	Dönnhoff	Norheimer Dellchen Riesling Trocken GG	28 13	92
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The 2012er Dellchen Riesling -GG-, as it is referred to on the front label, offers a beautifully complex and open nose of fresh white fruits, yellow peach, pear, greengage, tangerine, herbs, and menthol. The wine is superbly well structured and playful on the palate, where a touch of fleshy smoothness is wrapped into spices and herbs. The finish proves assertive and full of presence (but without any undue alcoholic presence) and dry rather than fully bone-dry, with just a hint of tartness in the background. This very attractive Riesling is now fully mature. Now-2032

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Weingut Emrich-Schönleber

(Monzingen – Nahe)

2012er	Emrich-Schönleber	Monzinger Halenberg Riesling Trocken GG	12 13	92+
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The 2012er Halenberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the front label, needs a few minutes in the glass to get rid of the rather reductive elements and SO2 before it reveals very complex and delicate notes of herbs, bergamot, pepper, cardamom, lime tree, menthol, acacia, and fine spices. The wine proves hugely refined and elegant on the beautifully spicy and herbal palate. The airiness is quite superb, yet it also shows nice depth and intensity. The aftertaste is full of menthol and lime. This needs another couple of years to fully shine and clearly has some strong upside potential. 2027-2042

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Weingut Karl Erbes

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Karl Erbes	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese *	13 13	98
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The 2012er Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese * displays an absolutely stunning and captivating nose of caramelized fruits, marzipan, date, prune, orange peel, cherry, honeyed pineapple, acacia honey, orange blossom, ripe apricot, toffee, and bakery products. There is just a hint of volatile, which enhances the aromatics. The wine coats the palate with ripe and honeyed fruits, but all this richness is superbly underpinned by most beautiful zesty elements. The density is incredible, yet the purity and finesse are plain delicious. The nerve and depth of the captivating finish are breathtaking. While this is already firing on all cylinders, we would still choose to wait a few more years to allow the sweetness to integrate even more. What a stunning dessert wine! 2027-2062

2012er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese 11 Monate Hefelager	37 13	92
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The "11 Monate Lagerung auf der Feinhefe" bottling is a special Spätlese made from clean fruit harvested in the best parts of the Ürziger Würzgarten (Leutzenberg) and was left on its fine lees for 11 months before being bottled and commercialized (in this case at the end of 2012). An initial whiff of volatile gives slowly way to riper scents of Conference pear, pineapple, orange zest, honey, anise, redcurrant, and licorice. The wine proves suave and delicately smooth and rich on the honeyed and juicy palate. The sweetness is still at the forefront and makes the wine come over more as a ripe Auslese than a fresh Spätlese. Only in the after-taste is the sweetness slightly wrapped into more freshness. Now-2032

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Weingut Dr. Fischer – Bocksteinhof

(Ockfen – Saar)

2012er	Dr. Fischer	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett	05 13	91
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The 2012er Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett is still marked by an initial whiff of smoky reduction which progressively gives way to a great aromatic and smoky scents of lemon, greengage, herbs, grapefruit, canned pineapple, redcurrant, earthy spices, and licorice. The wine reveals some presence as well as a rich and juicy side on the palate, not unlike that of a Spätlese, but the finish is playful and pure thanks to a great kick of zest and spices. The after-taste, which is already off-dry rather than fully fruity (the label indicates 9% of alcohol), has great length and energy, and makes one want to go for more. This is a great playful Saar Riesling. Now-2032

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Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

(Saarburg – Saar)

2012er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	02 13	Auction	97
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The 2012er Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese with AP 02 was released via the VDP Trier Auction in 2013. This still comparatively light-yellow-colored wine offers a superbly captivating and beautifully fresh nose of menthol, citronella, verbena, green herbs, vineyard peach, white flowers (especially acacia), lime, a hint of gooseberry, orange blossom, and cassis. The wine shows beautiful purity and finesse on the palate, where a great sense of light and fresh exotic fruits joins the party. Yet the wine remains magnificently airy and refined and leads to a hugely dynamic and energetic finish. The aftertaste is all about spices and lime with great Saar steely raciness, so that the overall balance is already well off-dry rather than fully sweet. This is a breathtaking auction Rausch Spätlese! Now-2032+

2012er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese	01 13		95
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The 2012er Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese offers a beautiful mix of fresh elements including mint, herbs, and citrusy fruits to riper elements such as toffee, pineapple, orange, and whipped coconut cream, all wrapped into very elegant and perfumed flowery scents. The wine proves rich and driven by exotic and ripe fruits on the palate where some apricot adding a touch of smoothness to the experience. The finish is very long, intense, and even powerful and slightly full-bodied (despite the wine only having 7.5% of alcohol). An invigorating and spicy acidity then lifts up the flavors in the aftertaste. This is a hugely impressive Saar Auslese! Now-2037+

2012er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	03 13		93
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The 2012er Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese with AP 03 proves still very pale white-yellow colored and offers a beautifully elegant and refreshing nose of fresh minty herbs, laurel, yellow peach, greengage, a touch of sea breeze, and almond cream. The wine proves slightly richer on the palate where riper fruits (peach and pear) give a touch of smoothness to the experience. The finish proves however attractively driven by candied citrusy fruits and has even great focus in the focused, long, and pure finish with classic Saar cut. This Spätlese is superbly fresh and playful. Now-2037

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Weingut Fritz Haag

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	09 13		95
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The 2012er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK AP 09 still shows a whiff of smoky and sulfur reduction at first and needs a few minutes in the glass to reveal a rather rich and ripe aromatic side marked by toffee, candy floss, roasted pineapple, guava, honeyed peach, black tea, acacia honey, pear jelly, and coconut, all wrapped into fresher scents of passion fruit and lime. The wine has all the charm and complexity of the usual Fritz Haag Auslese GK as it combines creamy finesse and ripe zesty acidity giving all the needed focus to this overall rich wine. The very long finish is very intense, pure, and focused. This Auslese GK is a great success! 2027-2047

2012er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese #14	14 13	Auction	95
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The 2012er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese #14 was sold at the 2013 Trier Auction. Already nicely yellow-golden in color, this has an initial whiff of reduction which however very quickly gives way to superbly complex and layered nose of toffee, ripe honeyed peach, candied lime, smoke, whipped almond cream, apricot, orange blossom, cherry, may tree, and strawberry. The wine coats the palate with plenty of honeyed and candied sweet exotic fruits (pineapple, mango, coconut, and pitahaya) and clearly shows Auslese if not outright Auslese GK presence. This exotic side and richness are magnificently wrapped into an animating and pure zesty side giving depth and a superbly playful side to the hugely long finish. This stunning sweet wine is hugely impressive! Now-2042



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2012er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG	08 13	93
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The 2012er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG offers a beautifully aromatic, finely fruity, and attractive nose of fine herbs, spices, white flowers, tangerine, yellow peach, mint, and orange blossom, as well as a hint of camphor and tar. The wine starts off on the light and zesty side and becomes slightly broader and more powerful as it evolves on the palate. The finish is however zesty and pure, but also intense with a touch of hot spices, fine tartness, zest, and salty elements. This is a superb dry Riesling. Now-2032+

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Weingut Reinhold Haart

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese	15 13	94
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The 2012er Goldtröpfchen Auslese, as it is referred to on the front label, with AP 15 presents an initial light smoky reduction which very quickly gives way to a beautifully complex and layered nose of citrusy fruits, minty herbs, greengage, fine spices, a delicious hint of apricot, and pineapple, all wrapped into whipped almond cream and honey. The wine proves delightful and superbly creamy on the smooth and suave palate. The finish offers great freshness and intensity as zesty elements lift up the whole experience. The aftertaste proves refreshing and dynamic. This is a great Auslese, which still looks young and which has plenty of years of life ahead. Now-2042

2012er	Reinhold Haart	Wintricher Ohligsberg Riesling Spätlese	12 13	92
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The 2012er Ohligsberg Spätlese, as it is referred to on the front label, offers a beautifully ripe, attractive, and aromatic nose of toffee, almond cream, roasted pineapple, honeyed pear, melon, and cinnamon. It presents a really sweet and delicately smooth side on the round and honeyed palate. The wine proves very delicate but also rich and mature, as honey and caramel are the leading flavors (it could easily be mistaken for an older wine, without any oxidative excess). The finish offers some nice focus and a quite playful and deliciously aromatic side. If mature, Auslese-styled, and aromatically ripe Riesling is your thing, this Ohligsberg is for you. Now-2032

2012er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Kreuzwingert Riesling Trocken GG	05 13	91
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The 2012er Kreuzwingert GG, as it is referred to on the front label, shows a nice yellow-golden color and offers a quite appealing and very aromatic nose of smoke, lime, yuzu, Limoncello, fresh and green herbs, and a lot of mint. The wine initially proves round and smooth with aromatic presence (orange, pear, apricot), yet shows great focus and intensity in the hugely long and fully dry finish. The bittersweet and herbal side are coupled to a touch of tartness and hot spices in the background, so we would opt to drink it now rather than to wait a few more years. Now

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Weingut Dr. Hermann

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Dr. Hermann	Erdener Prälät Riesling Auslese GK	12 13	96
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The 2012er Erdener Prälät Riesling Auslese (with a golden capsule) has a magnificently classy and refined nose of rhubarb, minty herbs, grapefruit, citrus, lemongrass, anise, honeyed pear, greengage, orange zest, licorice, and blackberry, all wrapped into some fine smoky reduction. The wine proves superbly honeyed and juicy on the fruit-driven (think exotic fruits) palate, yet all this richness is gorgeously wrapped into citrusy acidity. The finish is extremely focused and intense, and we would therefore choose to drink this wine over the next decade to closely monitor its evolution and see if the acidity does not take over. This "drinking" Auslese from the Prälät is a huge success! Now-2032+

2012er	Dr. Hermann	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese Herzlay GK	09 13	91
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The 2012er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese Herzlay (with a golden capsule) shows a hugely ripe and aromatic nose of toffee, nut, crème brûlée, quince jelly, honeyed melon, apricot, and dried yellow flowers. The same richness is present on the palate, where it gives a very creamy, smooth, and comparatively broad side, even though the finish has more structure and a touch of freshness thanks to some zesty and earthy presence. One has to forget about the term Spätlese here as it proves a ripe and mature Auslese in the making, which will impress lovers of bolder expressions of fruity-styled wines. Now-2032

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Weingut von Hövel

(Oberemmel – Saar)

2012er	von Hövel	Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese	06 13	93
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The 2012er Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese offers a very delicate and delicately complex nose of fresh white flowers, verbena, vineyard peach, fine herbs, anise, and smoke. This lightness and subtlety are also the hallmark of the wine on the palate, which proves airy yet layered and focused. The finish is all about spices and zesty elements, but also length and energy. This Spätlese is hugely impressive through its finesse and precision. Now-2037

2012er	von Hövel	Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Kabinett	04 13	90
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The 2012er Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Kabinett proves very delicate and finely floral as light scents of dried white flowers, vineyard peach, anise, and a hint of almond cream and toffee come through. The wine shows more richness and presence on the palate as riper notes of yellow and juicy fruits are wrapped into creamy elements. The finish has more focus and freshness, but also a slight hint of power which makes the wine come over as drier than initially expected. The after-taste has superb lemon-driven freshness. It has Spätlese ripeness into a more structured core of drinking Kabinett. This superb Hütte Kabinett is now fully mature but should offer still great pleasure for a couple of years (if not more). Now-2027+

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Weingut Immich-Batterieberg

(Enkirch – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Batterieberg Riesling	06 13	92
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The 2012er Batterieberg, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine made from fruit picked on 80-year-old un-grafted vines in the terraced part of the vineyard. It offers a beautifully complex nose living from a tension between greener elements (including gooseberry, mint, and sorrel) and riper ones (think greengage, pear, dark spices, and quince). The wine proves firmly smooth rather than bone-dry on the palate and leaves a slightly ample but hugely complex feel in the long finish. The aftertaste is airy, complex, and multi-layered. This is a beautiful dry-tasting Mosel Riesling in the making. Now-2037

2012er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling	05 13	91+
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The 2012er Ellergrub, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is an off-dry made from fruit picked on very old un-grafted vines. It offers a ripe but also hugely complex nose made of reductive slate-petrol elements, greengage, herbs, and fine spices. The wine is nicely playful on the smooth and off-dry tasting palate and leaves a nicely complex even if currently slightly rich feel in the finish. The aftertaste reveals more of the multi-linearity looming deep in this wine. More patience is needed to truly enjoy this complex beauty and there is even some upside potential as the wine integrates its elements and develops even more depth. 2027-2037

2012er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Steffensberg Riesling	03 13	91+
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The 2012er Steffensberg, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is an off-dry wine made from fruit picked on 60-year-old un-grafted vines. This bright yellow-hay-colored wine proves still quite restrained and a little non-saying at first. After quite a while, it starts to reveal some beautiful notes of greengage, fresh pear, starfruit, spices, and herbal elements. The wine is definitively smooth and not bone dry on the palate but a beautiful kick of ripe acidity brings balance to the experience. The finish is zesty, still slightly tart, and quite multi-layered. The wine offers already some really enticing flavors but still has not found its full balance yet. A few more years are needed for that and it could well prove even better than anticipated. 2027-2037

2012er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Zeppwingert Riesling	04 13	90+
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The 2012er Zeppwingert, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is an off-dry wine made from fruit picked on 60-year-old un-grafted vines. It offers a rather attractive even if still backward nose made of fresh herbs and fine spices. The wine is still slightly linear on the soft rather than dry-tasting palate at this stage but reveals quite some complexity in the long finish. This wine still proves rather closed and marked by reductive slate elements but the potential is there. 2027-2037



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2012er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Riesling Escheburg	02 13	90
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The 2012er Escheburg, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine made from fruit picked on the Estate's grafted holdings in Enkirch. This hay-green-colored wine offers an appealing nose made of quince, grapefruit zest, lemon, ginger, and aniseed herbs, all wrapped into subtly slate and petrol elements. The wine is gorgeously balanced on the smooth but lively palate. The finish is precise and packed with succulent flavors of orchard fruits and fine herbal elements. A touch of tartness adds class to the finish. This is a beautifully slate-infused expression of dry-tasting Mosel Riesling. Now-2032

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Weingut Keller

(Flörsheim-Dalsheim – Rheinhessen)

2012er	Keller	Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen Abts E® Riesling Trocken GG	38 13	96
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The 2012er Abts E®, as it is referred to on the front label, comes from the prime Abtserde sector of the Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen vineyard. It has a superbly aromatic, complex, and refined nose of fine Indian spices, tangerine, orange, minty herbs, greengage, white pepper, orange blossom, white peach, herbs, and verbena. The wine is superbly playful and well-balanced on the juicy (as some fruity presence comes through) yet zesty and straight palate. The finish has a gorgeously playful and refined side, with just the right balance of tartness to bring freshness. This superb dry Riesling shines through its great depth and complexity. Now-2042

2012er	Keller	Dalsheimer Hubacker Riesling Trocken GG	35 13	93
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The 2012er Hubacker Riesling, as it is referred to on the front label, offers a superbly fresh and animating nose of lemon, crushed lime, pineapple, yellow peach, bergamot, orange zest, and anise, all wrapped into menthol and ginger-driven spices. The wine starts off the finely creamy and smooth side with gorgeously sweet fruits. The finish has more presence and intensity and leaves a spicy and very long aftertaste. This slightly softer expression of Hubacker GG than usual is already drinking superbly well to drink in a rather smooth yet hugely satisfying style. Now-2037

2012er	Keller	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken GG	34 13	92
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The 2012er Kirchspiel Riesling, as as it is referred to on the front label, offers a beautiful, quite aromatic, and fruit-driven nose of tangerine, grapefruit, candied lemon zest, yellow flowers, bergamot, minty herbs, and freshly cut grass. The wine proves comparatively smooth and delicately fruity and creamy at first, but where it really shines is in the long and chiseled finish. There is even a light touch of tannic presence coupled with fine tartness, which adds tension to the whole experience. This is a beautifully aromatic, fruit-driven, and really easy-to-enjoy dry Riesling. Now-2032+

2012er	Keller	Riesling Trocken von der Fels	15 13	91
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The 2012er Riesling - von der Fels -, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, proves very fresh and pure on the nose as lime, grapefruit zest, herbs, yellow peach, herbs, prune, pineapple, and mint emerge from the glass. The wine is nicely balanced and aromatic on the palate, but also slightly smooth through a light feel of sweetness. The finish is slightly broader and richer yet very long and animating. This is very easy to enjoy with good drinking pleasure and nice complexity. Now-2027

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Weingut Koehler-Ruprecht

(Kallstadt – Pfalz)

2012er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken R	10 13	94+
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The 2012er Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken R has an initial whiff of smoke with quite some refreshing and minty herbs of greengage, lime, verbena, white peach, anise, cinnamon, and orange zest. It really grows up with time and gains significantly in complexity as some floral elements join the party. The wine proves very dynamic and intense on the racy and focused palate. There is however great extract and presence. The finish is almost lean but hugely long, bone dry, and zesty. This racy expression of dry Riesling is really impressive! 2027-2042

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Weingut Peter Jakob Kühn

(Oestrich-Winkel – Rheingau)

2012er	Peter Jakob Kühn	Mittelheimer Sankt Nikolaus Riesling Trocken GG	07 13	94
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The 2012er Sankt Nikolaus Riesling Trocken, as it is referred to on the front label, offers a superbly complex and hugely attractive nose as some fine scents of reduction make for a sensational nose of grilled herbs, fine roasted almond, sea breeze, flint, and sesame, as well as light exotic fruits and candied grapefruit. The wine proves precise, playful, and fresh on the palate. There is a touch of fine smoothness on the mid-palate, yet the finish is full of energy with beautiful spices and herbs and the after-taste is beautifully long and intense. It is an impressive dry Riesling, which shows signs of ripeness and smoothness after aeration (think hours), which makes us opt to consume it rather over the next few years in order to make the most of its current and initial reduction and freshness. Now-2027+

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Weingut Peter Lauer

(Ayl – Saar)

2012er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Neuenbersch Fass 17	19 13	94
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The 2012er "Neuenbersch" Faß 17, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, offers a beautifully aromatic and attractively fresh nose of whipped almond cream, grapefruit, lime zest, vineyard peach, spices, greengage, anise, and a hint of toffee. The wine proves superbly structured, intense, and beautifully spicy on the zesty and focused palate. The finish is pure, energetic, and already dry in taste and the aftertaste is all about spices and great zest. This is an terrific expression of dry-tasting Saar Riesling. Now-2037

2012er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Stirn Fass 15	14 13	92
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The 2012er Stirn Fass 15, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, proves quite reductive and marked by sulfur at first. With airing it develops a very fresh and aromatic nose of rosemary, mint, greengage, almond cream, tangerine, dried yellow flowers, bergamot, and blueberry. The wine is delicately fruity and creamy on the fully off-dry palate. It develops great presence and freshness and leaves a very spicy and bitter-sweet tension in the very long finish. This impressive off-dry Riesling still needs a few years to better integrate its sulfur and hint of sweetness. 2026-2037

2012er	Peter Lauer	Saar Riesling Schonfels Fass 11 GG	17 13	91
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The 2012er Schonfels Faß 11, as it is referred to on the central part of the label (the reference to GG is written at the top left of the label), comes from the Schonfels, a vineyard overseeing the Saar and situated next to the Saarburger Fuchs. It presents a surprising and very aromatic nose of white peach, verbena, menthol, smoke, fine green herbs, whipped almond cream, and conference pear. The wine proves really light weighted on the palate, where more fine and slightly riper fruits but also creamy elements add a smooth and subtle side. The finish is superbly fresh and long, despite the airy side of the wine, with spices and finesse. This is a subtle expression of dry Saar Riesling. Now-2032

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Weingut Schloss Lieser

(Lieser – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett	05 13	93
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The 2012er Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett has still a whiff of initial smoky reduction which however superbly embraces the delicately aromatic and expressive nose of yellow peach, tangerine, almond and butter cream, violet, plum, lemon curd, and stone fruits. The wine coats the palate with yellow juicy fruits which are well wrapped into spicy and zesty elements. There is a certain richness to the wine (it clearly shows Spätlese richness) but everything is superbly balanced and the focus in the finish is just impressive. The after-taste is all about minerals, spices, and zest, with even a sharp side in the background. This impressive Spätlese-styled fruity wine is still a youthful wine and has great appeal. Now-2037

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Weingut Carl Loewen

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Carl Loewen	Riesling 1896	12 13	93
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The 2012er Riesling 1896 is an off-dry wine made from fruit picked on very old un-grafted vines planted in the Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg vineyard (planted back in 1896 and hence the denomination). The wine has the particularity of being made in the ancient way, i.e. by threading grapes by foot in the vineyard, some maceration, pressing using an old basket press, and fermentation in cask. This golden-colored wine proves still rather backward at first and still requires a full day to reveals its elements. It then reveals a complex nose made of citrusy fruit, cardamom, laurel, pear, mirabelle, fine spices, and a subtle touch of resin. The wine is nicely focused but also assertive on the subtly tart and almost dry-tasting palate. The finish is complex, intense, and hugely satisfying. This proved hugely promising when young and the wine delivers handsomely, even if it would still benefit from some further bottle aging. 2027-2037

2012er	Carl Loewen	Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Riesling Trocken Alte Reben 1896	09 13	91
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The 2012er Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Riesling Trocken Alte Reben 1896 is a dry wine made from fruit picked on very-old un-grafted vines (planted in 1896). It offers subtly ripe and cardamom-infused elements at first before some gorgeously engaging scents of candied grapefruit join the party and add complexity to the nose. The wine is rather firm and still subtly tart on the juicy and spicy palate. It leaves one with a firm and slightly direct feel of herbs, pear, starfruit, ginger, and laurel in the long finish. Citrusy elements and a touch of minty herbs add freshness to the subtly ripe finish. Now-2027

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Weingut Dr. Loosen

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Dr. Loosen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Beerenauslese	79 13	97
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The 2012er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Beerenauslese presents a nicely deep yellow-golden color and offers a magnificently ripe, rich, and stunningly complex nose of honeyed peach, baked pineapple, nut paste, mango, date, marzipan, candied tangerine, passion fruit, and dried apricot. The wine has great oily and viscous presence on the palate, with an almost TBA syrupy side. A superb acidic kick brings great focus to the rich and lusciously sweet, ripe, and creamy finish. Although the aromatics are already extraordinary, we would opt to wait another decade for this wine to allow the residual sugar to be even better integrated. This is an extraordinary dessert wine! 2032-2062



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2012er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Trocken Alte Reben Reserve GG	66 14	95
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The 2012er Ürziger Würzgarten Reserve Alte Reben, as it is referred to on the front label, offers a breathtakingly refined and elegantly complex nose of whipped almond cream, floral elements (especially elderflower), herbs, bergamot, lavender, anise, tangerine zest, and candied lemon. The wine shows a magnificent creamy and smooth side on the palate, before it develops depth and precision. The finish proves hugely long and fully dry, with some refined spices and zest. There is a gentle and salivating tartness, which makes one want to go for more. It superbly combines intensity thanks to the dry extract and finesse. This is a great "Mosel upon Burgundy" dry Riesling in the making, and one which still has plenty of years ahead. Now-2037

2012er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett	38 13	92
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The 2012er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett offers a superbly minty and refined nose of white peach, herbs, green apple, greengage, spices, white minerals, lime tree, and a touch of almond cream. The wine proves delicately juicy and smooth on the fruit-driven yet very fresh palate. The finish has the lightness of a true Kabinett with great presence and persistence. There is great focus and a mouth-watering and zesty aftertaste. This is really delicious and in a great spot right now. Now-2037

2012er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese	31 13	92
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The 2012er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese shows a hint of reduction at first and needs a few minutes in the glass to offer a quite ripe and aromatic nose of mango, honey, melon, canned pineapple, apricot, prune, butter cream, and tar. The wine coats the palate with honeyed and plenty of ripe yellow fruits and proves intensely creamy and almost soft. The residual sugar is still quite present so that this comes really over as a ripe Auslese rather than a light Spätlese. We would opt to wait a few more years in order to better integrate the reduction and sweetness. This sweet wine will prove delicious at maturity. 2027-2042

2012er	Dr. Loosen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett Feinherb Tradition	57 14	91
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The 2012er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett Feinherb Tradition offers a superbly floral, aromatic, and minty nose of lemon, grapefruit, tangerine, herbs, green apple, anise, canned pear, and smoke. The wine coats the palate with juicy creamy fruits in a quite smooth and delicate way. There is nice finesse and lightness to the wine and the finish is light-weighted, juicy, and superbly long. This is a great light and fruit-driven off-dry Riesling. Now-2032+

2012er	Dr. Loosen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG	61 13	90
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The 2012er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling, as it is referred to on the front label, has a light yellow-golden color and offers a fine petrol-driven and fruity nose of wet stone, herbs, yellow peach, tangerine, spices, cinnamon, raspberry, and a hint of apricot. The wine proves structured and intense on the palate, where spicy and herbal notes are wrapped into fine tartness and some phenolic presence. The mid-palate has some fruits and a dry rather than bone-dry feel. The finish has power (despite the label "only" indicating 12.5% of alcohol) and exhibits flavors of tar and plenty of herbs and spices. This is an impressive and rather broad dry wine made for food. Now+

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Weingut Maximin Grünhaus – Weingut der Familie von Schubert

(Mertesdorf – Ruwer)

NB: The Estate commercialized its wines under the von Schubert label up to the 2016 vintage (included).

2012er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett	13 13	93
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The 2012er Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett is still marked by quite some pungent elements of reduction and a whiff of sulfur. After a day of airing, the wine then reveals a telltale "Maximin Grünhaus" nose made of citrusy fruit, cassis, fresh mint, floral elements, and fine notes of slate. The wine proves beautifully juicy and playful on the zesty but oh-so subtly creamy palate. The finish is racy and nicely playful as more cassis, fresh herbs, and fine elements add to the drinking pleasure of the wine. 2027-2042



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2012er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese	14 13	92
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The 2012er Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese offers a rather rich nose where citrusy notes and mint are wrapped into some elements of reduction and ripe cream. The wine proves beautifully racy and playful on the palate. It leaves a slightly ripe and sweet feel in the long and subtly linear finish, which adds a touch of Auslese roundness to the overall experience. The aftertaste is all about firm zesty and citrusy elements and really makes one want to go for more. This is a subtly riper but quite enjoyable expression of Maximin Grünhaus Spätlese! Now-2037

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Weingut Alfred Merkelbach

(Ürziger – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett	11 13	93
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The 2012er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett still has a light-yellow color and offers a very delicate and superbly flowery nose of lily, white peach, orange blossom, tangerine, fine minty herbs, and green spices. The wine coats the palate with ample yet light fruits and has a superb zesty side which gives huge focus to the initially slightly richer palate. The finish is very precise, pure, and stands out as clearly younger than 10 years. The finesse mixed to the fruit complexity are just superb. The zesty finish makes one want to go for (much) more. This is the archetype of a great zesty and drinking Kabinett with a lot of complexity. Now-2032

2012er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	12 13	92
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The 2012er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese delivers beautiful pure and elegantly aromatic scents of candied lemon, minty herbs, cassis, tangerine, lozenge, menthol, yellow peach, and spices. The wine offers great juicy and ripe fruits on the palate, with clear Auslese presence and richness. The creamy side of the wine is however nicely wrapped into zesty elements, which add a great playful side to the wine. It then gains in structure and shows more intensity and even a touch of power (the label indicates 9% of alcohol). The finish, even if slightly broader (at least for Merkelbach standards), is long and intense. This old Auslese-styled wine is a pure joy to enjoy as the residual sugar is already perfectly integrated and its intensity makes it a great wine to pair with food. What a success! Now-2032

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Weingut Meulenhof

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Meulenhof	Erdener Prälat Riesling Spätlese	08 13	<i>Auction</i>	91+
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The 2012er Erdener Prälat Riesling Spätlese (an auction lot) proves already yellow-colored yet still marked by a whiff of sulfur. The wine takes a while to reveal quite complex scents of pear, grapefruit zest, herbs, and fine spices. It is beautifully balanced and a touch of smooth sweetness gives some Auslese presence to the complex and multi-layered palate. Some stylish notes of marzipan wrapped in racy elements add a sense of weight to this sweet wine cut along the lines of a fine Auslese. The flavors are already very developed but we would opt to weight for this wine a little longer in order for it to integrate its tale of sweetness, and it could even surprise us in a few years' time. 2027-2042

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Weingut Egon Müller

(Wiltingen – Saar)

2012er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett	04 13	Auction	93+
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The 2012er Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett AP 04 (an auction lot) proves still quite backward and reduced at this stage and, even after extensive airing, it only reveals some vague scents of apple, a hint of flowers, and a touch of lemony elements. The wine comes over as quite racy and structured on the palate and leaves a beautifully airy and subtle feel in the finish and aftertaste. Simply put: This Kabinett is far from being ready and will need another decade to show its full glory so burry your bottles deep into your cellar. It even has some upside potential as the complexity will develop over time. 2032-2047

2020er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese	06 13		93
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The 2012er Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese offers a very subtle yet ripe nose of rhubarb, candy floss, minty herbs, honeyed yellow peach, verbena, anise, prune, and fine spices. The wine proves delicately smooth and sweet on the palate, where pineapple juice, sweet rhubarb, yellow peach, almond cream, apricot, and a dash of honey are wrapped into zesty elements (including passion fruit) coming through in the juicy and rather structured finish. The aftertaste has some power (the label indicates 9% of alcohol) and plays on bitter-sweet tension. This superb aromatic and juicy Spätlese is already well open for business. Now-2037

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Weingut G.F. von Nell

(Trier-Olewig – Trier-Ruwer)

2012er	G.F. von Nell	Trierer Thiergarten Riesling Eiswein Unterm Kreuz	21 13		92
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The 2012er Trierer Thiergarten Riesling Eiswein Unterm Kreuz offers a superbly refreshing and finely aromatic nose of redcurrant, frozen strawberry and raspberry, violet, quince jelly, greengage, licorice, and nutmeg. The wine immediately captures one's attention on the palate as zesty acidity, fresh fruits, and mint make for a joyful side. The acidic feel remains on the high side all the way to the finish, where the fruits are slightly more in the background, and the wine proves more structured and herbaceous (the back-label indicates 10.5% of alcohol). The feeling of residual sugar is already on the lower side and this Eiswein is now at full maturity and best enjoyed over the coming years. Now-2027

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Weingut Nikolaihof

(Mautern – Wachau)

2012er	Nikolaihof	Steiner Hund Riesling			?
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The 2012er Steiner Hund Riesling proves already yellow-golden-colored and driven by a fully mature, quite aromatic, and ripe nose driven by anise, milky almond cream, toffee, banana flambé, coconut, acacia honey, tar, nutmeg, and smoke. The wine is broad and smooth on the rather light-weighted palate marked by ripe fruits. The finish is hot and quite powerful despite the label only indicating 12.5% of alcohol. This wine is already well advanced and best enjoyed sooner than later. Drink up

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Weingut Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	21 13	Auction	95
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The Bernkasteler Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben (an auction lot) offers a stunning nose made of pear, whipped cream, mint, laurel, lemon grapefruit, ginger, and just a hint of slate and smoke. The wine is stunningly balanced on the palate where it delivers some gorgeously airy and precise creamy and fruity flavors. The whole experience is beautifully wrapped into ripe acidity. The finish is intense and subtly creamy but retains beautifully Spätlese playfulness. The aftertaste seems endless and as fresh as a daisy: What a remarkable success! Now-2042

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Weingut Philipps-Eckstein

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

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 (Reporting from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 59 – November)

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Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	17 13		93
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The 2012er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese proves still slightly reductive and marked by sulfur. With some airing, it develops a superbly ripe and aromatic nose of canned yellow peach, almond cream, bakery notes, minty herbs, pear, a touch of melon, and tangerine. The wine proves superbly suave and delicately creamy and fruity on the comparatively smooth and silky palate. The finish has more structure and intensity with some earthy elements and a hint of tartness which counterbalances the smoother side and riper side of the mid-palate. Once the initial reduction blows away, this Auslese-styled wine proves a joyful and great drink, which also pairs well with food. Now-2037

2012er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett	13 13		89
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The 2012er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett has a beautiful and distinctive nose of stone fruits, herbs, white peach, wet slate, ginger, lemon, grapefruit peel, pine, and lozenge. The wine has the lightness and freshness of a Kabinett yet shows quite some power and structure as it unfolds (the label indicates 9.5% of alcohol). The finish is all about spices and licorice, and proves already on the dryish, quite tart, herbal, and nervous side. This Kabinett proves now at full peak and is best paired with food. Now-2027

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Weingut Martin Prüm

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Martin Prüm	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Spätlese	05 13	94
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The 2012er Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Spätlese has light golden color and still some CO2 at opening. It reveals a superbly refined, delicate, and pure nose of white flowers, almond cream, vineyard peach, fine pineapple juice, tangerine peel, and licorice. The wine proves delicately airy and light-weighted on the palate, where some light creamy and fruity elements give a suave side to the wine. The finish reveals some beautiful notes of whipped cream and a remarkable lightness and precision, with elements of candied citrusy fruits. This is a great Mosel Spätlese combining depth and airiness. What a gorgeous success! Now-2042

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Weingut Ökonomierat Rebholz

(Siebeldingen – Pfalz)

2012er	Rebholz	Birkweiler Kastanienbusch Riesling Trocken GG	21 13	92
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The 2012er Kastanienbusch GG, as it is referred to on the front label, has a very floral, expressive, and aromatic nose of acacia, tangerine, lime tree, pear, cassis, quince, violet, and gooseberry. The wine proves superbly aromatic and well-balanced on the palate. There is a touch of smoothness and sweet fruits coming through, yet the finish proves long and animating. This shines through its captivating and fruity style. Now-2032

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Weingut Max Ferd. Richter

(Mülheim – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	08 13	94
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The 2012er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese offers a very fine and attractive sense of reduction at first and only gradually reveals all its depth and complexity as scents of smoke, tar, apricot, cherry, orange zest, cinnamon, pineapple, and even a hint of coconut cream emerge from the glass. The wine is superbly balanced on the palate, where the juicy ripe fruits (tangerine, orange, and a touch of mango) are wrapped into delicate ripe zest and herbs. The finish proves layered and superbly long. This is a magnificently playful Spätlese. Now-2037

2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese ** Fass 61	10 13	93
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The 2012er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese ** Fass 61 offers a beautifully attractive and finely aromatic nose of pineapple, butter and almond cream, honey, apricot, herbs, and vanilla. The wine proves superbly juicy and round on the light-weighted and fine palate. The finish is clean, pure, and zesty. There is some botrytis presence on the palate, which adds to the smoothness of this wine, yet the lightness makes it very easy to enjoy. Now-2037

2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese Trocken	42 13	93
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The 2012er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese Trocken offers a superbly refined and elegantly floral nose of lemon, grapefruit zest, minty herbs, cassis, gooseberry, and spices. The wine proves straight and almost racy on the palate and leaves beautiful spicy and zesty elements in the hugely long and precise finish. The lightness coupled with great intensity are truly impressive. This comes over as still very youthful (it would be hard to guess this as a 10-year-old wine in a blind tasting!) and only starts to enter its drinking window. What a success! Now-2042

2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldenzer Eisenberg Riesling Spätlese	18 13	93
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The 2012er Veldenzer Eisenberg Riesling Spätlese has a superbly refined and complex nose of minty herbs, yellow peach, pineapple, lime zest, William's pear, and almond. The wine coats the palate with ripe yet fresh fruits and proves light-weighted and refined in the very long and well-balanced finish. This Spätlese is now fully ready and will offer much pleasure over the coming years. Now-2037



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2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	20 13	93
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The 2012er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese has a superbly elegant and refined nose of yellow peach, apricot, bergamot, vanilla, quince, pear, and herbs. The wine shows great presence on the palate where the ripe fruits and suavity clearly give an Auslese-type maturity. The smooth and juicy structure lead to a round yet animating finish. This Auslese-styled fruity wine is superb attractive and has a bright future. Now-2042

2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett	07 13	92
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The 2012er Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Kabinett has a superbly fine and ripe nose of yellow peach, almond cream, spicy pineapple, blueberry, and canned pear. The wine proves juicy and still slightly sweet as ripe fruits (think here of Spätlese ripeness) give the wine a comparatively smooth and round feel. Only the long finish and after-taste have more freshness and finesse. This still needs a few years to develop all its complexity. 2026-2037

2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese Feinherb	25 13	92
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The 2012er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese Feinherb displays a superbly aromatic and fruit-driven nose of yellow peach, candied grapefruit, honeyed pineapple, whipped almond cream, and earthy spices. The wine proves still round and superbly smooth and fruity, yet it manages to integrate all this very well in the superbly focused and pure finish. It proves mouthwateringly light and elegant. This is a superb off-dry Riesling. Now-2042

2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Mülheimer Helenenkloster Riesling Auslese	16 13	92
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The 2012er Mülheimer Helenenkloster Riesling Auslese shows a ripe and nicely attractive and aromatic nose of apricot, mango, honeyed pineapple, prune, orange zest, frozen strawberry, and a touch of toffee and hay. The wine proves quite aromatic and juicy on the palate, and at the same time there is good acidity bringing a lot of freshness and focus to the finish. This Auslese is very pleasant to enjoy in a quite direct yet joyful way. Now-2037

2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Mülheimer Helenenkloster Riesling Eiswein	33 13	92
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The 2012er Mülheimer Helenenkloster Riesling Eiswein was harvested on December 12, 2012. This beautifully golden-orange-colored wine offers a great nose of toffee, apricot, herbs, honeyed pineapple, almond paste, mango, candied lemon, and a hint of white mushroom, all enhanced by some volatile acidity. The wine proves still rich and honeyed on the intense and even powerful palate. The finish combines ripeness and exotic fruits with more structure, intensity, and freshness, and is hugely long and even powerful. This comparatively ostentatious and ripe Eiswein is now fully ready and will best be enjoyed over the coming decade. Now-2032

2012er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Kabinett	22 13	92
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The 2012er Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Kabinett has a superbly complex and above all a hugely minty nose of white flowers, cassis, pineapple, William's pear, candied apricot, and blackberry. The wine is finely smooth and suave on the light-weighted yet ripe palate, marked by flavors of candy floss and white flowers. Some tickly acidity comes through in the very long and spicy finish. While the aromatics are more Spätlese-like, the lightness and fresh finish leans towards Kabinett. Now-2037

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Weingut Willi Schaefer

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	11 13	94
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The 2012er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese proves beautifully subtle and playful as scents of pear, melon, herbs, and almond-infused elements emerge from the glass. The wine proves smooth and only subtly zesty on the palate. It leaves a superbly zesty but focused feel in the long and remarkably tart finish. Now-2042

2012er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett	03 13	94
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The 2012er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett offers a gorgeous and still remarkably youthful nose made of citrusy fruits, pear, freshly cut apple, floral elements, and a hint of slate and spices. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate, where a hint of creaminess provides the right type of balance and sweet-zesty tension. The finish is racy, engaging, and beautifully delineated. This truly gorgeous Kabinett will offer much pleasure for many more years. Now-2037



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2012er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	10 13	94
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The 2012er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese AP 10 proves rather backward and marked by smoky and subtly sulfur-infused elements at first. The wine takes a while to open up and reveal a fresher and more citrus-driven side. But then, it really comes into its own as some gorgeous scents of ripe pear, grapefruit, starfruit, ginger, fine spices, a dash of whipped cream, and lemony elements tickle the nose. Zesty fruits wrapped into ever so slight riper elements of petrol and smoke make for a stunning balance on the palate. This light-footed yet subtly creamy wine is firmly Spätlese styled (no declassification here!). This beauty is truly remarkable and enjoyable ... but we would still wait another few years. 2027-2042

2012er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese	08 13	93
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The 2012er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese offers a beautifully complex and refreshing nose of tangerine, grapefruit, lemon, anise, caraway, orange blossom, and minty herbs. The wine proves superbly zesty and airy on the palate, yet at the same time there is great complexity at play. The wine is intense and refined, and leaves a gorgeously spicy and zesty feel in the hugely long finish. The aftertaste is already more off-dry than fully fruity-styled and this proves in the right spot at the moment (yet it has plenty of years ahead). This drinking Spätlese with great complexity is a huge success! Now-2037

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Weingut Schäfer-Fröhlich

(Bockenau – Nahe)

2012er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Bockenauer Felseneck Riesling Trocken GG	28 13	91+
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The 2012er Felseneck Riesling, as it is referred to on the front label, offers a hugely expressive and impressive nose of dried white flowers, petrol, flint, cardamom, almond cream, canned yellow peach, dill, compost, and pear. The wine proves comparatively smooth and juicy on the palate, and leaves a quite tart and spicy feel in the very long finish. This could well need another couple of years to fully develop its complexity. 2027-2037+

2012er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Schlossböckelheimer Kupfergrube Riesling Trocken GG	23 13	91
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The 2012er Kupfergrube Riesling, as it is referred to on the front label, has a light silver-yellow color and still shows some CO2 when served. Its first aromatic shows quite some reduction and sulfur, and it needs quite some airing to develop a great nose of white minerals, lozenge, flint and volcanic stone, lime tree, dried flowers (almost like a potpourri), dill, fennel, and prune. The wine proves superbly fresh, focused, and dynamic on the intensely zest-driven palate. It is straight and smoky right through to the very long and intense finish. The finish tastes bone-dry and there is even some tartness, which actually gives a rather austere side to this wine. This dry Riesling is made for lovers of sharp and focused wines and is best left alone another few years or should at least be opened well in advance (and even decanted). 2025-2037

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Weingut Seehof

(Westhofen – Rheinhessen)

2012er	Seehof	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken	17 13	88
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The 2012er Riesling – Kirchspiel – Westhofen, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, has a quite imposing and aromatic nose of camphor, minty herbs, candied grapefruit, caraway, anise, eucalyptus, tobacco, and plenty of spices. The wine starts off on a fruity and almost sweet and smooth front, yet the herbal and spicy side quickly joins the party and gives a rather powerful (without too much weight), tart, and long finish. This needs some food to buffer off its broad structure. This dry Riesling will please lovers of ostentatious and herbaceous wine. Drink up

2012er	Seehof	Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken Alte Reben	20 13	88
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The 2012er Riesling Alte Reben -Morstein- Westhofen, as it is referred to on the central part of the label, has a very minty and fresh nose, which quickly delivers aromatic and ripe notes of tangerine, William's pear, apricot blossom, tar, earthy spices, candied grapefruit, spices, and camphor. The wine proves structured and quite intense on the palate, which has a hint of sweetness through ripe fruits. There is also quite some tartness and bitterness, adding to the broad side of this wine. This aromatic and powerful dry Riesling is best enjoyed now with hearty food. Now

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Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Thanisch)

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch	Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Kabinett	12 13	92
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The 2012er Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Kabinett offers a quite herbal and smoky nose of star anise, greengage, earthy spices, cinnamon, lime tree, and a hint of white mushroom. The wine shows the richness and creamy presence of a Spätlese on the palate, where some sweetness is still noticeable, yet the whole thing is packed into high zest as of the mid-palate and which gives huge focus and precision to the very long and impactful finish. The aftertaste has an already more off-dry side than a fully fruity one and makes one to go for more. Now-2037

2012er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch	Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Kabinett	02 13	91
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The 2012er Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Kabinett has still a light reduction at opening, yet this quickly gives way to a very refined and delicately ripe nose of herbs, yellow peach, candied grapefruit, almond cream, prune, and a hint of honeyed pear. The wine proves superbly creamy and smooth on the palate and leaves a very long and almost powerful feel in the finish. There are fine flavors of almond, toffee, and butter cream, which really reminds of a ripe Spätlese rather than a light Kabinett, yet as such the wine is a beautiful fruity-styled Riesling. Now-2037

2012er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch - Erben Thanisch	Riesling	09 13	88
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The 2012er Riesling offers a smoky nose with a hint of petrol as well as canned yellow peach, grapefruit, green apple, freshly cut grass, and lime. The wine proves nicely off-dry and juicy on the fruit-driven palate. There is some smoothness, softness, and fruity presence on the mid-palate, yet the finish has more intensity and even power. It proves rather broad and marked by quite some tartness and bitter-sweet elements, so that this wine is now best paired with hearty food. Now

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Maison Trimbach

(Ribeauvillé – Alsace)

2012er	Trimbach	Riesling Clos Sainte Hune		93
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The 2012er Riesling Clos Sainte Hune shows a very aromatic, hugely ripe, and attractive nose of toffee, honeyed yellow fruits, cherry, candied grapefruit, minty herbs, a touch of camphor, and tobacco. The wine comes initially over as rather light-weighted and very playful on the finely fruity and aromatic palate. The finish has more presence and power, with a touch of hot spices, tartness, and conference pear. The aftertaste is very long and just slightly broad but fully dry. It proves a very impressive dry Riesling, which proves fully mature. Now-2027

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Weingut Weiser-Künstler

(Traben-Trarbach – Middle Mosel)

2012er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Spätlese	02 13	94
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The 2012er Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Spätlese is marked by some reduction and sulfur elements (due to reduction and slate) on the nose at first. These scents then rapidly give way to beautifully citrus and grapefruit notes which make for a stunningly racy and playful wine on the palate. A touch of minerals, tartness, and floral elements add to the wine's irresistible beauty in the finish. The aftertaste is almost racy and would make you think of a high acidity vintage than 2012. But do not worry: The balance is simply a thing of beauty. What a great Spätlese! 2027-2042



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2012er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Kabinett	03 13	92
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The 2012er Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Kabinett proves remarkably backward and still marked by a whiff of sulfur at this stage. It takes a while before these scents give way to quite beautiful elements of citrusy fruits, herbs, flowers, and slate. The wine is gorgeous and quite playful on the palate, where more of the notes of petrol come through and mingle actually quite elegantly with the spices and the herbal elements. The finish is racy and airy, as one would expect from a Kabinett. 2027-2037

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Weingut Weltner

(Rödelsee – Franken)

2012er	Weltner	Rödelseer Sylvaner Trocken	08 13	89
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The 2012er Sylvaner Trocken, as it is referred to on the front label, offers a beautifully expressive, captivating, and very spicy nose of green herbs, anise, pear, white flowers, mint, white peach, and green apple, all elements adding a fresh and quite youthful side. The wine proves light-weighted and nicely juicy as riper and more yellow fruits join the party. The finish is more linear as quite some racy acidity leads the pace and give a slightly harsher and bitter-sweet feel in the long finish. Now+

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Weingut Wittmann

(Westhofen – Rheinhessen)

2012er	Wittmann	Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG	19 13	96
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The 2012er Morstein Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the front label, has a gorgeously refined and magnificently complex nose of anise, smoke, flint, candied grapefruit, prune, thyme, rosemary, black tea, smoked herbs, splendid fine spices, and a dash of petrol. The wine has great presence yet also pure finesse and zest on the palate. The intensity is quite breathtaking and the finish is bone-dry and superbly playful as zesty, salty, and spicy elements interplay with subtle tartness. This is a stunning expression of dry Morstein! Now-2042

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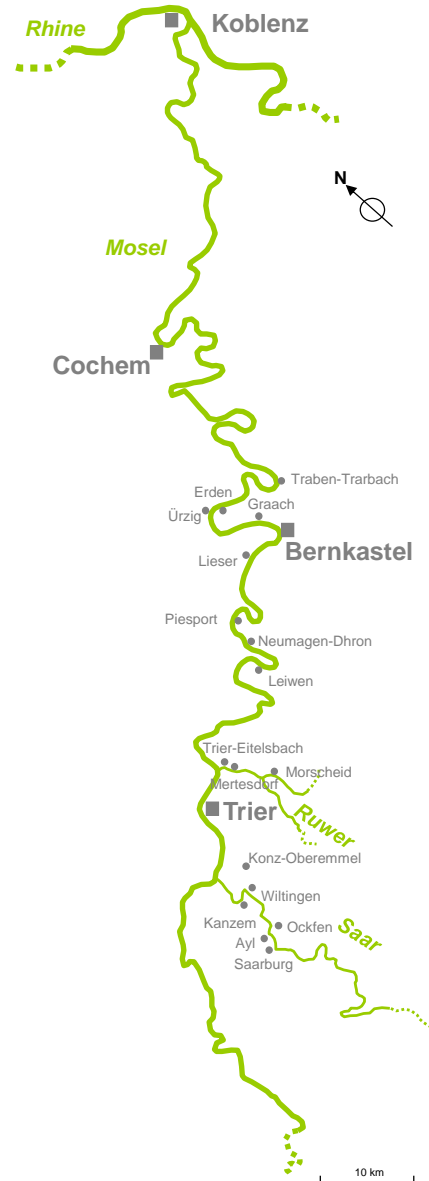
By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Notes from the Cellar: Summary

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

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| C.H. Berres | Ürzig |
| Erben von Beulwitz | Mertesdorf |
| Bischöfliches Priesterseminar | Trier |
| Georg Breuer | Rüdesheim |
| Jos. Christoffel jr. | Ürzig |
| Erben Stephan Ehlen | Erden |
| Geschw. Ehses-Berres | Zeltingen |
| Reinhold Franzen | Bremm |
| Geltz-Zilliken | Saarburg |
| Fritz Haag | Brauneberg |
| Heymann-Löwenstein | Winningen |
| Anton Itschert | Ürzig |
| Karthäuserhof | Eitelsbach |
| Keller | Flörsheim-Dalsheim |
| Kerpen | Wehlen |
| Lehnert-Veit | Piesport |
| Maximin Grünhaus | Mertesdorf |
| Alfred Merkelbach | Ürzig |
| Meyerhof | Bernkastel-Kues |
| Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler | Bernkastel-Kues |
| Pfarrgut St. Brixius | Oberemmel |
| Johann Pfeiffer | Ürzig |
| Ewald Pfeiffer | Ürzig |
| Joh. Jos. Prüm | Wehlen |
| Johann Peter Reinert | Kanzem |
| Willi Schaefer | Graach |
| Clemens von Schorlemer | Bernkastel-Kues |
| Staatsweingut Trier | Trier |





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Notes from the Cellar: Detailed Tasting Notes (45 Wines)



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The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling ... and beyond!

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

Weingut C.H. Berres Erben

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

1978er	C.H. Berres Erben	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese Eiswein	58 79	88
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The 1978er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese Eiswein has a nice orange-yellow color and offers a nicely smoky and aromatic nose of plenty of herbs (especially sage and oregano), frozen strawberry, baked apple, nut, licorice, and dried apricot. The wine surprises one on the palate with a delicately fruity and even smooth juicy side. This makes for a pleasing experience to this comparatively light-weighted wine. The finish shows the true Eiswein character as some tickly acidity gives punch and tension to the wine. The aftertaste is superbly long and refreshing. While the aromatics are already in the mystic phase, this Spätlese Eiswein has a beautifully structure and is hugely playful on the palate. Lovers of fully mature and tertiary wines will find a good surprise here as 1978 was a very difficult vintage in Germany. Drink up

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Weingut Erben von Beulwitz

(Mertesdorf – Trier-Ruwer)

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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 59 – November 2021)

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Weingut Bischöfliches Priesterseminar Trier

(Trier – Trier-Ruwer)

1975er	Bischöfliches Priesterseminar Trier	Canzemer Altenberg Riesling Auslese	05 76	91
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The 1975er Canzemer Altenberg Riesling Auslese has an orange-golden color and first shows a quite imposing and even powerful smoky nose (bacon, wet slate), before fine nuances of leather, nut, minty herbs, anise, a touch of black trumpet baked apple, and licorice kick in. It is superbly well balanced on the palate, which proves delicately airy and refined. The finish is driven by zest and fresh minty notes, and is now dry-tasting. While the nose is already in the mystic phase, the surprise comes here on the beautifully fresh and airy palate. Now

1990er	Bischöfliches Priesterseminar Trier	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese	07 91	89
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The 1990er Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese offers a nicely yellow-golden color and has a very expressive and aromatic nose of beeswax, incense, smoke, infused herbs, tar, cooked apple, candied pear, and yellow flowers. The wine starts off on the sweet and fruity side on the palate, as more beeswax, honey, and ripe apple come through, and has a nicely focused, herbal, and spicy long finish, but it also has some tartness and medicinal herbs adding quite some freshness. The aftertaste is more on the opulent side. Drink up

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Weingut Georg Breuer

(Rüdesheim – Rheingau)

2016er	Georg Breuer	Rüdesheimer Berg Roseneck Riesling	07 17	94
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The 2016er Berg Roseneck, as it is referred to on the front label, is light-green-yellow colored and offers a beautifully restrained and refreshing nose of citrusy fruits (lemon, citron, tangerine, and grapefruit), minty herbs, spices (white pepper and ginger), white flowers, greengage, white peach, lavender, and marzipan. The wine proves superbly zesty and focused on the palate, with initially quite some raciness. Its austere side slowly evolves into an airy side with more time in the glass (this starts to shine on day 2 after opening the bottle), but it always keeps its focused and linear side in the very long, spicy, herbal, and above all fully dry-tasting finish (and this even as the wine warms up in the glass). This still needs a couple of years in bottle before true greatness. 2026-2046

2014er	Georg Breuer	Rüdesheimer Berg Roseneck Riesling	07 15	94
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The 2014er Berg Roseneck, as it is referred to on the front label, still has a light-greenish color and proves reductive and closed at first. It then develops a very aniseed and spicy nose of fresh herbs, almond kernel, greengage, mint, and white peach. It shows huge energy and freshness on the palate, where the acidity still dominates and gives the wine a very racy side. The finish is fully bone-dry and spicy with some tartness in the background still in need of integration. There is a green element to the wine which make it very primary and fresh. It will only develop its full complexity with time and will not be ready before many more years. 2029-2049

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Weingut Jos. Christoffel jr.

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

1994er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese ***	08 95	94
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The 1994er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** offers a superbly attractive, aromatic, and refined nose of candied citrusy fruits, white mint, almond cream, roasted juicy Victoria pineapple, beeswax, toffee, and smoke. The wine proves delicately juicy and still slightly sweet, especially as creamy buttery elements kick in. The finish has however all the hallmarks (freshness, lightness, and intensity) of great mature bottlings from this Estate. This is fully mature yet plain delicious. Now-2034

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Weingut Erben Stephan Ehlen

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

1990er	Stephan Ehlen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese GK	09 91	96
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The 1990er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese GK has a light-golden color and offers a captivatingly youthful, breathtaking, and multi-layered nose of fresh citrusy fruits, mint, candied tangerine, bergamot, cassis, grapefruit zest, citron, ginger cake, and a touch of camphor. With airing, the wine remains superbly stable and fresh, and only timidly shows riper fruits as well as toffee and pineapple. The wine is delicately smooth and refined on the palate, and the residual sugar is by now superbly integrated. It proves light-weighted and airy, but has more presence and especially zest and freshness in the almost Saar-like finish. It proves almost too easy on the palate, but this airiness and precision are breathtakingly impressive. Now-2040

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Weingut Geschw. Ehses-Berres

(Zeltingen – Middle Mosel)

1961er	Geschw. Ehses-Berres	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese		90
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The 1961er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese still proves comparatively light-golden colored and offers an aromatic and subtle nose of dried apricot, fennel seed, plenty of spices (including curry), ginger cake, smoke, and licorice. The wine starts off on the smooth and very delicate and almost soft side, yet it develops concentration and focus in the dry-tasting and smoky finish. The after-taste has more oxidative notes such as hazelnut cream and candied orange peel. This fully mature, elegant, and dry-tasting fully mature Spätlese is very easy to drink. Drink up

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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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 59 – November 2021)

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Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

(Saarburg – Saar)

1991er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein	02 92	Auction	97
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The 1991er Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein is yellow-golden colored and needs a few minutes in the glass to get rid of its initial strong smoky nose. It then offers a beautiful mature nose of wet slate, violet, candied tangerine, orange zest, Christmas spices, iron, chamomile, a hint of white mushroom, and candied ginger. The wine proves super fresh and lively on the palate, where some sweetness makes for a great balance. Lime, herbs, zest, and honey make for a beautiful combination of freshness and ripeness. The finish is spicy and lively, as one would expect from a great Eiswein, and above all magnificently long. This is a brilliant example of the mature Eiswein! Now-2031 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 60 – February 2022)



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2002er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese	05 03	94
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The 2002er Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese AP05 is initially restrained and only gradually reveals its beautiful and classic nose of whipped almond cream, chamomile, bergamot, lime tree, orange zest, plum, and a hint of William's pear. The wine is beautifully well balanced on the suave and exquisitely creamy palate. Its finesse is superb and the finish is all about lightness and precision in a very delicate and smooth herbal freshness. This is still incredibly fresh and still has many years ahead of it. What a beautiful mature Zilliken Rausch Auslese! Now-2042

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Weingut Fritz Haag

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2001er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	06 02	95
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The 2001er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese has a light golden color with still some green reflections and offers a most captivating and beautifully refined nose of whipped almond cream, coconut cream, apricot blossom, bergamot, Victoria pineapple, melon, candied orange, pear, anise, and jasmine. The wine is stunningly creamy and airy at the same time and leaves a hugely subtle and pure feel of pineapple and whipped cream in the very long finish. There is still sweetness at play, so that this is still far away from declining, and it proves superbly playful as the refreshing acidity in the background is perfectly well integrating. This is a magnificent mature Auslese, which proves remarkably balanced. What a treat! Now-2041

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Weingut Heymann-Löwenstein

(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)

2001er	Heymann-Löwenstein	Winninger Uhlen R Riesling Auslese lange GK	14 02	<i>Auction</i>	94
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The 2001er Uhlen Roth Lay Auslese, as it is referred to on the front label, offers a captivating and hugely aromatic nose of exotic and candied fruits (mango, sweet pineapple, passion fruit, date), honey, quince paste, almond, toffee, dried apricot, orange zest, and prune. The wine proves luscious and still quite sweet (think of BA presence) on the full-throttle yet subtle and complex palate. The wine has great presence and intensity, especially in the very long and baroque finish. The botrytis presence is impressive and so is also the acidity. Even though the alcohol level is not high at all, there is a feeling of power and structure which reminds a little bit expressions of dessert wines produced in other regions (think Loire or Sauternes). Now-2036

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Weingut Anton Itschert

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

1966er	Anton Itschert	Wehlener Klosterberg feine Auslese		90
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The 1966er Wehlener Klosterberg feine Auslese offers a delicately mature and elegant nose of candied orange, nut, smoke, leather, sage, grapefruit, roasted citrus, apple jelly, cinnamon, and herbs. The wine proves almost light-weighted and delicately smooth on the palate, and leaves a subtle playful feel of fruits (including orange, apricot, and litchi), minty herbs, and smoke in the nicely long and refined finish. It even gains in presence and intensity as the wine sees more airing, but then fades quickly. This is clearly for lovers of wines in their mystic phase, and as such a great example. Drink up



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1969er	Anton Itschert	Ürziger Würzgarten feine Auslese	88
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The 1969er Ürziger Würzgarten feine Auslese, drank from a perfect half bottle, has a fully mature and smoky nose of toffee, ash, ripe apple, candied orange peel, Christmas spices, and fennel. The wine has still a nice fruity and slightly sweet touch on the palate, and leaves a smooth, quite smoky, and medium long finish. This half bottle is now in its mystic phase and drinking nicely if one likes fully mature old Riesling. Drink up

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Weingut Karthäuserhof

(Eitelsbach – Trier-Ruwer)

1997er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 19	14 98	94
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The 1997er Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 19 already shows a golden color and delivers a great mature and ripe nose of apricot cream, pineapple juice, almond, yellow peach, fresh herbs, aniseed spices, and minty herbs. The wine proves delicately smooth and suave on the luscious palate. Yet the finish has focus and structure with a hint of power (the label indicates 9% of alcohol), which gives the whole thing the balance of an off-dry Riesling by now. It is drinking superbly well. Now-2027

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Weingut Keller

(Flörsheim-Dalsheim – Rheinhessen)

2013er	Keller	Dalsheimer Hubacker Riesling Trocken GG	34 14	96
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The 2013er Hubacker Riesling, as it is referred to on the front label, offers a magnificently complex, fresh, and youthful nose of grapefruit skin, mint, tangerine, ginger-driven spices, kiwi, and greengage. It proves sheer purity and freshness on the palate, where some light yellow fruity and ripe elements are directly wrapped into fine zest. The finish is super elegant and long with plenty of salty notes as well as some licorice and anise in the background. This is already very present and ready, but there is still plenty of years to go. Now-2038

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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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 59 – November 2021)

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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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 59 – November 2021)

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Maximin Grünhaus – Weingut der Familie von Schubert

(Mertesdorf – Trier-Ruwer)

2010er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 24	11 11		97
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The 2010er Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 24 offers a breathtaking even if still restrained nose, but the complexity and youth are incredible. Mango, tangerine, candied grapefruit, pineapple, orange zest, spices, and pear jelly are some of the nuances coming out of the glass. The wine proves still sweet and honeyed on the rich and luscious palate. Yet there is already a beautiful acidity running through the wine and giving a kind of electric feel. The finish is superbly long and driven by passion fruit and candied lime. The sweet and zesty side on the palate still need to combine for true greatness. It is only evolving at a glacial pace since initial release, so patience is still needed. This breathtaking effort is extremely impressive! 2028-2060

1994er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 47	05 95		97
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The 1994er Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 47 offers an absolutely stellar and fresh nose of cassis, spearmint, elderflower, white peach, fine fresh herbs, and jasmine. The wine proves utterly delicious, airy, and refined on the palate and would be comparable to a very light off-dry modern Kabinett. Its purity and finesse make this wine so unique and there is literally no equivalent to such a light-weighted yet multi-layered and profound Riesling. The finish is as light as water yet very long and delicate. This is a marvelous aged Grünhaus Auslese. Now-2034

1921er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Hochfeine Beerenauslese Fuder Nr. 7			97
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The 1921er Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Hochfeine Beerenauslese Fuder Nr. 7 is a wine produced by Maximin von Schubert's great grandfather. Still bright colored, it offers a beautifully aromatic and mystic nose which initially has intense herbal notes (like an old Chartreuse), with a lot of elegant and refined notes of smoke, cacao, banana flambéed, leather, raisin, and orange peel. The wine proves still fresh and lively, as a great acidity runs through the wine. There is even good density but without any undue weight. The finish proves hugely long and vibrant, with a hint of power. There is no feeling of sweetness, but the mid-palate is delicately smooth. This acts more like a modern day Auslese than a really sweet dessert wine. It is a magnificent wine, regardless of the splendid and unique experience drinking a 100-year-old bottle. Drink up

1989er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	34 94		96
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The 1989 Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese offers a very perfumed, classy, and aromatic nose of candied tangerine, grapefruit zest, toffee, cola, herbs, licorice, and plenty of spices. It proves hugely impressive on the palate as it unfolds great presence and ripeness and even still quite some sweetness. The finish has great tension and focus as an acidic backbone comes through and makes for a great balance and freshness. There is intensity and presence in this outstanding dessert wine. Now-2034

1990er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 92	37 91		95
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The 1990er Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 92 offers a superbly classic, pure, and sumptuous nose of refined mature Grünhaus Auslese with plenty of minty herbs, anise, gooseberry, cassis, green herbs, licorice, and lime tree. The wine is driven by a beautiful playful and even racy acidity, which gives a superbly lively and energetic side to the palate. The finish is pure, sharp, and already on the dry-ish side. It makes one want to go for more. What a stunning example of Auslese! Now



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2010er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Superior	19 11	91
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The 2010er Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Superior offers a beautiful and fresh nose of mint, herbs, grapefruit, pear jelly, and lime. The wine is very well balanced by a great acidity, which gives energy, freshness, and zest to the clean and pure finish. The residual sugar is not perceptible and the after-taste is very long and dry-tasting. Now-2030

1998er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Trocken	35 99	91
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The 1998er Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Trocken offers a really breathtaking and fresh nose of gooseberry, cassis, a lot of mint, raspberry jelly, and anise. The wine is herbal and driven by aniseed flavors on the well-structured, intense, and very long finish. It proves far younger than it really is and is a great example of well-aged dry Maximin Grünhaus wine in one of the Estate's best vintages. This superb wine has still plenty of years ahead. Now-2038

2006er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Superior	09 07	88
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The 2006er Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Superior has an initial flinty nose, which quickly gives way to a very aromatic and ripe nose of pineapple, canned yellow peach, lime, thyme, and a touch of toffee, almond, and coconut cream. The richness and ripeness of fruits is clearly noticeable on the palate, which is juicy and quite smooth. The finish is light and almost easy. Now

1985er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Trocken	57 86	87
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The 1985er Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Trocken AP57 offers a fully mature and earthy nose of aniseed herbs, herbal tea, thyme, wet stone, fennel, and lozeng. The wine proves lean and herbal on the palate, yet this lightness is very nice and the airiness is impressive as there is nice complexity. The finish is very minty, smoky, and almost watery light. This is now well in its mystic phase but the freshness and liveliness are really impressive. Now

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Weingut Alfred Merkelbach

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2004er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese	17 05	93
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The 2004er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese AP17 has a light golden color and offers a beautifully mature and refined nose of yellow peach, mirabelle, dried flowers, candied grapefruit, Japanese plum, cassis, and fine spices. The wine proves superbly creamy and captivates one's sensation as flavors honeyed yellow fruits, butter cream, and waxy elements hit the palate. Everything is well kept into balance as some tickly acidity gives a fresher side to the wine. The finish is actually more powerful, due to the lower level of residual sugar and the 8.5% of alcohol, which gives it a more off-dry feel. It proves superbly long and intense. This great mature Auslese is drinking really well right now. Now-2029

2003er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Beerenauslese	11 04	93
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The 2003er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Beerenauslese has still a light golden color and exhibits an exquisitely ripe and fruit-driven yet refined and delicate nose of Victoria pineapple, pear, quince, apple jelly, candied grapefruit, cinnamon, and vanilla. The wine proves delicately juicy, sweet, and smooth with ample ripe fruits, yet the finish has more presence and structure, which causes the feel of sweetness to take a back seat. The balance is really nice and the finish has great length and intensity. This beautiful ripe yet drinking BA is now fully mature and we would opt to drink this over the next few years. Now-2026

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Weingut Meyerhof

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

1959er	Meyerhof	Bernkasteler Badstube feinste Auslese		91
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The 1959er Bernkasteler Badstube feinste Auslese is already golden-orange in color and delivers a beautiful mature and refined nose of aniseed herbs, candied orange peel, saffron, Indian spices, licorice, wood fire ashes, pine tree, and a touch of bruised red apple. The wine is very delicate and superbly creamy on the palate, where some fine notes of toffee, acacia honey, and coffee bean come through and add smoothness to the experience. The wine shows great intensity despite being very light weighted. The finish has even a touch of power, which shows the hotter side of the vintage and also the higher level of alcohol. Drink up

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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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 59 – November 2021)

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 front 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 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 59 – November 2021)

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Weingut Pfarrgut St. Briktius Oberemmel

(Oberemmel – Saar)

1989er	Pfarrgut St. Briktius	Oberemmeler Rosenberg Riesling Spätlese	02 90		85
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The 1989er Oberemmeler Rosenberg Riesling Spätlese has an orange-golden-copper color and has an aromatic and fully mature nose of nut paste, cooked apple, dried apricot, hay, smoke, tar, and a touch of fennel. The wine proves delicately smooth and juicy on the light-weighted palate. Flavors of apple and grape juice are noticeable, and the finish is now slightly drying out. Though enjoyable, this has passed its best. Drink up

1966er	Pfarrgut Oberemmel	Oberemmeler Rosenberg Spätlese			90
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The 1966er Oberemmeler Rosenberg Spätlese has a nice golden color and offers a superbly mature, complex, and still fresh nose of minty herbs, sage, rosemary, candied citrus, red apple, smoke, licorice, and greenage, with a good dash of curry and beeswax. The wine has good presence and smoothness on the palate, where delicately spicy and zesty notes add lightness and freshness. The finish is on the light side, yet beautifully focused and dry-tasting. This is delicious to drink on its own. Now

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Weingut Ewald Pfeiffer

(Ürziger – Middle Mosel)

1975er	Ewald Pfeiffer	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Beerenauslese	45 76	94
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The 1975er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Beerenauslese has a golden-orange color and offers a beautifully refined and delicate nose of yellow flowers, acacia honey, minty herbs, candied apricot, Indian spices, and blood orange. The wine proves superbly smooth and still on the sweet side of life on the palate. It is honeyed and fruity (apricot, mango, pineapple) yet has dynamism thanks to some great candied zest and refreshing acidity. The finish is very long and vibrating. This is a beautiful mature BA. Now+

1965er	Ewald Pfeiffer	Ürziger Würzgarten Eiswein		88
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The 1965er Ürziger Würzgarten Eiswein has an orange-copper color and first shows a rather restrained and smoky nose of wet slate, wood fire, nut, dried apricot, and hay, before deeper notes of licorice, orange peel, sage, cinnamon, grilled citrus, and stewed quince kick in. The wine has a nice finesse and lightness on the palate and only gradually shows more presence but also quite some zesty fruits and acidity, which make for a dry feel by now rather than sweet. There is also a touch of bitter orange and nut in the slightly oxidative and powerful after-taste. This is clearly now in its mystic phase but remains a quite impressive wine to sip after dinner next to a fire. Drink up

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Weingut Johann Pfeiffer

(Ürziger – Middle Mosel)

1959er	Johann Pfeiffer	Ürziger Würzgarten Auslese		91
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The 1959er Ürziger Würzgarten Auslese offers a superbly golden-orange color and exhibits a fully mature and tertiary yet fresh nose of dried apricot, orange peel, anise, cardamom, herbal tea, curry, saffron, ginger cake, and licorice. The wine proves beautifully light and still slightly sweet on the palate, which is smooth and juicy. The finish initially seems light and refined, but significantly gains in freshness and length as the wine gets more airing. It is driven by candied grapefruit, apricot, and herbs, as well as a touch of tartness and smoke. This is a light Auslese, which is very easy to enjoy. Now

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Weingut Jos. Jos. Prüm

(Wehlener – Middle Mosel)

2009er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	03 12	90+
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The 2009er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett AP 03 12 proves still very light and color and shows an initial whiff of sulfur-driven reduction. After some minutes in the glass, it offers a classy and fresh nose of white peach, anise, green apple, greengage, fresh herbs, and lemon. The wine shows a touch more ripeness on the palate and there is still a touch of sweetness in need of integration, yet the lightness and freshness are superb as the playful acidity gives focus to the finish. We would opt to still wait a few more years for the aromatics to develop further, the reduction but also the tale of sweetness to better integrate, and would not be surprised if it even proves better at maturity. 2026-2039

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Weingut Johann Peter Reinert

(Kanzem – Saar)

1990er	Johann Peter Reinert	Wiltinger Schlossberg Riesling Auslese	17 91	93
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The 1990er Wiltinger Schlossberg Riesling Auslese has a golden-orange color and initially shows a whiff of petrol, smoke, and saffron. But this quickly gives way (after only a few minutes) to a wonderfully fresh and zesty nose of Kaffir lime, candied tangerine, lemongrass, licorice, dried herbs, and almond paste, as well as a touch of apricot and baked apple as it further evolves in the glass. The wine is beautifully light-weighted, zesty, and dynamic on the joyful and acid-driven palate. The finish is pure, clean, and herbal, and the very light feel of residual sugar which is present on the mid-palate blends into a dry-tasting and animatingly long finish. This fully mature Riesling is drinking superbly well. Now-2025

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Weingut Willi Schaefer

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

1971er	Willi Schaefer	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese		100
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The 1971er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese (there was only one made by the Estate in 1971) is a golden-bronze-colored wine with a show-stopping nose made of floral elements, citrusy fruits, apricot, beeswax, and a touch of tea and fern. It is stunningly precise and elegant on the palate where citrusy elements are impeccable wrapped into a touch of almond-driven smoothness and fine exotic spices. The finish is simply to die for: airy yet intense, multi-layered yet finely chiseled. This Auslese underlines, if need be, the greatness of perfectly matured Mosel Riesling. Now-2031

2007er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	12 08	92
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The 2007er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese AP12 is light-golden in color and has an initial whiff of reduction from sulfur, which however quickly gives way to a superbly ripe and elegant nose of almond cream, honeyed yellow fruits (peach, pear, and pineapple), a hint of melon, anise, spices, herbs, and licorice. The wine also shows richness of fruits on the palate, but what sets it apart is the delicious ripe acidity which runs through the wine and gives it structure and a backbone line. The finish is quite intense and almost powerful (certainly for the Estate's standards), very long, and already more off-dry in taste than the one could expect from the nose. Now-2032

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Weingut Clemens Freiherr von Schorlemer

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

1970er	Clemens Freiherr von Schorlemer	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling hochfeine Auslese Eiswein – Christwein Fuder Nr. 7622		98
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The 1970er Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling hochfeine Auslese Eiswein – Christwein, which was harvested on December 24 (hence the name "Christwein") and with Fuder Nr. 7622 (this is written in small print at the bottom right of the label), has a beautiful clean orange-golden color with mahogany reflections and has a glorious mature and still fruity nose of smoke (incense and burnt wood), plenty of minty and medicinal herbs, orange zest, cinnamon, fresh apricot, acacia honey, candied grapefruit, elderberry, and cassis. The wine proves even younger on the palate, where juicy and honeyed orangey and apricot driven fruits are wrapped into a magnificent and brilliant acidity. The finish is vibrating and very focused with intensity and freshness. There are huge juicy and ripe apricot flavors in the after-taste. This is a stunning mature wine! Now-2030

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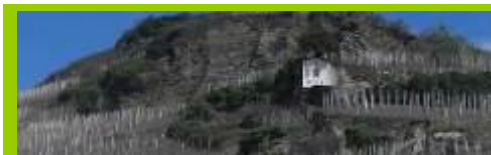
Staatsweingut Trier

(Trier – Trier-Ruwer)

1989er	Staatsweingut Trier	Avelsbacher Hammerstein Riesling Auslese	03 90	93
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The 1989er Avelsbacher Hammerstein Riesling Auslese has a light golden-orange color and delivers a beautifully refined, complex, and still youthful nose of candied orange, tangerine, acacia, earthy spices, cardamom, whipped almond cream, strawberry, coconut, and fine spices, all wrapped into a fine blanket of smoke and mint. The wine is delicately sweet, fruity, and smooth on the palate, and some minty herbs and tickly acidity gradually emerge to bring lift and freshness to this great drinking Auslese. The finish is delicately refined and superbly balanced, while the after-taste is all about apricot flower and candied zesty fruits. This is a great Auslese from the 1989 vintage! Now-2034

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Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling ... and Beyond!"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Perspectives | Mosel Vintages since 1940

Mosel wine ages beautifully well. Mature bottles of Mosel (including those over 20-30 years old) can still be found quite easily on the market and, with a few exceptions, at reasonable prices, certainly for the quality or compared with say Bordeaux or Burgundy.



But how have the different vintages turned out? At the very beginning of Mosel Fine Wines, we provided our readers with an overview of the vintages. We took upon us to update this review taking into account that:

- (a) we published those articles over a decade ago,
- (b) we have tasted many more wines since,
- (c) a few vintages have been added since!

So, follow us in a dive into 80 years of Mosel beauty!



Mosel Fine Wines

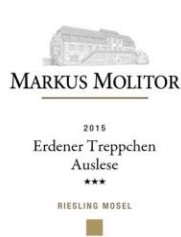
"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling ... and Beyond!"

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PAST VINTAGES | THE 2010S

The 2010s is a decade with a lot of high potential vintages, but it is also a decade where many wines are still work in progress. We provide a more detailed situation on how enjoyable wines from these vintages are in our systematic 2020-2013 update at the beginning of this Issue.

What will probably stand out most in the history books on Mosel vintages is the incredible successful quintet **2015-2016-2017-2018-2019**, in which growers now more aware of the challenges of climate change were able to make the most of the advantageous growing conditions.



What is also remarkable is that each of these five great vintages has its own, very distinctive style: **2015** proved a major success which bears more than a vague resemblance with the great 1990 in terms of ripeness, depth of flavors, and firm acidic wall. **2016** shows much of the airy finesse that made the success of such a universally great vintage as 1997. **2017** proves a more balanced and fresher version of 2009 and 2007. **2018** bears more than a vague resemblance with 1959 ... and it is not surprising that the 2018 noble-sweet wines are among the finest ever. Despite being a truly warm vintage, even the dry wines show some freshness which is certainly uncommon. **2019** offers a completely unique combination of freshness, zest, and balance that combines the finest of classic vintages such as 2004 with the depth of riper vintages.

All the above vintages are dream vintages for wine lovers. If you ask growers for other vintages in this decade, chances are that they will admit of being particularly fond of **2011** as quality was great and yields high (something which was not the case from 2015-2019, except probably in 2018). This slightly round vintage yielded some superb noble-sweet wines and nicely balanced and still quite enjoyable dry Mosel wines.

As you will have read in the "10-Years-After" retrospective in this Issue, the **2012** vintage proves juicy and zesty with an underlying touch of ripeness and roundness.

Two vintages proved more austere, 2010 and 2013. **2010** yielded quite some acidic wines sometimes marked by botrytis flavors and a delineated structure. **2013** is marked by also some high levels of acidity and smoky elements (both from reduction and from low levels of intrinsic ripeness). Needless to say, these vintages are far from being ready.

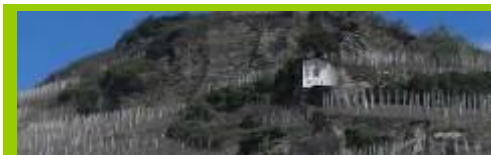
Seen from the wine lovers, the most "difficult" vintage of the decade is **2014** because it was so heterogeneous: There is a "before the rain" and "after the rain" vintage. However, the wines can be quite enjoyable as they show a lighter and more classical Mosel mold and some of the botrytized elements have now turned into spiciness.

PAST VINTAGES | THE 2000S

This decade is described by many as "the decade of climate change" and there are good reasons for this: 2003, 2005, 2006 and, to some extent, 2007 and 2009 proved to be remarkably hot and early harvest vintages, for which there were few precedents in the 20th century at the time. The decade has also seen some classic vintages besides those out-of-the-norm ones.

2003 was a freakish vintage with unseen scorching hot weather conditions and drought. The Saar fared particularly well in this vintage but also some producers of the Middle Mosel (among which Joh. Jos. Prüm and Reinhold Haart) produced some legendary wines with immense depth. Overall, there are common traits with the 1959 wines but, if we are honest, there is a slight softness in even the best wines that would make us think that the best parallel would probably have been 1947 ... had there been more wine produced from that vintage (see the section on the 1940s below). A few nice dry wines were made but most struggled with alcohol management.

2005 and **2006** are a mythical duo with some stunning sweet wines which remind us of the grand 1959 and 1949 vintages respectively. The vintages prove a washout however for Kabinett and are much more heterogeneous for dry wines. There are immense successes in both vintages in the noble-sweet category and in good quantity (and a few wines have not even yet been brought to the market).

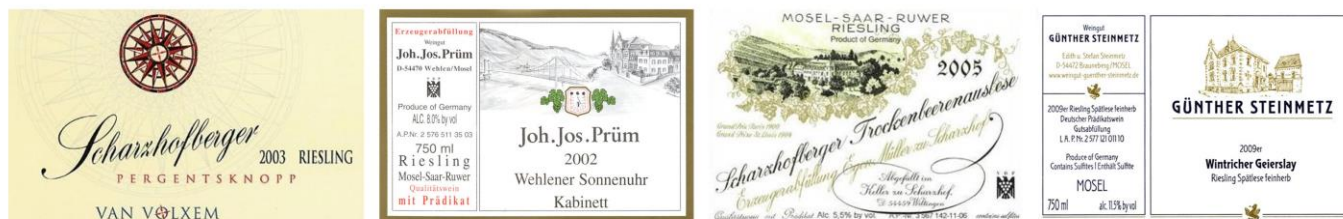


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Also 2007 and 2009 proved warmer than usual vintages. Wines from **2007** developed quite some fat over the years but retain a great sense of playfulness not often found in 2003, 2005, or 2006. It yielded some stunning sweet Riesling (which remind us of 1953) but little real Kabinett and grand dry wines. **2009** proved beautifully structured and very pure and yielded some gorgeous fruity-styled and sweet wine with more playfulness than in 2007. It is also the first vintage in which the Mosel collectively produced a wide range of truly remarkable dry wines.



Was the decade only about warmer vintages? No! It also seen some classic vintages besides those out-of-the-norm ones. **2001** is simply a grandiose vintage, one of our favorites of all times for beautiful Spätlese and Auslese. But generally, the vintage delivered from entry-level over dry to noble-sweet wines. **2002** produced softer but elegant wines and remains under the radar because there were few "stratospherically good wines". But it is a vintage that prove a delight since almost a decade now. **2004** proved a very late vintage (think November) and produced some stunningly zesty wines with refreshing acidity. The fruity-styled wines can still be remarkably fresh! **2008** proved quite austere at first but is now a favorite among our favorites for its beautifully playful fruity-styled wines.

The only vintage that is less than par so far in the 2000s decade is **2000** itself, which was affected by rain and rot during harvest. However, it saw the production of some great BA, TBA, and Eiswein. Most other wines went through a rather rapid evolution.

PAST VINTAGES | THE 1990S

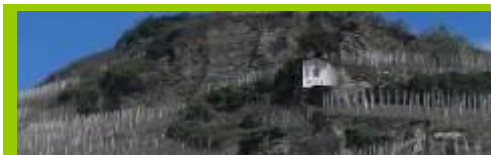
The 1990s will go down in history as a decade made in heaven. All the vintages in this decade have turned out to be either good or great in their own right, with the exception perhaps of 1991 (even 1991 would have been a stand-out vintage in any previous decade!). The great vintages have clearly been 1990, 1993, 1994, and 1997 (though this is hair splitting as great wines were also produced in 1995 and 1998, not to mention 1999 in the Saar and Ruwer).

1990 was hailed in its youth as the best vintage since 1971 thanks to its fruit purity and incredible zesty acidity. However, many wines have gone through a hard and closed phase for quite a while (sometimes 20 years!). But now, the wines are fully open and, when they are good, wines from the 1990 vintage can represent the essence of Mosel purity (there was little botrytis), energy, and finesse.

The **1994** vintage was another great vintage. As in 1990, acidity turned out to be on the high side (but is often of a riper nature than in 1990). However, unlike 1990, many wines show some botrytis and, as a consequence, deeper colors in the glass. The vintage produced many great wines, especially at the Auslese and upward levels, showing the most incredible freshness and raciness. To this day, for some wine lovers (and especially us!), the Fritz Haag's fruity-styled wines from 1994 are among the finest that Riesling has graced the world with.



What can one say about the **1997** vintage, except that on paper it is potentially the most elegant vintage of the decade? All great producers made some outstanding fruity-styled wines in this vintage. This is one of the vintages in which dry wines (an oddity at the time in the Mosel) have turned out really well, especially at the then grand-master of this style: Karthäuserhof.



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The most underrated vintage of the 1990s must be **1993**, which, with hindsight, produced extremely balanced and refined wines. This vintage was particularly successful in the Ruwer and the Saar, where it produced some of the greatest expressions of Riesling ever from those regions. Grünhaus in particular produced some of its finest wines ever in this vintage. Fruity-styled wines from the 1993 vintage are now fully mature but they are still shining, with clean flavors, playful acidity, and well-integrated sweetness.

The **1998** vintage was affected by rain during the harvest but has produced surprisingly elegant and refined wines that are drinking extremely well at the moment.

Lovers of acidity will find much to love in the austere, lean, and intense **1996** vintage. At their best, they can be absolutely thrilling, especially at Auslese level, but the steely and electric acidity may not be to everybody's taste.

The **1999** vintage was marked by a hot growing season, which favored the Saar (Egon Müller's long serving cellar master is on record for saying that this had been his best vintage then) and the Ruwer. Wines from the Middle Mosel can be good, but too many have unfortunately developed flavors of overripe fruits and lost their zest.

The **1995** vintage was marked by high levels of dry extract and outbreaks of botrytis. At their best, they represent powerful and admirably austere expressions of Mosel Riesling especially at Spätlese and Auslese levels.

Wines from the **1991** vintage generally show a slightly hard edge to them, and few are really still very enjoyable today with one major exception: It is a superb vintage for Eiswein.

Finally, surprisingly good wines can be found in the **1992** vintage (Fritz Haag, Grünhaus, and Merkelbach, for instance, come to mind) and the better ones are lighter but no less enjoyable versions of the legendary 1993s.

PAST VINTAGES | THE 1980S

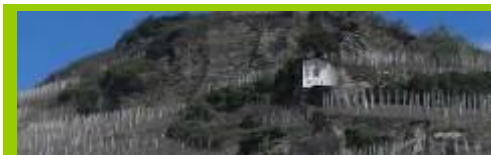
The 1980s decade is often forgotten between the glorious wines from the 1970s and the incredible streak of successes in the 1990s. But there are actually a few great vintages hidden in that decade, among which 1983, 1988 and 1989.

The glorious late autumn in **1983** produced fresh wines with good levels of sugar without excessive botrytis. In addition, a comparatively early frost allowed for the production of excellent Eiswein. Most wines from this vintage are fully open and a joy to drink at the moment. Spätlese and Auslese can offer fresh flavors of precise fruits while Eiswein bottlings are among the finest ever made: the Egon Müller Scharzhofberger Eiswein and the Joh. Jos. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Eiswein GK are among the great legends of the Mosel. Overall, many growers managed to produce good to excellent wines. In particular, Jos. Christoffel jr. and Zilliken had some of their greatest successes ever in this vintage.

1988 was the first vintage after 1983, in which fully ripe grapes could be harvested in large quantities. Many wines from 1988 offer today great pleasure in a structured and zesty style. Acidity levels were higher than in 1989 and 1990 and this helped to keep a sense of freshness in the wines. Botrytis came at the end of the harvest and allowed the production of some great Auslese and upwards bottlings. The vintage has been particularly successful for Grünhaus, whose Auslese bottlings have retained incredible freshness. But also, other makers in the Middle Mosel and the Saar produced great wines. The better ones are still remarkably young and fresh. Thankfully for wine lovers, the 1988 vintage lives somewhat in the shade of the highly regarded and dramatic 1989 and 1990 duo and prices for 1988 bottles can be still quite reasonable.



1989 is a freakish dramatic vintage characterized by a widespread outbreak of botrytis. With hindsight, it is clear that not all that botrytis was clean and many wines at Spätlese and especially Auslese level show signs of tiredness and over-ripeness. Some great BA and TBA bottles were made but many are merely good and dominated by rather simple flavors of apricot and honey and sometimes higher than normal alcohol levels. Also in this vintage, Grünhaus managed to produce glorious wines that show freshness and are not dominated by botrytis. Other top Estates fared also well. For instance, Fritz Haag, Egon Müller, and Zilliken managed to produce great wines. Although it is a rare sighting, 1989 proved a really nice vintage for dry Mosel!



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The **1982** vintage can offer many positive surprises even if the vintage is now on the fully mature side of things. It was characterized by high yields and low acidity and was discarded early on for being too soft in acidity for long-term development. Rain affected the early part of the harvest, which added juice dilution to the issues of the vintage. What seems to have been forgotten is that a good string of sunny days towards the end of October played into the hands of late harvesting Estates, which managed to harvest some great Auslese. These have withstood the test of time and are drinking surprisingly well today in a ripe and cuddly style. In particular, wines by Joh. Jos. Prüm and Jos. Christoffel jr. can be exceptionally nice. For completion, it is worth mentioning that small quantities of Eiswein were made, among others by Zilliken.

In **1985**, grapes were often not fully ripe and proved quite backward and austere when young. Some took well into the 2000s if not the 2010s to shed their wall of reduction and can prove remarkable in a structured and slightly Eiswein-styled type.

The other vintages in the 1980s proved more difficult. **1986** was marked by rot and acidity and yielded hardly any Prädikat wines. **1987** is cut along the same lines but retains a little bit more playfulness. Wines from both vintages are now well into their mystic phase.

1980, **1981**, and **1984** are quite challenging. The high level of acidity prevailing in these vintages means that the wines are often still fresh but lack charm. To prove that there are exceptions to every rule, Joh. Jos. Prüm and Zilliken sometimes serves a remarkable Spätlese respectively Kabinett to their guests which completely transcends the meager reputation of these vintages. But honestly, buying from these three vintages is more than pot luck.

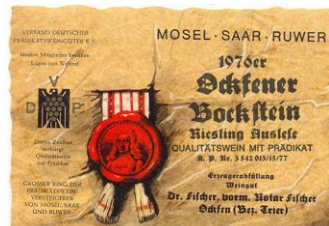
PAST VINTAGES | THE 1970S

Despite the difficult financial times that many Estates went through in that decade, the 1970s produced a whole series of great vintages, among which three all-time classics: 1971, 1975, and 1976.

1971 is one of those great vintages which manages to combine ripeness with comparatively high levels of acidity. This winning combination produced many stunning wines with zest, freshness, and subtle notes from clean botrytis. All three regions in the Mosel produced impressive wines that manage to convey the typical signature of each sector. Spätlese and regular Auslese wines can be on the dry side by now but anything above that (Auslese Star, Goldkapsel, Beerenauslese, and Trockenbeerenauslese) are still drinking magnificently well. Legendary wines were made by the great Estates of the time but also smaller and lesser-known ones produced at least good wines in this vintage. Unfortunately, the quality of the vintage is well established and so is the price premium for its wines.

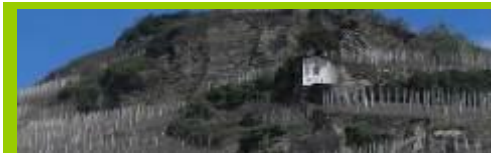
1975 is another great vintage that produced wines with a clean fresh flavor profile and bottles from this vintage are currently showing extremely well. Overall, wines from the Middle Mosel fared best in this vintage thanks to an additional touch of creaminess on the palate and the finish. However, lovers of zesty and racy wines will admire the austere, fresh, and clean beauty of well-preserved Saar and Ruwer bottles.

The **1976** vintage was one of the hottest in history, which led to berry shrinking first followed by a widespread outbreak of botrytis (as in 1949 or 2006). Wines from this vintage are often easy to spot in blind tastings due to their golden (or even darker) color, low acidity and aromatic profile made of honey, marzipan, and candied fruits. Great wines emerged from all parts of the Mosel at Auslese and upward levels. The Saar, Ruwer, and Trier areas fared particularly well in this hot vintage thanks to higher acidity that just added the necessary touch of freshness. As if all this praise for the 1976 vintage was not enough, these wines have proved to be particularly forgiving for less-than-ideal storage conditions. As in 1971, also lesser producers often made very enjoyable wines that can still be bought at auction without having to break the bank.



All other vintages from the 1970s suffer today from the comparison with the above three super-star ones. This is of course an opportunity for bargain hunters as very enjoyable and nice wines were produced in other vintages as well and these can be often found for little money at auction.

This is in particular true for the **1973** vintage. Heat in the summer combined with drought in July and August blocked the ripeness process and the development of botrytis was limited. This led to scores of lower Prädikat and QbA bottlings. Acidities are not on the shy side and the wines were rather austere in their youth. However, time healed many wounds and better examples of the vintage have developed well in a style reminding one of 1969 with more acidity and surprising aromatic freshness. It is not that well known but 1973 is one of the best vintages ever for Eiswein bottlings as frost came early in the season while the berries were still clean (in our eyes, always a winning combination for making great Eiswein). In particular, the Egon Müller Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese-Eiswein is highly regarded for its balance and freshness.



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The **1979** vintage generated some nice drinkable wines. In particular, the areas of Piesport, Wehlen-Zeltingen, and Ürziger-Erden seemed to have fared well in this vintage. Simpler wines from 1979 have mostly dried up by now and one should really focus on Auslese and upwards bottlings for enjoyment, ideally from top and hot sites, such as the Erdener Prälät, Wehlener Sonnenuhr, etc. The vintage was unfortunately affected by under-ripeness and many wines have a greenish stem-like flavor going through the aromatics, which may not be to everybody's taste.

The **1970** vintage was not an easy one. Ripeness only came late and the grapes were affected by rot. In addition, it was completely over-shadowed by the brilliant 1971 one. This is unfortunate as many Auslese and upwards bottlings from 1970 have proven with time to be rather enjoyable in a ripe style marked by candied fruits and toffee. In particular botrytis-affected Eiswein-styled Auslese bottlings (harvested in December) can still be quite showy and dramatic in style. On a sadder note (at least in our eyes), 1970 was the last vintage in which such exotic descriptions as *Nikolauswein* (meaning: made from grapes harvested on Saint Nicholas Day) or *Christwein* (idem on Christmas Eve) were allowed.

The other vintages of the 1970s (**1972**, **1974**, **1977**, and **1978**) were unfortunately marked by poor if not outright disastrous weather conditions, which allowed only for the production QbA or lower Prädikat wines. Some bottles have withstood the test of time and can be enjoyable in a rather acidic and fern and tea-tasting style. These are however likely to be more oddities than truly great wines (at least for the few we had the chance to taste). It therefore comes as no surprise that there was no annual auction in Trier in 1975 (following the 1974 vintage) and in 1979 (following the 1978 one).

PAST VINTAGES | THE 1960S

The 1960s is a decade characterized by a string of good vintages but also one which is less well considered than the other decades because they do not contain any so-called "vintage of the century". Nonetheless, it generated two outstanding vintages: 1964 and 1969.

1964 produced many very good wines characterized by low acidity yet outstanding balance. Still today, its Spätlese and Auslese can be remarkably enjoyable. Wines from the **1969** vintage on the other hand were reported by old growers as being quite hard and acidic in their youth and they took a long time to develop and overcome their lack of immediate charm. The story is a totally different one today as wines from this vintage have been consistently good and show a remarkable freshness and zest for their age. The vintage is not that well known and hence some comparative bargains can still be made on the auction market. In both 1964 and 1969, the Middle Moselle was favored although some outstanding wines were made in 1964 in the Saar and Ruwer.



The underrated vintage from the decade is **1963**. It proved a late starter and was saved by some good weather in November. One rarely sees wines from this vintage but anything above Spätlese we had was truly enjoyable in a fully mature, yet also fresh and spicy style.

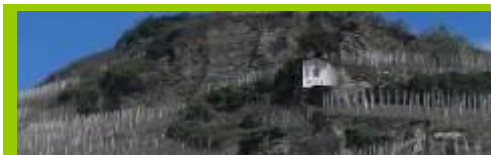
Wines from two other vintages in the 1960s can be quite enjoyable, namely those from **1962** and **1966**. Both vintages share a similar pattern: they led to rather austere wines marked by high acidity (with, overall higher sugar levels in 1966). The additional ripeness reached in the Middle Mosel helped to create somewhat better-balanced wines than in the Saar and Ruwer in both vintages.

The **1967** vintage was characterized by a widespread outbreak of botrytis but, unlike the 2006 vintage, the weather did not turn for the better and rain affected the harvest. Wines from this vintage can still be quite drinkable but are often of a rustic nature with a dark color (due to botrytis) and heavy smoky flavors on the nose.

The other vintages in the 1960s are either solid (**1961**) or outright disasters (**1960**, **1965**, and **1968**) and are seldom worth trying. There are some notable exceptions: Egon Müller and Joh. Jos. Prüm made some Auslese-Eiswein in 1961 that are still well regarded by Mosel wine lovers.

PAST VINTAGES | THE 1950S

Two vintages stand out for their greatness: 1953 and 1959. **1953** was a perfect vintage with ideal harvest conditions, balanced acidity, and without a general outbreak of botrytis as in 1949 (some compare 2005 to this vintage). Unfortunately, wines from the 1953 vintage are rather rare and difficult to find. One of the reasons is apparently that they were so easy to drink in their youth that almost none was left for the next generations. Auslese and upward bottles can still be a great treat thanks to their balance and elegance.



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The **1959** vintage is one of the all-time great vintages in Germany and also in the Mosel. The freakish growing season (one of the hottest vintages in history in the region but still with enough rain to avoid drought like in 1976) led to a widespread production of great Auslese bottlings. The other great thing about this vintage is that (a) quantities were high and there is still comparatively much around (b) even bottles from lesser winemakers or vineyards can be great. The heat of the vintage somehow made it "impossible" to produce bad wine and the high level of sunshine allowed Riesling to ripen (sometimes even better) in lesser vineyards. Many legendary wines have been produced in this vintage, be it by Joh. Jos. Prüm, Grünhaus, Egon Müller or, more surprisingly maybe by its current standards, the Vereinigte Hospitien. These wines still shine today through their Rheingau opulence but Mosel elegance.



Wines from other vintages in the 1950s are hardly ever seen on the market and can be disappointing more often than not. The highest chance of getting a decent to good drink comes from bottles from **1955** and **1957**, but the acidity level is not on the shy side in both vintages. We did have one nice Spätlese from **1951** (about the highest category possible in that vintage) back in the 2000s and, already back then, it was already fully mature. Wines from **1950**, **1952**, **1954**, **1956**, and **1958** have more anecdotal value (in particular, 1956 was the first vintage in which Joh. Jos. Prüm attempted to produce a Spätlese-Eiswein).

PAST VINTAGES | THE 1940S

One rarely sees wines from the war years as it was rationed and used for the troops (often officers) but bottles from **1943** have been quite enjoyable. Overall, it proved a very good vintage with the possibility to produce some Auslese. The truly great vintage that was essentially never to be is **1945**. Frost in the spring and rot in the summer naturally reduced yields and generated some stunning wines with great depth. However, hardly any Mosel wine was produced as war was still raging on during the growing season (for the anecdote, there was a plan which crashed right into the Scharzhofberger!). We had the chance to taste the odd 1945 rarity and can confirm of its unique precision and finesse. The other war vintages are best forgotten: **1940**, **1941**, **1942**, and **1944** were at best average vintages and delivered little Prädikat wine and the few bottles we had were still zesty but also well advanced (with notes of tea, fern, and spices).



Besides 1945, the truly grand vintage of the 1940s was **1949**. This vintage characterized by an early harvest and a general outbreak of botrytis firmly established the Joh. Jos. Prüm Estate at the forefront of quality: the Estate's Zeltinger + Sonnenuhr feinste Auslese and above all its Wehlener Sonnenuhr TBA are hailed as the Mosel's equivalent of the 1945 Mouton. It is therefore not surprising that this vintage is still regarded by many Mosel lovers as the finest ever. Auslese and upward bottlings from this vintage are still very enjoyable today and any Mosel lover will be in for a treat should he still have some wines from this vintage in his/her cellar.

1947 was a great vintage in many wine making regions of Europe as it proved hot. However, the lack of acidity has made these wines age rather rapidly. Back in the 1990s, many wines from 1947 were already in really an advanced stage so cautious is required.

1946 was a wash-out: The growing conditions were not great, and many vineyards still suffered from the scares of war. **1948** yielded a tiny production of solid but not great wines (in fact, on paper, the vintage had much to offer but the possibility to harness quality on a vast scale was probably still not there).



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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:

**June to October
2022**

2021 Vintage Reports

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

**Winter
2023**

Winter Edition

- Lookback at the 2021 vintage
- Review of the annual 2022 Auctions
- Mosel Perspectives
- Sneak Preview of the 2022 vintage

In Parallel

Regular Postings on our Website and Social Media with:

- 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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