



## Mosel Fine Wines

*"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"*

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

# Issue No 56 Maturing Riesling



2011 Retrospective

2001 Retrospective

1921 and Great Vintages





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*"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"*

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## Issue No 56 – April 2021

### Mosel Fine Wines

The aim of Mosel Fine Wines is to provide a comprehensive and independent review of Riesling wines produced in the Mosel, Saar, and Ruwer region, as well as a wider perspective on Riesling produced in Germany.

Mosel Fine Wines appears on a regular basis and covers:

- Reports on the current vintage (including the annual Auctions held in Trier and Bad Kreuznach).
- Updates on how the wines mature.
- Perspectives on specific topics such as vineyards, Estates, vintages, etc.

All wines reviewed in the Mosel Fine Wines issues are exclusively tasted by us (at the Estates, trade shows, or private tastings) under our sole responsibility.

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# Mosel Fine Wines

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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
<p>This wine immediately stands out as the airy precision of its elegant nose of white peach, a hint of cassia, herbs and spices is simply mind-boggling. The wine then delivers a gorgeous array of orchard and delicately exotic fruits on the zesty palate and leaves one with an explosion of minerals and herbs in a hauntingly deep and elegant finish. This is an epic effort on par with the best at this Estate. 2025-2055</p>					

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

- We stick to the traditional "Village + Vineyard" denomination, even for wines from VDP classified vineyards (where only the vineyard name appears on the consumer side of the label).
- We provide the grape variety, except for the few cases of a blend, in which case the blend details will be given in the tasting note.
- No Prädikat in the name means that the wine was bottled as QbA.
- GG stands for "Grosses Gewächs" and EG for "Erstes Gewächs."

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

**2. AP NUMBER:** The AP Number is the unique number associated with any lot of German quality wine. We systematically provide this information (actually the last 4 or 5 "meaningful" digits of the AP) as wine growers sometimes differentiate between wines only through this AP Number. You can learn more about AP numbers [here](#). "N.A." means that the AP number was not yet available at the moment of publication and "(No AP)" means that the wine was not given an AP (because it is not bottled as QmP).

**3. AUCTION:** We add the mention "Auction" for wines sold via the annual Auctions held in September as they are different from the ones sold via traditional channels. You can learn more about the annual 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	<b>Classic:</b> 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	<b>Outstanding:</b> Stands out as distinctive example of its style and terroir. It will offer immense pleasure and should be actively looked out for.
85-89	<b>Good to very good:</b> 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	<b>Solid to good:</b> 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	<b>Not worth it:</b> 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](mailto:info@moselfinewines.com) should there be a question.



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### In Memoriam: Karl-Josef Christoffel ( Weingut Jos. Christoffel jr. )



© Mosel Fine Wines – The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling ... and Beyond

March 2021 ended with sad news as Karl-Josef Christoffel (known as KaJo), the grower behind the Jos. Christoffel jr. Estate, has passed away.

Over the years, we had the honor of getting to know KaJo also "beyond the wine." He was smart, witty, and full of jokes and anecdotes about the past. He enjoyed walking in his vineyards, eating outside in Ürzig during sunset ... and water-skiing on the Mosel along its most beautiful vines and landscapes (he practiced this sport well into his 80s!).

He had the chance to have inherited top parcels in and around Ürzig in the 1950s, when he started working on the small family Estate in Ürzig straight after school, learned the trade "on the job" and produced wines like his family had been doing for decades.

We learned to appreciate the glorious wines produced by KaJo Christoffel (and his brother Kurt) in the 1990s. By the time we launched Mosel Fine Wines in 2008, the Estate was still essentially under the radar despite the fact that it was churning out some of the finest Riesling on earth. This led us to dedicate a full Issue on the Estate shortly after the launch, in May 2009. We remember his slightly amused but also honestly puzzled look: "Do you really think people will want to learn anything about me and how I make wine?" Thankfully, his reputation grew over the ensuing years and he could reap some of the benefits which came with it. But, in his heart, he always remained slightly puzzled about the fuzz.

The Mosel has not only lost another iconic winemaker, but also one of its nicest and kindest. Fortunately, his legacy in the form of his wines will live on in the cellars and on the tables of wine lovers around the world.

RIP KaJo and may you grace the heavens with such glorious Riesling!

Jean and David



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## List of Estates and Quick Links

An alphabetic overview (based on last names) of the Estates covered in this Issue with an indication in which section(s) they appear:

Estate	Section of Issue 56		
	2011 10 Years After	2001 20 Years After	1921 and Great Vintages
A.J. Adam	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
J.B. Becker	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Georg Breuer	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Jos. Christoffel jr.	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Ernst Clüsserath	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Dönnhoff	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Emrich-Schönleber	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Karl Erbes	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Geltz-Zilliken	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Albert Gessinger	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Fritz Haag	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Julian Haart	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Reinhold Haart		<a href="#">Link</a>	
Dr. Hermann	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Heymann-Löwenstein	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
von Hövel	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Immich-Batterieberg	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Karthäuserhof	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Keller	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Kerpen		<a href="#">Link</a>	
von Kesselstatt		<a href="#">Link</a>	
Koehler-Ruprecht	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Le Gallais	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Schloss Lieser	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Carl Loewen	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Dr. Loosen	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Maximin Grünhaus	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Alfred Merkelbach	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	

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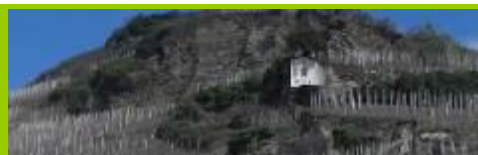
# Mosel Fine Wines

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## List of Estates and Quick Links ( Cont'd )

Estate	Section of Issue 56		
	2011 10 Years After	2001 20 Years After	1921 and Great Vintages
Meulenhof		<a href="#">Link</a>	
Martin Müllen	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Egon Müller	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Philipps-Eckstein	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Joh. Jos. Prüm	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
S.A. Prüm		<a href="#">Link</a>	
Max Ferd. Richter	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Schloss Saarstein	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Willi Schaefer	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
Schäfer-Fröhlich	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Seehof	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Selbach-Oster		<a href="#">Link</a>	
Günther Steinmetz	<a href="#">Link</a>		
Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch		<a href="#">Link</a>	
Wegeler		<a href="#">Link</a>	
Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof		<a href="#">Link</a>	
Weiser-Künstler	<a href="#">Link</a>		



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## Latest Vintages: An Update on 2019 – 2012

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.

<b>2019</b>	The finest 2019 wines continue to fire on all cylinders with their 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. For the moment, one can still tank on bottled Mosel sunshine!
<b>2018</b>	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.
<b>2017</b>	As we expected, the acidity packed in the 2017 wines has now 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.
<b>2016</b>	After a phase of presence and precision early on, the 2016 wines have started to develop 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. Much as 1997, the vintage is unlikely to become completely muted and hard, but we would now opt to leave the top wines alone for a while.
<b>2015</b>	Most 2015 wines are well and truly in their closed phase. The incredible depth of fruit makes the fruity-styled 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 not in a good spot, being disjointed, powerful, and not showing any of their early potential at this stage. We have an inkling that this great vintage will test our patience, like 1990 did.
<b>2014</b>	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 now 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.
<b>2013</b>	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.
<b>2012</b>	The 2012 wines have put on some flesh and go through a "fatter" phase (so no real "hard closed" phase), which is not unlike what the 2007 went through. However, the zestier acidity cuts through this "weight" and makes many of these wines already quite enjoyable today. In particular, the fruity Kabinett and Spätlese as well as the off-dry and dry wines can already offer much pleasure even if they will only show their finesse and elegance in a few more years.



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## 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2011 – The Vintage at a Glance

### The Growing Conditions

**NB: A detailed account of the 2011 growing conditions can be found in Issue No 19 (July 2012)**

*The growing season proved an early one with a steady ripening during summer.*

The spring was marked by an unusually warm and dry month of April which brought early bud break. A spell of frost in early May did quite some damage throughout Germany but spared mostly the Mosel. The early start in the season led to a record early flowering that occurred in many areas already at the end of May. In contrast, the summer proved rather average, but the grapes continued their steady ripening, generating hopes of a great vintage. A hailstorm at the end of August created some localized damage in the central part of the Middle Mosel.

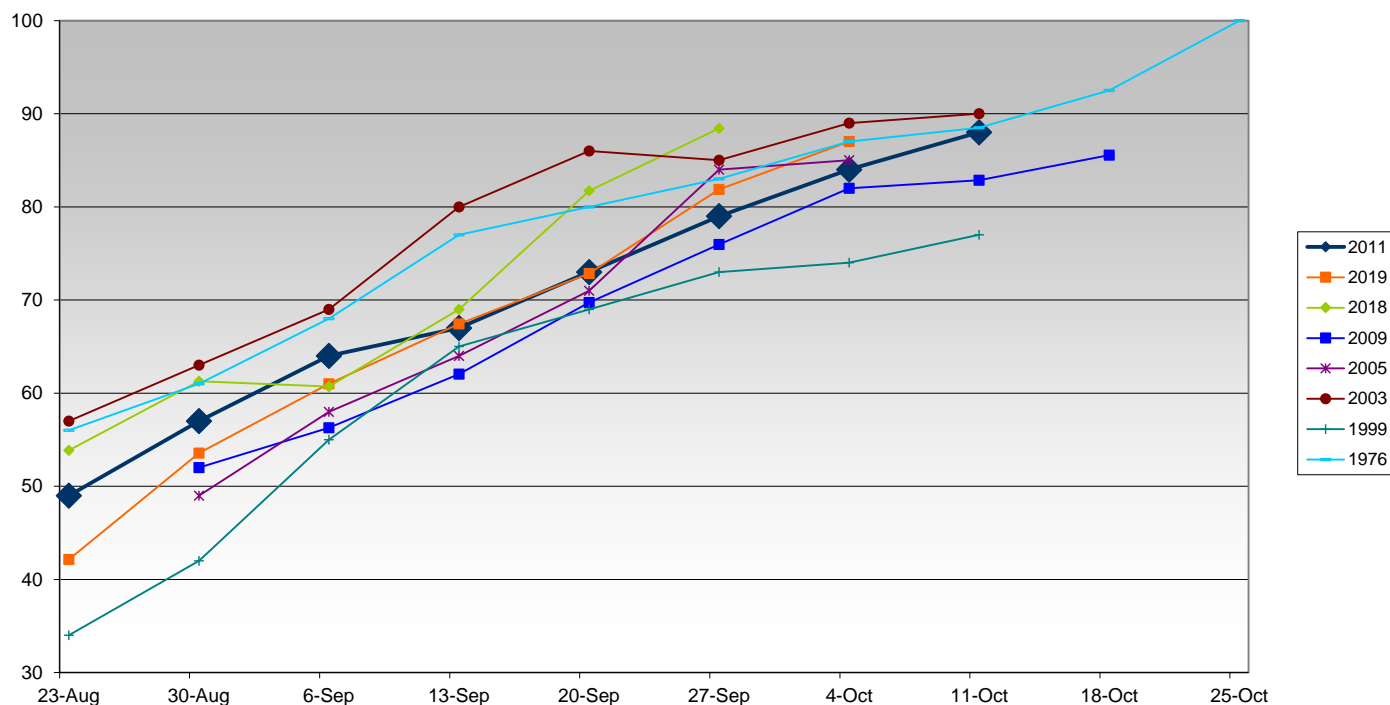
*The defining factor of the vintage was the warm autumn, which made sugar density levels soar and acidity levels plunge.*

Sunshine combined with warm daytime temperatures and above all comparatively high nighttime temperatures in September made sugar levels surge and acidity levels plunge. The weather was dry but a few heavy showers led not only to an early outbreak of botrytis but also to some rot. The warm and dry weather continued until the end of the autumn, providing ideal harvesting conditions and ultimately limited the development of rot.

*The harvest itself was then a rather easy affair and the free time allowed growers to go for botrytis selections.*

Most Estates started their harvest in October, but some started much earlier, in an attempt to get better freshness. The harvest itself was easy and uneventful given the ideal weather conditions. The good conditions allowed many Estates to bring in some quantities of BA/TBA bottlings while others discarded this completely. A spell of frost even allowed to bring in some frozen grapes in January 2012 (but few of these wines were eventually bottled).

**Evolution of Sugar Levels (° Oechsle) - 2011 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages  
(Bereich Trier)**





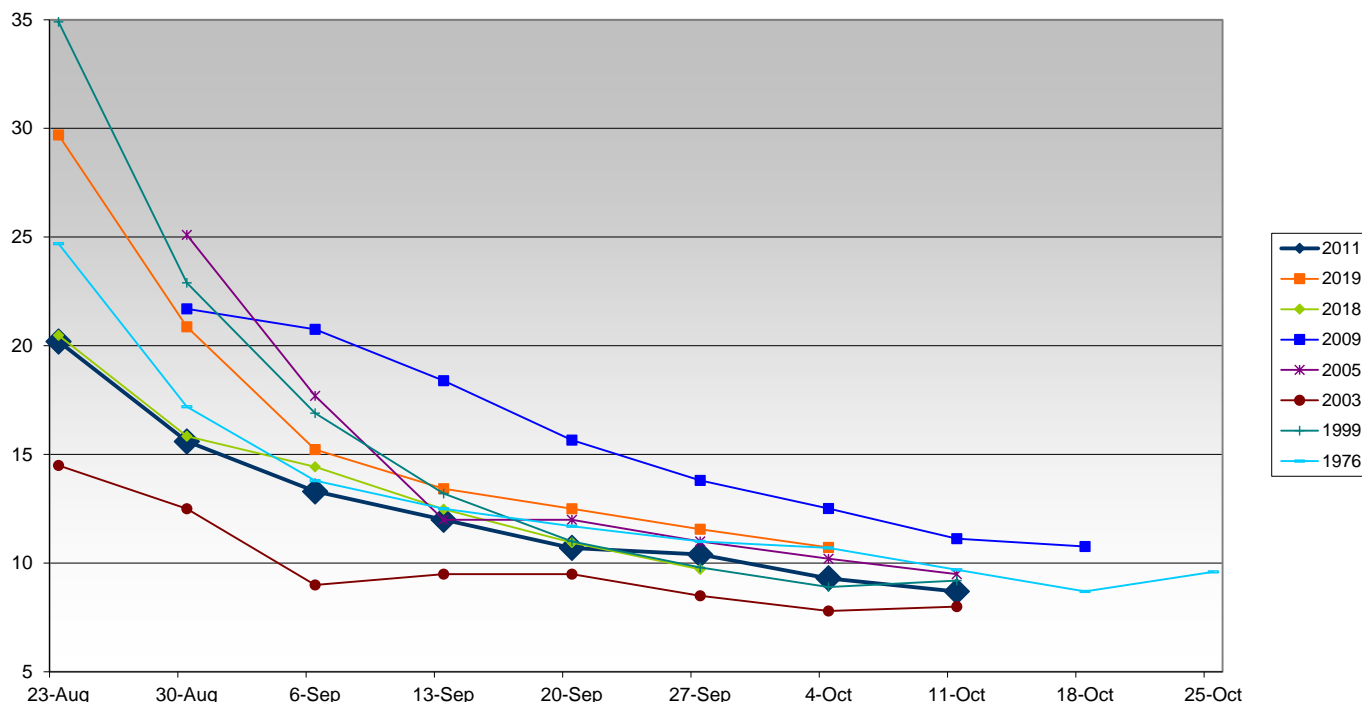


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## Evolution of Total Acidity Levels (g/l) - 2011 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages (Bereich Trier)



Source: German Ministry of Agriculture - Rheinland-Pfalz

## The Vintage Style

*The 2011 wines proved soft and suave, in total contrast to the steely and racy 2010 vintage.*

The 2011 wines were driven by ripe and creamy notes of fruits. Their lived from the charm of the immediate appeal. At the top, some stunning wines were possible if one managed to retain some freshness. The bulk of the harvest was however on the ripe side and shared a lot of similarities with 2007. 2011 delivered also one of the highest yields ever and this was reflected in the relative lightness and structure of the wines. Given the ripeness of the vintage, there was hardly any real Kabinett and Spätlese made, and the wines labelled as such were mainly produced from declassified Spätlese and even Auslese juice.

*Their early appeal made for quite an immediate success with the public.*

The round and easy nature of the 2011 wines made for immediate appeal and these were easy to enjoy and understand right out of the gate. After the searing and austere 2010 vintage, the public at large was finding much to like in the cuddly 2011 vintage. A large number of dry and off-dry wines were produced, something made easier thanks to the lower acidity. Also, these wines were also highly enjoyable from the start.

*We urged readers to focus on the top dry and off-dry wines as well as on some of the earlier harvested ones in the fruity style.*

The soft nature of the acidity made for ideal conditions for balanced and elegant dry wines. At the time, many of the leading Estates were still in the process of switching part of their portfolio from fruity-styled and sweet wines to dry ones. 2011 allowed them to produce some remarkable ones as long as they had a close eye on the sugar density and the resulting alcohol level in the wines.

*We recommended however to look for alternatives to 2011 for some juicy Kabinett and Spätlese.*

2011 was ripe and marked by high Oechsle degrees and this richness was all the more highlighted as the wines had lower acidity levels. It was clear from the onset that these were no conditions for producing the playful and animating Kabinett and Spätlese so prized by lovers of the genre. A few true Kabinett and Spätlese were eventually produced, especially from early-harvesting growers. But, overall, our advice to our readers at the time was to ask growers about any remaining stock of 2008 and 2004.



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## 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2011 Fruity / Sweet Wines Today – Suave Richness

2011 proves a vintage driven by aromatic and suave richness. Here the key facts.



*2011 yielded luscious fruity-sweet wines which shine through aromatic precision and some baroque complexity.*

2011 was a soft vintage and this showed through in our tastings: Most fruity and sweet wines were slightly round and had ample juicy and ripe fruits, often a hint of petrol, but also quite some charm. More honeyed flavors have come through now and these add to this feeling of richness. However, the wines are rarely cloying, probably a positive side effect of the somewhat higher yields and, this being Mosel, retain some verve.

*Most 2011 fruity and sweet wines are now approaching maturity and shine through their fruity-waxy ripeness.*

The aromatic balance of the 2011 wines immediately comes through upon opening. Only a few wines (often because of some residual reduction from the sulfuring) really need much patience for them to blossom in the glass. The wines still have some primary fruitiness but this is now blended with more secondary flavors including wax, herbs, and spices. Many of our favorites when tasted and reviewed at release, in particular Estates from the Saar, fared well and produced aromatic wines with quite some zest.

*The sweet spot is clearly the noble-sweet wines, where a touch of botrytis adds verve to the underlying richness.*

We were impressed by the 2011 noble-sweet wines already in 2012, but may even have sometimes slightly underestimated the potential. The vintage did produce more baroque-styled wines with lots of apricot, dried fruits, almond paste, and barbeque herbs. But, in this style, the vintage did deliver some great and age-worthy noble-sweet wines.

*There is no real Kabinett and Spätlese in 2011, the finest wines bottled under such labels are "fruity Auslese" at best.*

Our early assessment on Kabinett and Spätlese was largely confirmed. Except for a few wines (mostly from the Saar and Ruwer), wines bottled under the label Kabinett or Spätlese are all big Auslese. While some of them prove really enjoyable, one needs to keep this in mind before opening a bottle, as there is no true pure lightness and liveliness in these wines.

All in all, except for some amazing noble-sweet wines and some remarkable successes, notably in the Saar, 2011 is a vintage made for lovers of softer and rounder expression of the genre.



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## 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2011 Fruity / Sweet Wines Today – Vintage Highlights

### 2011 Vintage Highlights – Fruity Wines \*

2011er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	02 12	<i>Auction</i>	95
2011er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Kabinett	06 12		94
2011er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett	39 12		93
2011er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	03 12		93
2011er	Julian Haart	Piesporter Schubertslay Riesling Kabinett	06 12		93
2011er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett	02 12		93
2011er	von Hövel	Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Spätlese	10 12		92
2011er	Egon Müller	Riesling Scharzhof	01 12		92
2011er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Spätlese	49 12		92
2011er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	05 12		93

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

### 2010 Vintage Highlights – Sweet and Noble Sweet Wines \*\*

2011er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	54 16		100
2011er	Le Gallais	Wiltinger Braune Kupp Riesling Auslese GK	07 12	<i>Auction</i>	98
2011er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 15	32 12		95+
2011er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese *** GK	06 12		95
2011er	Philipps-Eckstein	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	40 13	<i>Auction</i>	95
2011er	Albert Gessinger	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** Alte Reben	09 12	<i>Auction</i>	94
2011er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	09 12		94
2011er	Schloss Lieser	Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Auslese GK	13 12		94
2011er	Schloss Saarstein	Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Auslese GK	15 12	<i>Auction</i>	94

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





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## 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2011 Dry / Off-Dry Wines Today – Open and Inviting

We have reviewed a wide range of leading dry and off-dry Riesling wines from the 2011 vintage from Germany. If anything, it underlined the open and inviting nature of the vintage.



*The 2011 dry and off-dry Riesling are all quite open, lusciously aromatic, and not without presence.*

Our tastings showed that 2011 dry and off-dry wines are really open for business. The wines are inviting, packed with ripe flavors but not without aromatic purity. It is really hard to resist these wines. The low acidity makes some legally dry wines feel slightly off-dry and this needs to be taken into account when serving them. The ripeness of the grapes makes itself sometimes noticed through a touch of power in the finish. As usual, Riesling wines with 14% alcohol are bound to taste a touch hot in the finish. But even at lower levels of alcohol, quite some dry wines showed a phenolic, opulent, and baroque touch of power. Overall, expect for a few wines, 2011 is however not a vintage which we would keep eternally in our cellars and these wines are best enjoyed with some hearty food.

*The 2011 vintage produced much inviting dry and off-dry Riesling but little truly extraordinary wines.*

2011 yielded many wines with inviting and pleasing qualities. However, truth must be told, it yielded few truly remarkable wines, even at the hand of the most gifted growers. The ripeness, breadth, and aromatic presence all made for wines which do not have the spine found in the finest of vintages. Of course, there are exceptions and a few truly remarkable wines were made. In particular, Georg Breuer, Keller, and Emrich-Schönleber produced some modern-day classics. But these wines only represent a tiny fraction of the vintage.

*Once more, the Mosel leveraged its cooler climate and graced wine lovers with some truly remarkable wines.*

As in 2009, the Mosel yielded many great dry and dry-tasting wines which mingle with the finest from any part of Germany. In particular, Willi Schaefer produced a stunning GG (its only second after 2009). But also, Geltz-Zilliken, Heymann-Löwenstein, Immich-Batterieberg, and others produced deep and complex wines.

Overall, even if there are some notable exceptions (in particular from the Mosel), 2011 will not go down in history as one of the finest vintages for dry / off-dry Riesling. However, it is one which offers much immediate pleasure now.





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## 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2011 Dry / Off-Dry Wines Today – Vintage Highlights

### 2011 Vintage Highlights – Dry / Off-Dry Riesling

2011er	Emrich-Schönleber	Monzinger Halenberg Riesling Trocken GG	11 12	95
2011er	Keller	Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen Abts E® Riesling Trocken GG	55 12	95
2011er	Georg Breuer	Rauenthaler Nonnenberg Riesling	03 12	94+
2011er	Keller	Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG	54 12	94
2011er	Peter Lauer	Saar Riesling Schonfels Fass 11	11 12	94
2011er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Trocken GG	12 12	94
2011er	Dönnhoff	Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Trocken GG	27 12	93
2011er	Julian Haart	Ohligsberg Riesling	05 12	93
2011er	Heymann-Löwenstein	Winninger Uhlen R Riesling	01 13	93
2011er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Batterieberg Riesling	06 12	93
2011er	Günther Steinmetz	Piesporter Falkenberg Riesling von den Terrassen	12 12	93
2011er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Ellergub Riesling	05 12	92+
2011er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling GG	11 12	92
2011er	Heymann-Löwenstein	Winninger Uhlen L Riesling	12 12	92
2011er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Steffensberg Riesling	03 12	92
2011er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Zeppwingert Riesling	04 12	92
2011er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Trocken GG	23 12	92



# Mosel Fine Wines

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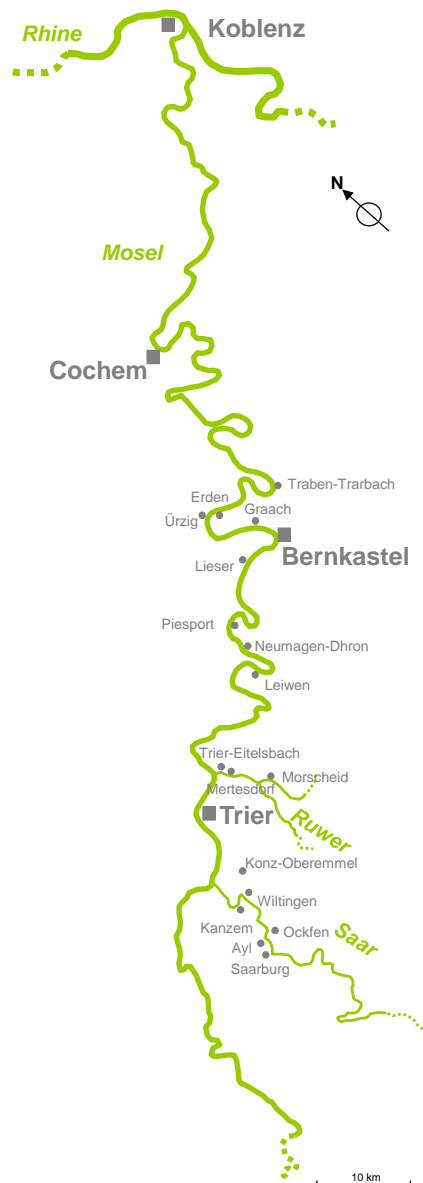
By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2011 – Tasting Notes

We had the opportunity to re-taste 75 Riesling from the 2011 vintage over the last few weeks from the following Estates:

A.J. Adam  
J.B. Becker  
Georg Breuer  
Jos. Christoffel jr.  
Ernst Clüsserath  
Dönnhoff  
Emrich-Schönleber  
Karl Erbes  
Geltz-Zilliken  
Albert Gessinger  
Fritz Haag  
Julian Haart  
Dr. Hermann  
Heymann-Löwenstein  
von Hövel  
Immich-Batterieberg  
Karthäuserhof  
Keller  
Koehler-Ruprecht  
Le Gallais  
Peter Lauer  
Schloss Lieser  
Carl Loewen  
Dr. Loosen  
Maximin Grünhaus  
Alfred Merkelbach  
Martin Müllen  
Egon Müller  
Philipps-Eckstein  
Joh. Jos. Prüm  
Max Ferd. Richter  
Schloss Saarstein  
Willi Schaefer  
Schäfer-Fröhlich  
Seehof  
Weiser-Künstler

Neumagen-Dhron  
Walluf  
Rüdesheim  
Ürzig  
Trittenheim  
Oberhausen  
Monzingen  
Ürzig  
Saarburg  
Zeltingen  
Brauneberg  
Piesport  
Erden  
Winningen  
Oberemmel  
Enkirch  
Eitelsbach  
Florsheim-Dalsheim  
Kallstadt  
Kanzem  
Ayl  
Lieser  
Leiwen  
Bernkastel-Kues  
Mertesdorf  
Ürzig  
Traben-Trarbach  
Wiltingen  
Graach  
Wehlen  
Mülheim  
Serrig  
Graach  
Bockenau  
Westhofen  
Traben-Trarbach





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## 10-Years-After Retrospective: 2011 – Detailed Tasting Notes ( 75 Wines )

### Weingut A.J. Adam

(Neumagen-Dhron – Middle Mosel)

2011er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Kabinett	04 12	91
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The 2011er Hofberg Kabinett, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a delicately complex and elegant nose of bergamot, almond cream, yellow peach, coconut, a hint of butter, and white flowers. It is impressively rich and creamy on the palate, where creamy and juicy fruits paired with honeyed elements give it more than a hint of Spätlese if not Auslese. The wine leaves one with a mild feel of acidity in the satisfyingly playful but opulent and rich finish. Now-2031

2011er	A.J. Adam	Riesling Trocken	01 12	87
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The 2011er Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the term Trocken is left for the back label), offers fresh and zesty scents of grapefruit, candied lemon, and mint, as well as a hint of petrol, barbecue herbs, and pineapple. The wine proves quite lively and lean on the palate but develops more presence and even a touch opulence in the broader and slightly tart and phenolic finish. This dry wine needs some food to buffer off its remarkably forceful side. Drink up

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### Weingut J.B. Becker

(Walluf – Rheingau)

2011er	J.B. Becker	Wallufer Walkenberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken Alte Reben	05 12	91
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The 2011er Wallufer Walkenberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken Alte Reben proves light golden-colored and still rather reduced at first. It takes a while before revealing a quite complex and rich nose made of barbecue herbs (in particular rosemary and thyme), almond, canned yellow peach, mirabelle, greengage, a touch of licorice, and petrol. Licorice, ripe fruits, and a hint of toffee make for a creamy and intense experience on the palate. The wine leaves a sense of tannin and minty herbs in the fully dry finish. This dry Riesling may prove slightly more opulent and richer than the 12.5% of alcohol on the label would suggest, but makes up for it through presence and impact. Now-2031

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### Weingut Georg Breuer

(Rüdesheim – Rheingau)

2011er	Georg Breuer	Rauenthaler Nonnenberg Riesling	03 12	94+
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The 2011er Nonnenberg Monopol, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a barely off-dry Riesling (with 10 g/l of residual sugar) made from the Estate's finest casks from this solely-owned vineyard. It offers a rather backward nose of smoke, roasted almond, and spices at first and it is only after several minutes that some racy elements made of bitter lemon, chalky minerals, barbeque herbs, pear, and vineyard peach emerge from the glass. The wine proves remarkably zesty on the actually dry-tasting palate. Here, elements of smoke, pear, and spices add a touch of depth. As the wine evolves, the feel in the finish becomes slightly ampler and almost imposing (despite the wine only having 11.5% of alcohol!). However, the feel of bergamot and tartness from bitter lemon makes for a ravishing aftertaste. As surprising as this may sound, this wine is still not ready and will need a few more years to fully reach maturity. But the potential is immense. 2026-2041



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2011er	Georg Breuer	Rüdesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling	01 12	91
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The 2011er Berg Schlossberg, as it is referred to on the consumer label, is a barely off-dry Riesling (with 11 g/l of residual sugar) made from the Estate's finest casks from this vineyard. It offers a ripe nose of quince, pear, bergamot, cardamom, whipped cream, and minty elements. Barbecue herbs and quite some creamy elements add to a feeling of presence and breadth on the palate. The finish is smooth, broad, and marked by some petrol elements. This dry wine is beautiful but clearly made in a broader than usual style by the standards of the Estate. Now-2026

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## Weingut Jos. Christoffel jr.

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese *** GK	06 12	95
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The 2011er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese \*\*\* GK proves yellow-golden colored and starts off by revealing some smoky scents of petrol and wet hot slate. After a few minutes in the glass, it finally opens up and rewards one with rich and ripe notes of toffee, almond paste, pine, quince jelly, cinnamon, nutmeg, and vineyard peach, with a good dollop of acacia honey. Where this wine really shines is on the palate which proves pure and refined despite quite some ripe flavors of exotic fruits (mango, pineapple, passion fruit, and apricot). A juicy and ripe sense of acidity runs through the wine and adds to its finesse and airiness. The finish is still pretty much on the sweet side, so further patience is needed (think ten rather than five more years). But the rewards will then be immense: This is a classic in the making! 2031-2061

2011er	Jos. Christoffel jr.	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	04 12	91
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The 2011er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese offers a captivating and aromatic nose of whipped cream, pina colada, marzipan, yellow flowers, herbs, and a touch of vanilla and butter cream. The wine proves playful on the palate. Despite a rich sense of fruit presence in the background, the wine remains delicate, smooth, and creamy to the point of being velvety and subtle. It leaves a nice feel of ripe aromatics more often found in Spätlese or Auslese in the juicy and utterly enjoyable finish. Now-2041

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## Weingut Ernst Clüsserath

(Trittenheim – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Ernst Clüsserath	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese *	16 12	Auction	91
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The 2011er Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese \* is an auction lot. This bright-yellow-colored wine offers a slightly baroque but very pure nose made of baked pineapple, candied lemon, earthy spices, and almond paste. The wine is delicately smooth and delivers the unctuous intensity of a small BA on the palate. The wine reveals a whiff of volatile acidity in the otherwise impeccably balanced finish. The aftertaste is full of almond, exotic fruits, and earthy spices. This nice and direct BA-styled dessert wine will offer much pleasure for more than a decade. Now-2036

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## Weingut Dönnhoff

*(Oberhausen – Middle Mosel)*

2011er	Dönnhoff	Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Trocken GG	27 12	93
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The 2011er Hermannshöhle Riesling -GG-, as it is referred to on the consumer label, initially offers a ripe and aromatic nose of pineapple, honeyed peach, licorice, pear, macerated mirabelle, anise, dried apricot, and a hint of camphor. With airing, these scents are enhanced by some beautifully spicy and herbal elements. The wine develops great presence and density as it coats the palate with great juicy flavors of yellow fruits, plenty of spices, and herbs. The finish is focused and zesty with just a touch of tartness and sense of power coming through in the aftertaste. This wine will particularly appeal to lovers of more structured and spicy expressions of dry Riesling. Now-2031

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## Weingut Emrich-Schönleber

*(Monzingen – Nahe)*

2011er	Emrich-Schönleber	Monzinger Halenberg Riesling Trocken GG	11 12	95
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The 2011er Halenberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, still proves somewhat reduced and not offering much beyond refreshing notes of lime, grilled citrus, and smoke at first. Then, after a few minutes, some classy and superbly complex scents of yellow flowers, minty herbs (thyme, rosemary), chamomile, spices, and greengage emerge from the glass. The wine only reveals the riper nature of the vintage through its ripe fruity and creamy texture on the palate. This ripeness gives way to a very intense sense of spices, licorice, and herbs in the hugely satisfying and imposing finish. This profound dry Riesling is hugely impressive. Now-2036

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## Weingut Karl Erbes

*(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)*

2011er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett	39 12	93
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The 2011er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett AP 39 proves still remarkably bright-yellow colored and offers a beautifully airy and precise nose of white peach, pear, elderflower, fine spices, creamy elements, and smoke. The wine develops the playful sweetness of an Auslese from the 1990s on the palate. Here, a touch of petrol joins the notes of slate, pear, and spices wrapped into almond-infused cream. The finish is juicy and driven by zesty lemon. This gorgeous and remarkably lively expression of fruity-styled wine will offer much pleasure over the coming decades. Now-2041

2011er	Karl Erbes	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese Feinherb	29 12	88
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The 2011er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese Feinherb offers a quite discreet yet subtly creamy nose made of smoke, bergamot, white peach, coconut, and candied grapefruit. The wine proves delicately light and smooth on the quite round yet nice pure and fresh palate and leaves a satisfyingly light and direct feel in the finish. This wine is made for lovers of light, creamy, and smooth expressions of off-dry Riesling. Now-2031

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## Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

(Saarburg – Saar)

2011er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	02 12	Auction	95
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The 2011er Rausch Spätlese, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, AP 02 was sold at the 2012 Trier Auction. It offers a quite fascinating and hugely complex nose of chamomile, lead pencil, minty herbs, cassis, grapefruit, lime zest, greengage, apricot blossom, and anise. The wine proves focused, compact, and quite dense on the palate, where fresh and slightly exotic fruits are stunningly well wrapped into a blanket of racy yet ripe acidity. The wine leaves one with a deep and intense feel of Eiswein-styled acidity. The ripeness of fruit is barely noticeable, even if the wine develops the presence of an Auslese. This deep and racy auction Spätlese completely defies the usual richness of the 2011 vintage. Now-2036

2011er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese	01 12		93
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The 2011er Rausch Auslese, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, offers an aromatic and ripe yet elegant nose of apricot, honey, and licorice with fresher elements including minty herbs, anise, guava, and passion fruit. The wine proves nicely juicy and honeyed on the initially rather smooth and spicy palate. The wine then develops a fresher side as zesty fruits kick in. The finish is slightly broader and riper yet the wine leaves a powerful feel of pear, pineapple, and honey in the aftertaste. It is an impressive Auslese to be enjoyed with desserts. Now-2031

2011er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	03 12		93
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The 2011er Rausch Spätlese, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, AP 03 is the regular Spätlese (there is also an auction Spätlese, which has the AP 02). It offers a superbly fresh, light, and elegant nose of chamomile, herbs, cassis, dried white flowers, with a dash of pear and licorice. The wine proves rather light weighted on the juicy, fruity, and smooth palate. The finish reveals great focus as flavors of candied orange and grapefruit come through. The length is impressive and the aftertaste proves almost racy. This Spätlese is now really singing. Now-2036

2011er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling GG	11 12		92
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The 2011er Rausch GG, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, starts off on the ripe and flowery side as pear, canned yellow peach, herbs, a hint of petrol, almond, and spices emerge from the glass. These scents are then joined by fresher elements including mint, grapefruit, and lime. The wine proves nicely juicy and comparatively round with a moderate eel of dry extract on the palate yet a sense of zest and tension adds a playful side to the dry-tasting rather than bone-dry finish. Tartness and earthy spices wrapped into a feel of power add opulence in the aftertaste. This wine is now fully mature and best enjoyed with hearty food. Now+

2011er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Kabinett	04 12		91
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The 2011er Rausch Kabinett, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, offers a refined nose of chamomile, minty herbs, cassis, anise, greengage, vineyard peach, and cardamom. The wine clearly shows more ripeness on the smooth texture driven by exotic fruits on the palate. A subtle zesty and flowery side eventually comes through and adds the more characteristic lightness of a Kabinett to the juicy, well-delineated, and

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## Weingut Albert Gessinger

(Zeltingen – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Albert Gessinger	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** Alte Reben	09 12	Auction	94
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The 2011er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese \*\*\* Alte Reben was made from fully botrytized grapes. It offers a stunning nose made of baked pineapple, mango, coconut, almond paste, and some subtle elements of earthy and dried grapes. The wine develops the intense unctuous structure of a BA with a gorgeous kick of acidity to cut through the still remarkable sweetness in the delicately baroque yet gorgeously sense of grapefruit and coconut. This is a stunning dessert wine marked by presence but also quite some balance. Now-2041

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## Weingut Fritz Haag

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	09 12	94
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The 2011er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK offers a rich and aromatic nose made of honey, apricot, almond, nut, and spices. The wine proves nicely animating on the sweet and creamy palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of barbecue herbs, apricot, honey, and almond cream in the long and complex finish. Sweetness still drives the aftertaste at this stage but the overall sense of purity is really impressive. While fully aromatic, the current roundness of this beauty makes us opt to wait a few more years before opening another bottle. 2026-2041

2011er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	07 12	92
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The 2011er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese offers a big nose made of pear, quince, grapefruit, whipped cream, and smoke. The wine has the full creaminess more often found in an Auslese on the palate but makes up for this with its incredible aromatic precision and purity. A touch of ripe acidity brings a lively side to the long and slightly round but hugely satisfying finish. Some zest adds a juicy side to the aftertaste. This is a gorgeous Auslese-styled wine to enjoy over the coming decades. Now-2041

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## Weingut Julian Haart

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Julian Haart	Ohligsberg Riesling	05 12	93
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The 2011er Ohligsberg, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, offers a superbly complex and aromatically ripe nose of yellow flowers, peach, herbs (thyme, rosemary, oregano), pear, lavender, coconut, and almond cream, with a dash of pineapple. The wine starts off on the nicely refined and light side but develops more presence as sweet ripe and creamy yellow fruits emerge on the palate. The finish is long, straight, and intense, and leaves one with some earthy spices and phenolic presence in the aftertaste. This gorgeous off-dry Riesling will offer much pleasure over the coming decade. Now-2031

2011er	Julian Haart	Piesporter Schubertslay Riesling Kabinett	06 12	93
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The 2011er Piesporter Schubertslay Riesling Kabinett offers a quite primary nose still marked by spontaneous fermentation, as notes of bakery products and yeasts come out of the glass. It takes a while before revealing superbly complex and ripe scents of pear cream, yellow flowers, apricot flower, lavender, coconut cream, and candy floss. The wine proves round and quite creamy on the palate, yet the richness is well wrapped into a nice ripe acidity which adds to the feeling of a rather light-weighted structure despite the presence of a big Spätlese. However, as such, it remains a great fruity-styled expression of Schubertslay. Now-2036

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## Weingut Dr. Hermann

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Dr. Hermann	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese GK	12 12	93
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The 2011er Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese GK has a golden color and offers a beautifully complex, pure, and exotic nose of candied pineapple and grapefruit, mirabelle, passion fruit, mango, honeyed peach, and a touch of lime and spices. The wine is delicately smooth and velvety on the complex but still rather sweet palate. The finish of this smooth and ripe expression of Prälat Auslese is all about honeyed pineapple and brown sugar. While enjoyable now, we would rather delay opening any further bottle by a few more years in order for the sweetness to further recede into the background. 2029-2051



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2011er	Dr. Hermann	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese Herzlay GK	09 12	92
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The 2011er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Spätlese Herzlay GK proves still light yellow-golden colored and offers a quite captivating and rich nose of toffee, almond paste, pina colada, Victoria pineapple, crème brûlée, acacia honey, and lemon pie. These scents are eventually joined by refreshing notes of minty herbs and white pepper. The wine coats the palate with ample creamy and juicy exotic and yellow fruits, delivered with the presence and intensity of a ripe and round Auslese. It proves however more playful and driven by lighter elements in the finish. This ripe sweet wine is well made and very easy to enjoy. Now-2036

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## Weingut Heymann-Löwenstein

*(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)*

2011er	Heymann-Löwenstein	Winninger Uhlen R Riesling	01 13	93
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The 2011er Uhlen Roth Lay, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, starts off on the smoky and herbal side before riper scents of toffee, salted butter, Victoria pineapple, grilled grapefruit, greengage, mirabelle, and pear. The wine proves quite delicate on the smooth and off-dry tasting palate and leaves a long and medium-weighted feel in the finish (this despite a non-shy 13.5% of alcohol). The after-taste is pure and fresh with only subtle elements hinting at the underlying richness. This superb off-dry Riesling will offer much pleasure for at least another decade. Now-2031

2011er	Heymann-Löwenstein	Winninger Uhlen L Riesling	12 12	92
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The 2011er Uhlen Laubach, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, offers a ripe and very spicy nose of pineapple, yellow peach, passion fruit, citrus, thyme, laurel, cinnamon, and curry powder. The wine proves ripe and ostentatious on the palate driven by yellow fruits as well as apricot. These fruity elements are wrapped into a structured and spicy feel of herbs and tannins as well as a touch of tartness. The finish, while on the powerful side, is nevertheless smooth and inviting. This wine will particularly appeal to lovers of more powerful and fruit-driven expressions of dry-tasting Riesling. Now-2026

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## Weingut von Hövel

*(Oberemmel – Saar)*

2011er	von Hövel	Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Spätlese	10 12	92
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The 2011er Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Spätlese proves bright-colored and offers a huge nose of apricot puree, mango, passion fruit sorbet, some minty herbs, almond, and smoky elements. The wine proves nicely balanced on the subtly petrol-infused and racy palate and leaves a creamy and nicely fruity feel in the long finish. A kick of zest lifts up the flavors in the finish. This is a superbly animating Spätlese full of juiciness and class! Now-2036

2011er	von Hövel	Riesling Spätlese Trocken R	06 12	91
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The 2011er Saar Riesling Spätlese Trocken "R", as it is referred to on the front part of the label, is made from clean fruit harvested in the Rosenkamm, a former Class I single vineyard which forms part of the otherwise quite humble Oberemmeler Rosenberg. This still bright-colored wine offers a quite smoky and animatingly fresh nose of lime, grapefruit zest, herbs, white minerals, greengage, and white peach. The wine is zesty and even quite racy on the lively and energetic palate. It combines the telltale juiciness of the Estate with a more opulence side driven by spices, licorice, and pear in the bone-dry tasting and herbal finish. The aftertaste is assertive, powerful, and subtly tart. This wine will particularly appeal to lovers of animating expressions dry Saar Riesling. Now

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## Weingut Immich-Batterieberg

(Enkirch – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Batterieberg Riesling	06 12	93
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The 2011er Batterieberg, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a bone-dry wine (with less than 4 g/l of residual sugar) made from 100-year-old un-grafted vines. It offers a gorgeous nose of kumquat, cassis, ginger, laurel, a touch of whipped cream, and spices. The wine is nicely focused and beautifully balanced on the palate and leaves a precise and beautifully layered feel in the long and utterly delightful finish. The unique combination of lightness, precision, and intensity are really remarkable. This is a beautiful dry wine to enjoy over the coming decade. Now-2031

2011er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling	05 12	92+
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The 2011er Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling is an off-dry wine (with 14 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked on extremely old un-grafted vines. This bright-colored wine offers a rather ripe and still remarkably reduced nose (driven by caramel) of melon, pear, quince, camphor, and herbs. The wine develops a fresher side driven by lemon and grapefruit on the round yet subtly zesty palate and leaves a delicately off-dry feel in the finish. The wine is still very much on the backward side and needs days rather than hours to reveal its underlying freshness. It is however on path to turn into a magnificent piece of dry-tasting Riesling in a few years. 2026-2041+

2011er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Steffensberg Riesling	03 12	92
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The 2011er Steffensberg, as it is referred to on the main part of the label, is a legally dry wine (with 5.4 g/l of residual sugar) made from 60-year-old vines. It offers a gorgeously ripe nose made of melon, cassis, floral elements, a touch of tangerine and honey, and some earthy spices. The wine proves subtly rich and round on the palate and leaves a rewarding feel in the long and playful finish. The outstanding aftertaste is all about depth and spices. 2021-2031

2011er	Immich-Batterieberg	Enkircher Zeppwingert Riesling	04 12	92
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The 2011er Enkircher Zeppwingert Riesling is an off-dry wine (with 15 g/l of residual sugar) made from picked on 100-year-old un-grafted vines in the terraced part of the vineyard next to the Batterieberg which has not gone through any Flurbereinigung. It offers a gorgeous nose of candied grapefruit, pineapple, bergamot, ginger, and smoke. The wine proves superbly playful and elegant on the almost dry-tasting palate. It offers a superbly elegant and juicy feel in the finish. Now-2036

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## Weingut Karthäuserhof

(Eitelsbach – Trier-Ruwer)

2011er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Trocken GG	23 12	92
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The 2011er Karthäuserhofberg Riesling GG, as it is referred to on the neck label, proves still quite bright-colored and offers an engaging nose made of cassis, herbs, white peach, a hint of citrus, pear, and just a hint of apricot blossom. The wine proves beautifully balanced on the subtly dry-tasting rather than bone-dry palate where a succulent feel of subtly sweet creaminess is beautifully balanced out by a kick of acidity. Despite its presence, the wine remains engaging and balanced right into the finish. This gorgeous dry Riesling will continue to offer much pleasure for at least another decade. Now-2031+

2011er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Kabinett	06 12	91
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The 2011er Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the neck label, proves still quite bright-colored and offers a gorgeous nose made of pineapple, passion fruit, lime, white peach, apricot blossom, herbs, and spices. The wine is subtly creamy yet also nicely animating on the fruit-driven palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of zest, a hint of whipped cream, and succulent fruits in the long finish. Now-2031

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## Weingut Keller

(Flörsheim-Dalsheim – Rheinhessen)

2011er	Keller	Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen Abts E® Riesling Trocken GG	55 12	95
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The 2011er Abts E®, as it is referred to on the consumer label, comes from the prime Abtserde sector of the Westhofener Brunnenhäuschen vineyard. It offers a magnificently complex and refined nose of minty and aniseed herbs, white spices, candied grapefruit, citron, and yellow flowers. The wine starts on the fruity and subtle side on the palate, but develops more intensity, presence, and ripeness as it unfolds. These bigger elements are however beautifully framed by a fine ripe acidity and sense of tartness. The finish is intense and almost powerful but also focused and hugely long. This great dry Riesling will offer much pleasure for many more years! Now-2036+

2011er	Keller	Westhofener Morstein Riesling Trocken GG	54 12	94
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The 2011er Morstein Riesling, as it is referred to on the consumer label, offers a beautifully complex, spicy, and elegantly ripe nose of yellow peach, herbs, orange zest, candied grapefruit, candy floss, and a hint of nutmeg. The wine proves almost ample and sweet at first on the palate driven by plenty of yellow and even slightly honeyed fruits. But this seeming roundness is superbly wrapped into a sense of spicy presence in the long and energetic finish. The aftertaste reveals the telltale sense of energy and saltiness of Morstein wines. This is only at the start of its drinking window and, although it is a riper version of Morstein GG, it remains nonetheless hugely impressive. Now-2041

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## Weingut Koehler-Ruprecht

(Kallstadt – Pfalz)

2011er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken R	15 12	89
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The 2011er Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken R possesses a fully ripe and aromatic nose of pear, apple, banana flambéed, guava, butter, and hay, with a hint of coconut and some oxidative scents. The wine is full of cream and ripe and even exotic fruits on the palate. It leaves a smooth, rich (toffee), and not fully-dry-tasting feel in the medium-long finish. It has some similarities with natural wines on the nose, while retaining a relative freshness and balance for a ten-year-old wine on the palate. Now

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## Weingut Le Gallais

(Kanzem – Saar)

2011er	Le Gallais	Wiltinger Braune Kupp Riesling Auslese GK	07 12	Auction	98
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The 2011er Wiltinger Braune Kupp Riesling Auslese GK, an auction lot made from fruit harvested at well over 150° Oechsle, proves already golden-colored and offers a most amazingly subtle and refined nose made of candied tangerine, baked pineapple, almond paste, citrusy elements, bergamot, earthy spices, and herbs. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate where more fresh and dried fruits are wrapped into a most amazing combination of oiliness and zest. The finish is sweet, complex, fruity, racy, and seemingly never ending. This is a little masterpiece! Now-2061

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## Weingut Peter Lauer

(Ayl – Saar)

2011er	Peter Lauer	Saar Riesling Schonfels Fass 11	11 12	94
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The 2011er Saar Riesling Schonfels Fass 11 is a barely off-dry wine (with 9 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked on over 80-year-old ungrafted vines in this sector of the Ayler Kupp vineyard overseeing the Saar. It offers a superb nose made of bergamot, citron, freshly cut herbs, thyme, rosemary, white peach, smoke, fresh pineapple, anise, and mint. Some riper fruits come through as well as a hint of cream on the superbly intense palate, but a ripe and zesty kick of acidity keeps everything under control. This racy and dry-tasting wine is very pure, vibrant, and energetic. It leaves a feel of bracing acidity and sharpness as well as a touch of power in the hugely long finish. This is a magnificent success! Now-2031

2011er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Fass 2	02 12	89
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The 2011er Ayler Kupp Riesling Fass 2 is a legally dry wine (with 5 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked in the central part of the original Ayler Kupp hill (formally known as Neuberg). This golden-colored wine offers a fresh, minty, and discreet nose of anise, green herbs, greengage, apple, lemon, and yellow peach. After some airing, it reveals more ripeness as canned pineapple comes through. The wine proves light-weighted on the rather sharp palate and leaves a focused, slightly tart, and intense feel of herbs and spices in the long and assertive finish. The aftertaste is bone-dry and packed with hot spices. Now+

2011er	Peter Lauer	Saar Arbustum S	17 12	87
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The 2011er Saar Arbustum S an off-dry wine (with 17 g/l of residual sugar) made from Sauvignon Blanc vines co-planted with trees (like in Roman days) on the Rauberg hill (technically in the Ayler Kupp). This lightly golden-colored wine offers a very aromatic and expressive nose of underbrush, cassis bud, anise, smoke, and a hint of cat pee. The wine proves light-weighted and incredibly fresh on the palate, and leaves one with a focused and lemon-driven feel of sharpness in the finish. A more powerful side emerges in the aftertaste which adds presence to the experience. This fresh-as-a-daisy and racy Sauvignon Blanc is impressive. Now-2026

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## Weingut Schloss Lieser

(Lieser – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Schloss Lieser	Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Auslese GK	13 12	94
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The 2011er Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Auslese GK proves remarkably bright-colored and offers a stunning nose made of cassis, pear, grapefruit, whipped cream, a hint of almond, and smoky elements. The wine is hugely precise on the creamy yet also nicely zesty palate and leaves an engaging feel in the long, intense, but also quite animating finish. The Auslese GK character only really comes through in the smooth, almond-infused, and subtly honeyed finish. A more intense sense of candy floss styled sweetness. This superb dessert wine proves already very enjoyable now but will develop more finesse with a few more years of bottle aging. 2026-2041

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## Weingut Carl Loewen

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Carl Loewen	Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Riesling Auslese GK	18 12	Auction 94
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The 2011er Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Riesling Auslese GK proves still remarkably yellow colored and offers a baroque nose made of raisin, baked pineapple, a hint of passion fruit puree, almond paste, honey, and smoky elements, all wrapped into a whiff of volatile acidity. The wine develops the oily consistency of a BA on the palate but delivers this with great zest and verve. The finish is complex, subtly fruity, honeyed, and, above all, incredibly nicely balanced and long. Only a slightly saturating touch of candy floss-styled sweetness in the aftertaste would make us opt to let this beauty rest for another decade before cracking open our next bottle. 2031-2061

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## Weingut Dr. Loosen

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese	14 12	93
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The 2011er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese proves bright yellow-colored and offers a stunningly inviting nose of pear, grapefruit, fresh pineapple, whipped cream, almond paste, apricot, and honeyed elements. The wine develops the subtle unctuous creaminess of an Auslese GK on the palate. The creamy and subtly exotic elements are beautifully lifted up by a kick of acidity. The finish is juicy, animating, and full of charm. A hint of petrol, far from disturbing, adds depth to the surprisingly mouth-watering experience (for the vintage). This is a gorgeously playful Auslese with huge drinking appeal. What a gorgeous success! Now-2036

2011er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett	14 12	91
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The 2011er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett proves bright-colored and offers a refreshing nose made of lemon, quince, mint, petrol, chalk, and smoke. The wine proves comparatively light-footed and animating on the palate as a hint of cream is balanced out by a good dollop of zesty acidity. The finish is full of fruity and sweet-bitter goodies. This retains remarkable Kabinett lightness and playfulness for such a ripe vintage. This great wine offers a lot of pleasure! Now-2036

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## Weingut Maximin Grünhaus

(Mertesdorf – Ruwer)

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

2011er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 15	32 12	95+
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The 2011er Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 15 offers a gorgeous nose of cassis, mint, apricot, fine spices, and herbs. The wine is beautifully animating on the palate, where only a touch of sweetness still needs to integrate. The finish is hugely precise, fresh, and juicy. A touch of candied lemon adds pep to the after-taste. This is a truly remarkable sweet wine of epic dimension. It really only needs another decade to absorb its sweetness and deliver these classic flavors of fresh cassis and mint paired with apricot and honey which have made the success of the Estate over the decades! 2031-2061

2011er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett	14 12	91
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The 2011er Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett offers an amazingly reductive nose still marked by residual scents from the spontaneous fermentation and only gradually reveals a big and ripe nose of citrusy fruits, almond, cardamom, and earthy spices. The wine is big but precise on the sweet tasting palate. A nice touch of acidity adds some freshness to the slightly bold and Auslese styled finish. After some extensive airing, a hint of cassis comes through and adds a typical "Maximin Grünhaus" touch to the experience. We would opt to wait another couple of years in order to better integrate its sweetness and reveal more finesse. 2026-2046

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## Weingut Alfred Merkelbach

(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese	22 12	93
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The 2011er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese AP 22 offers a very pure and animating nose of pineapple, grapefruit, spices, minty herbs, greengage, lavender, passion fruit, and yellow peach. Some honeyed yellow fruits (peach, mirabelle, and pear) make for a quite unctuous and creamy side on the delicately smooth and sweet palate. The fruit-loaded finish proves nicely focused and balanced. There is a touch more presence in the aftertaste, but the overall lightness of this beautiful Auslese stands out. Now-2036





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2011er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	13 12	91
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The 2011er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese AP 13 offers a quite ripe and aromatic nose more commonly found in an Auslese as scents of canned pineapple, honeyed peach, almond, pina colada, golden apple, herbs, and spices emerge from the glass. Ample juicy and honeyed fruits make for a comparatively smooth and almost soft feel on the still sweet palate. The finish reveals more freshness but also more presence (the label indicates 9.5% of alcohol), which gives this Auslese in all but name a nice sense of balance. Now-2031

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## Weingut Martin Müllen

(Traben-Trarbach – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Martin Müllen	Kröver Letterlay Riesling Auslese	11 12	93
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The 2011er Kröver Letterlay Riesling Auslese offers a very delicate and almost restrained nose of citrusy fruits, spices, minty herbs, orange zest, green apple, and cassis, all wrapped into a blanket of fresh mint. The wine proves rich and ripe on the palate driven by smooth, juicy, and honeyed fruits (apricot, mango, and melon) and leaves a nice sense of focus in the long and well-delineated finish. Despite the sweetness still at play here, the aftertaste already reveals great precision. This Auslese still needs another couple of years to better integrate its sweetness, but the patience will be rewarded. 2028-2061

2011er	Martin Müllen	Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Beerenauslese	22 12	92
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The 2011er Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Beerenauslese proves already yellow-orange colored. An initial whiff of volatile quickly gives way to deep and rich scents of caramel, roasted mango, prune, date, tar, and licorice on the nose. The wine unleashes the unctuous and oily sweetness of a TBA on the palate and leaves a quite powerful and structured feel in the finish (the label indicates 9.5% of alcohol). A touch of heat accompanies the beautiful flavors of nut paste, apple jelly, and baked spices in the aftertaste. Lovers of big, baroque, and powerful BA will find much to love in this wine. Now-2036

2011er	Martin Müllen	Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese ** Alte Reben	07 12	89
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The 2011er Kröver Paradies Riesling Spätlese \*\* Alte Reben is still on the reductive side as a whiff of sulfur greets one upon opening. After a few minutes in the glass, the wine then reveals a delicate flowery nose of yellow peach, pear, minty herbs, wet stone, and almond. It is still quite sweet on the overall nicely creamy palate and leaves an ample and smooth feel in the nicely long finish. This sweet wine with Auslese presence still needs at least five more years to integrate all its elements and fully shine. 2026-2041

2011er	Martin Müllen	Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken *	28 12	89
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The 2011er Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken \* is driven by smoky and even flinty elements of wet stone and herbs at first before they give way to ripe fruity scents of yellow peach, canned pineapple, and mirabelle, as well as plenty of spices and a hint of lemon. The wine is rather on the light side on the delicately ripe palate and leaves a more powerful feel in the long and structured finish (it does boast 13% of alcohol). A hint of hot spices adds to the big and ripe feel of this dry "Auslese" wine. Now

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## Weingut Egon Müller zu Scharzhof

(Wiltingen – Saar)

2011er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett	02 12	93
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The 2011er Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett offers a stunningly subdued and fresh nose of peach sorbet, grapefruit, floral elements, a touch of smoky slate, and quite some chalky minerals. The wine develops the subtly creamy presence of a Spätlese on the palate but delivers this with incredible precision, off-dry rather than fruity-styled sweetness, and great zest. The finish is finely chiseled, balanced, and elegant. More passion fruit sorbet and a feeling of lightness (almost like water), elegance and finesse round off this stunning success. What a great wine! Now-2041



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2011er	Egon Müller	Riesling Scharzhof	01 12	92
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The 2011er Riesling Scharzhof is a fruity-styled wine made from fruit picked in such prime vineyards as Saarburger Rausch, Wiltinger Kupp, and Wiltinger Braunsfels. It offers a stunningly restrained nose made of cassis, mint, pear, wet stone, grapefruit, a hint of cooked passion fruit, and slate. The wine is deliciously animating and finely chiseled on the palate. Layers upon layers of fruits give depth and complexity to the experience. The finish is fruity, animating, playful, and subtly multi-layered. This cruises far above the normal level of Estate wines: What a huge success! Now-2036

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## Weingut Philipps-Eckstein

*(Graach – Middle Mosel)*

2011er	Philipps-Eckstein	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Trockenbeereauslese	40 13	<i>Auction</i>	95
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The 2011er Domprobst Trockenbeereauslese, as it is referred to on the consumer label, was made from berries picked at a full 223° Oechsle and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. It offers a captivating and juicy nose of candied fruits, mango, guava, passion fruit, dried apricot, and orange blossom. The wine is very juicy on the concentrated and sweet palate, where plenty of exotic and honeyed fruits are joined by nut paste and almond cream. It leaves one with a still rather sweet and also almost powerful feel in the long and hugely intense finish. This gorgeous TBA should be ideally given another decade in order to allow it to absorb more of its underlying sweetness and reveal all its nuances. 2031-2081 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 53 – August 2020)

2011er	Philipps-Eckstein	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese **	23 12		89
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The 2011er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese \*\* offers an attractive and ostentatious nose of canned pineapple, coconut cream, apricot flower, yellow honeyed peach, pear jelly, and almond. The wine proves quite rich and sweet at first on the palate but develops a lighter and fresher side in the slightly direct and medium-long finish. Now-2031

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## Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

*(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)*

2011er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GK	19 12		92
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The 2011er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GK offers a comparatively rich and ripe nose of apple puree, pear, candied grapefruit, nutmeg, cinnamon, ginger cake, and licorice. The wine reveals plenty of fruity and exotic elements (mango, roasted pineapple, date) underlined by honeyed elements on the still rather sweet tasting palate. It leaves one with a delicately long and well delineated feel in the finish. Although this Auslese does not exhibit the telltale freshness and lightness of the Estate, it remains a fascinating dessert wine to enjoy over the coming decades. Now-2041

2011er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese	17 12		92
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The 2011er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese takes a little time to shed some residual elements of reduction and reveal a complex yet ripe nose of pear, candied grapefruit, spices, star anise, honeyed yellow peach, and a hint of anise. The wine proves nicely suave on the smooth and only mildly zesty palate and leaves an ample feel of ripe yellow and honeyed fruits in the delicately creamy and nicely persistent finish. The aftertaste is nicely focused yet also still noticeably sweet. This sweetness would make us wait a few more years before opening any other bottle of wine. 2026-2046

2011er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese	32 12		91
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The 2011er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese takes a little time to shed some residual elements of reduction and reveal a smoky and ripe nose of pear, vineyard peach, pineapple, almond, rosemary, thyme, and earthy spices. The wine develops the full creamy and fruity texture of an Auslese, whipped up by smooth coconut cream and light butter on the still comparatively light-footed palate and leaves some satisfying flavors of pear, mirabelle, and quince in the ripe and slightly powerful but also subtly zesty finish. 2024-2041



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2011er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	08 12	90
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The 2011er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett still reveals quite some CO2 upon opening and only gradually reveals an elegantly restrained nose of juicy ripe yellow fruits intertwined with fresher elements such as minty herbs and spices. The wine proves slightly sweet and soft on the other wise incredibly light-footed palate and leaves a slightly broad feel of ripe fruits and toffee in the finish. This ripe version of a Spätlese-styled fruity-styled wine remains remarkably easy to drink thanks to its comparatively inner-core lightness. Now-2031

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## Weingut Max Ferd. Richter

(Mülheim – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	54 16	100
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The 2011er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese was made from fruit harvested at 275° Oechsle degrees and took a full 3.5 years to complete its fermentation. The wine is already deep amber colored and oozes gorgeously ripe smells of mahogany polish, dried fruits, herbs, spices, honey, apricot, and a hint of baked pineapple. The wine develops the almost cloying presence of a Tokaji Essenzia but wraps its intense and rich flavors into some most gloriously juicy acidity. The finish is aromatically baroque, flamboyant, and intense. Yet every flavor is delivered with subtlety and precision. This is noble-sweet perfection. What a glorious success! Now-2061

2011er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	18 12	92
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The 2011er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese offers a subtly creamy and delicately fruity nose of quince, pineapple, smoke, whipped cream, a hint of petrol, chalk, and a flowery note. The wine is smooth and plays more on complexity than liveliness on the palate but does this with panache and presence. A touch of more liveliness comes through in the firm and not overly sweet finish. This is a gorgeous effort. Now-2041

2011er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Spätlese	49 12	92
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The 2011er Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Spätlese offers a beautiful nose marked at first by some petrol which is quickly joined by cassis, apricot, pineapple, quince, apple, and passion fruit. The wine proves surprisingly zesty and animating (for the vintage at least) on the palate and leaves a nicely playful feel in the still slightly sweet finish. This is a beautiful wine made in a ripe but invigorating style. Now-2036

2011er	Max Ferd. Richter	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	17 12	91
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The 2011er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett still proves remarkably bright colored and rewards one with ripe but satisfying elements of spices, melon, vineyard peach, and a hint of caramel on the nose. A nice touch of zest brings some liveliness to the overall mellow and creamy palate. While it unleashes the warm and intense feel of an Auslese on the palate, the wine develops more zest and brightness in the finish. Now-2031

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## Weingut Schloss Saarstein

(Serrig – Saar)

2011er	Schloss Saarstein	Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Auslese GK	15 12	Auction	94
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The 2011er Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Auslese GK, an auction lot, proves still rather bright colored and offers an amazingly fresh nose made of gooseberry, mint, almond paste, pear, whipped cream, smoke, and passion fruit sorbet. The wine is gorgeously light-footed on the palate, where more citrusy elements are whipped up by some beautifully pure flavors of almond, pineapple, mango sorbet, apricot, and honey. The finish is racy and mouthwatering. This is a gorgeous and "real" Auslese GK made in a light and animating style. Now-2041

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## Weingut Willi Schaefer

*(Graach – Middle Mosel)*

2011er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Trocken GG	12 12	94
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The 2011er Himmelreich GG, as it is referred on the consumer label, offers a gorgeously refreshing nose of cassis, white peach, a touch of orange zest, herbs, spices, a hint of whipped cream, and fine smoky elements. The wine is gorgeously playful and animating on the dry-tasting rather than bone-dry palate. The sense of freshness and precision despite a hint of cream is really remarkable. The finish is playful, light-footed, and incredibly balanced. A touch of tartness adds to the sense of grip and focus emerging from this wine. This is a truly remarkable dry wine which brings everything together and delivers this with a remarkable low 12% of alcohol. What a success! Now-2031

2011er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	05 12	93
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The 2011er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese AP 05 takes a little time to shed some residual elements of reduction and reveal a superbly refined, elegant, and complex nose made of stone fruits, vineyard peach, grapefruit, pear puree, and bergamot. The wine is delicately juicy and refined on the finely fruity and well-delineated palate. It does present the fruitiness and almost smooth presence of an Auslese but delivers this with telltale Spätlese lightness and liveliness in the delicate and beautifully juicy finish. Now-2036

2011er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett	03 12	90+
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The 2011er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett AP 03 proves remarkably backward and reduced and does not offer much beyond some faint elements of herbs, spices, and sulfur. The wine is quite structured and marked by a firm and sharp sense of acidity which cuts through faint notes of pear, bitter lemon, herbs, and slate on the palate. The finish is comparatively light-footed but also remarkably racy. The overall backwardness of this racy Spätlese-styled wine reminds us more of 2010 than 2011. It is obviously still rather closed but, even at maturity in a few years, is likely to remain a rather austere experience. Lovers of raciness will particularly enjoy this wine! 2026-2041

2011er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	14 12	?
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The 2011er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese AP 14 (the finest of the two regular bottlings in that vintage at the Estate) proves puzzling and enigmatic. Three bottles (purchased from different sources including directly at the Estate and well stored since 2012) reveal a fully ripe, mature, and aromatic nose of apple, honey, apricot, greengage, banana, pear puree, and licorice. The wine is smooth and low in acidity on the sweet and apple-infused palate. It leaves a subtly almond-infused feel of honeyed cooked apple juice in the off-dry and slightly bitter finish. This wine is far more advanced than expected, especially by the usual standards of the Estate. Drink up

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## Weingut Schäfer-Fröhlich

*(Bockenau – Nahe)*

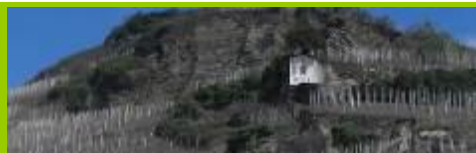
2011er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Schlossböckelheimer Felsenberg Riesling Trocken GG	20 12	91
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The 2011er Felsenberg Riesling -GG-, as it is referred to on the consumer label, needs a few minutes to shed a tail of reduction and reveal its refined and smoky nose of lime, lavender, flint stone, herbs, yellow flowers, vineyard peach, and minty lozenge. The wine proves superbly well balanced, airy, and juicy on the delicately spicy and zesty palate and leaves one with a feel of presence and intensity in the still nicely balanced and persistent finish. This backward dry wine is really not offering much at the moment but could blossom into quite a beauty at maturity, in a few years. 2026-2036

2011er	Schäfer-Fröhlich	Bockenauer Felseneck Riesling Trocken GG	21 12	91
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The 2011er Felseneck Riesling -GG-, as it is referred to on the consumer label, shows a minty reduction of fine bakery products blended into fresh scents of lime, white flowers, minty herbs, lead pencil, vineyard peach, and greengage. The wine reveals a fine and airy texture on the medium-weighted and not fully dry-tasting palate. The elegance on the palate then gives way to a powerful and slightly broad feel (coming from the ripe side of the vintage) in the finish. A touch of phenolic presence and quite some tartness underlined by plenty of spices add to an overall feel of ostentatious presence of this wine crying for food. Now-2031

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# Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## Weingut Seehof

(Westhofen – Rheinhessen)

2011er	Seehof	Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken	19 12	89
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The 2011er Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Trocken offers a quite intense and aromatic nose of herbs, pink grapefruit, pear, anise, cardamom, white pepper, tangerine, pink grapefruit, and camphor. The wine proves round and smooth on the palate yet leaves a quite powerful and herbal feel in the big, long, and spicy finish. This bolder expression of dry Riesling needs some food to buffer off its power. Now

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## Weingut Günther Steinmetz

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Günther Steinmetz	Piesporter Falkenberg Riesling von den Terrassen	12 12	93
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The 2011er Piesporter Falkenberg Riesling von den Terrassen is made from fruit picked on 90-year-old un-grafted vines high up the Piesporter hill. It starts off on the smoky side before ripe and fruity scents of pineapple, honeyed yellow peach, grapefruit, greengage, and candied orange, as well as spices and a touch of nut kick in. The wine is delicately ample and juicy on the smooth yet dynamic palate underpinned by some spicy acidity. The wine leaves a clean and mouth-watering feel in the long finish. The after-taste is fully dry and focused. This is a beautiful dry-tasting Riesling in the making. Now-2036

2011er	Günther Steinmetz	Wintricher Geierslay Riesling Sur Lie	14 12	90
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The 2011er Wintricher Geierslay Riesling Sur Lie reveals some petrol-infused elements at first which quickly give way to juicy ripe fruits (canned pineapple, peach, quince, and tangerine), honey, and toffee. The wine is delicately juicy but also driven by ripe and juicy acidity. While it starts on the richer side, it manages to keep everything in focus and even has a precise, long, and zesty finish. The aftertaste is all about tart spiciness and saltiness. This overall rather light-weighted expression of dry-tasting Riesling proves very easy to drink. Now-2026

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## Weingut Weiser-Künstler

(Traben-Trarbach – Middle Mosel)

2011er	Weiser-Künstler	Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Kabinett	06 12	94
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The 2011er Enkircher Ellergrub Riesling Kabinett offers a beautifully ripe, hugely complex, and finely aromatic nose of yellow flowers, whipped almond cream, pineapple, honeyed peach, smoke, anise, and coconut. The wine coats the palate with intense and vivid flavors of juicy fruits more often found in an Auslese, but the acidity quickly joins the party and adds a superb playful side to this Spätlese in all but name. The finish combines great creaminess with focused zest which cuts through the sweetness. This wonderfully playful expression of fruity-styled Riesling will offer much pleasure for at least two more decades. Now-2041

2011er	Weiser-Künstler	Trabener Gaispfad Riesling Kabinett Trocken	11 12	89
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The 2011er Trabener Gaispfad Riesling Kabinett Trocken offers a refreshing and minty nose of gooseberry, white flowers, lavender, whipped almond cream, white peach, and spices. The wine proves quite racy and animating on the zesty palate and leaves a bracing yet mouthwatering feel of acidity in the tart, spicy, and fully bone-dry finish. This wine will particularly appeal to lovers of electric and acid-driven dry Riesling. Now

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# Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## 20-Years-After Retrospective: 2001 – The Vintage at a Glance

The 2001 vintage is rather unique. It saw an unprecedented hype after being hailed as being the finest since 1971, if not 1959. This created a huge interest for German Riesling and many newcomers discovered the beautiful balance of these wines maybe for the first time. Some called it the birth moment for the renaissance of Riesling. We were already under the spell of the vintage when it hit the market in 2002. It proved also hugely impressive in 2011, when we retasted it in the context of our 10-Years-After retrospective (see Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 15 – April 2011). How does the vintage present itself today, 20 years on? The short answer is "beautifully well."

### The Growing Conditions

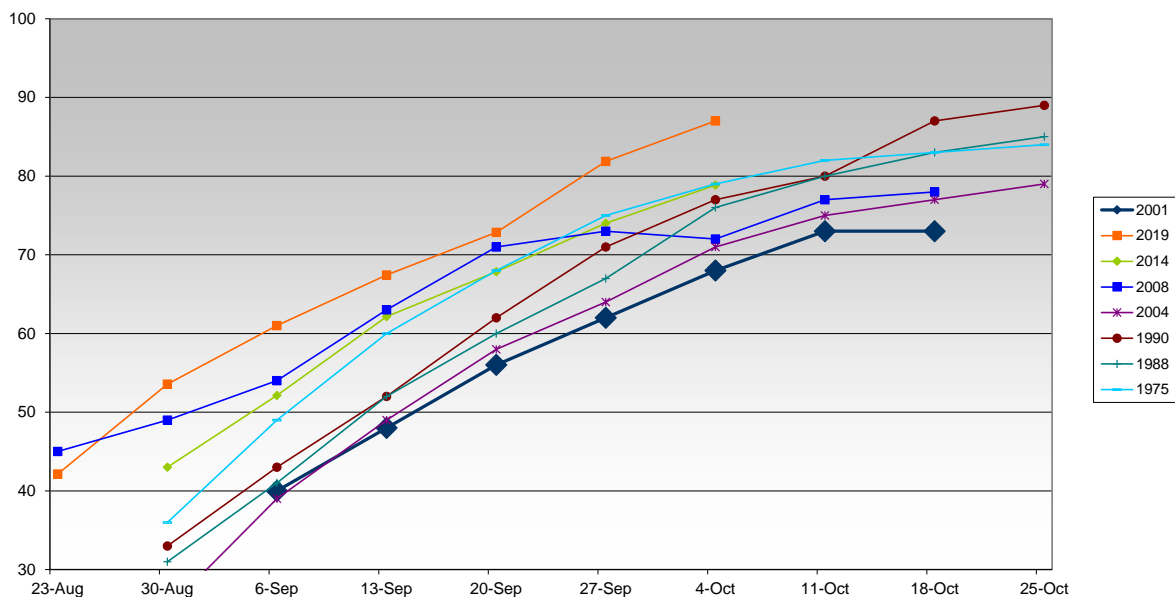
*The 2001 vintage did not benefit from any particularly favorable growing conditions, on the contrary.*

The weather proved quite a mixed bag in 2001. Spring was slightly humid. This led bud break to "only" occur in line with long-term averages. The solid weather continued and flowering happened in mid-June without much trouble. The summer was hot and even scorching hot in August. This led to some localized water stress. All in all, everybody was happily looking forward to maybe not a great vintage, but at least a good one. But then some heavy rainfall hit the Mosel in September. It led to pockets of rot but, above all, brought cool weather which slowed down the ripening process of the grapes. Many winemakers we talked to at the time were getting very worried that another 2000 vintage was in store (in 2000, rain dashed the hopes of an otherwise very promising harvest). But, fortunately, the "2000 scenario" would not repeat itself.

*What made 2001 a legend was one of those golden Octobers every German grower dreams of.*

After all the rain and hardship in September, a miracle happened in October: The first true full-on golden October in nearly 20 years, with warm temperatures during the day, cool nights, and hardly any drop of rain. This good weather continued during the first part of November as well, and was only interrupted by some heavy rainfalls throughout the region on November 8. While the grapes were hardly ripe at the beginning of October, they now had the time to ripen evenly for up to a further 6 weeks. Unlike in 2000, the weather had remained cool in September. This meant that the grapes had not suffered so widely from rot as in the year before. Also, acidities were still frightfully high at the beginning of October yet gradually came down to more reasonable levels in the course of October and early November. Late harvesting Estates could not believe their luck and brought in some of their best fruit ever. However, things did not look as bright in the Saar and Ruwer valleys. Here, July proved a lot rainier than in the Middle Mosel and the ripening process never really recovered from the cold September, so that sugar density levels in the grapes remained on the shy side.

Evolution of Sugar Levels (° Oechsle) - 2001 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages  
(Bereich Trier)



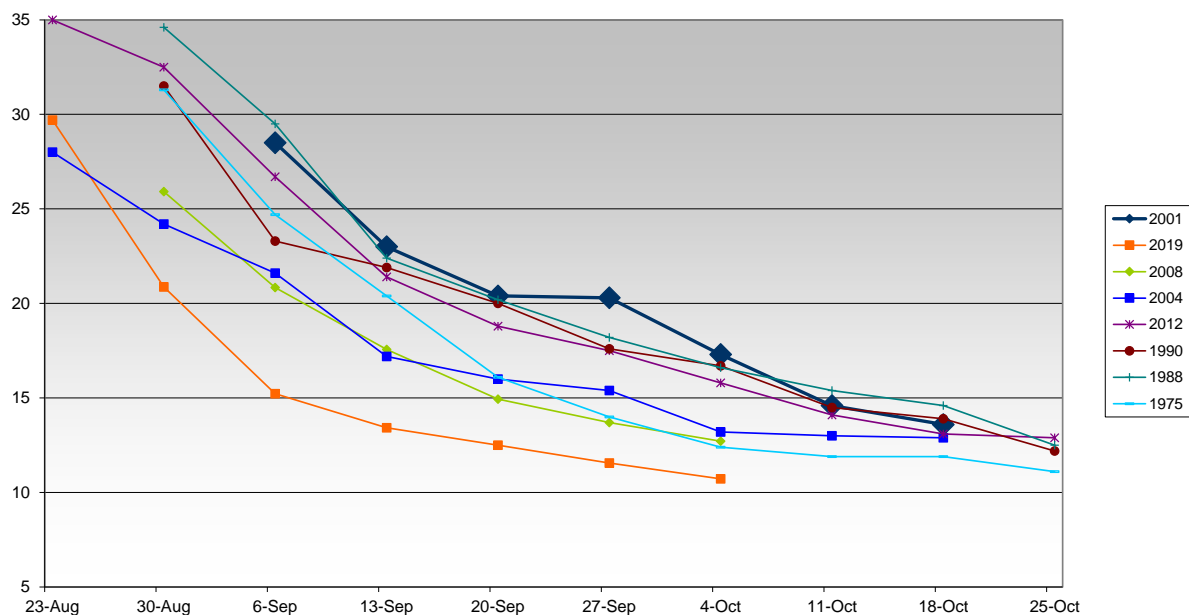


# Mosel Fine Wines

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By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Evolution of Total Acidity Levels (g/l) - 2001 vs Recent or Comparable Vintages  
(Bereich Trier)



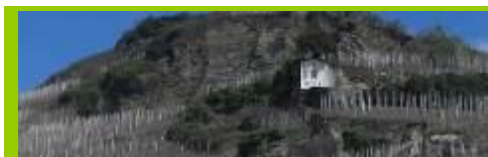
## The Vintage Style

*The wines were characterized by a most enjoyable zest and aromatic intensity, also in botrytis selection bottlings.*

Acidity levels were much higher than in other so-called "vintages of the century" (see the charts above) and also the Oechsle degrees remained most reasonable when compared with other "grand" vintages as 1990, 1988 or 1975, courtesy of the cool September in 2001. All this generated the most incredibly aromatic, complex, and zesty wines, which reminded many growers of the grand wines from 1990, 1975, or even 1971. The growing conditions also allowed winemakers to produce wonderfully elegant BA and TBA bottlings. Finally, a spell of frosty days just before Christmas rewarded the brave ones with some Eiswein.

*The vintage favored the Mosel, and in particular the classical part of the Middle Mosel, which enjoyed one of its most highly praised vintages ever.*

The firm but ripe acidity was perfectly balanced by good ripeness in the Middle Mosel and the combination proved a winner. A huge number of fresh and racy wines were made, which simply oozed some great *joie de vivre* in their youth. The wines from the Saar and the Ruwer proved much lighter and racier when young and did, overall, not reveal the same sensation of utter balance and depth.



# Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## 20-Years-After Retrospective: 2001 Vintage – The Grandness of Riesling

We retasted 40 wines from leading growers over the past few months, and the conclusion is really simple: This is an epic vintage!



*The 2001 wines are now all fully open and shine through their balance, depth, and precision.*

Many wines from the 2001 vintage were still on the youthful and unevolved side when we tasted them in the context of our "10 Years-After" retrospective back in 2011 (see Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 15 – April 2011). This has now completely changed: All wines are now fully mature and shine like gold. In particular, the fruity-styled wines from the Mosel region are hugely complex and offer glorious and ravishing notes of beeswax, almond, fresh and ripe fruits, fine spices, whipped cream, and sometimes a touch of dried herbs. However, what really stands out is the absolute finesse and balance of these wines. They are full of ripe fruit, freshness, and energetic liveliness but also smooth and creamy presence with this yin and yang that Riesling can deliver so well.

*The remarkable thing is that this beauty is expressed in all stylistic directions.*

Often, the growing conditions are ideally suited for a particular style (say for instance dry wines or for Auslese), sometimes for two. However, 2001 manages the *tour de force* to have been suited for all stylistic directions. Some of the finest dry Riesling ever made come from 2001. Some of the fruity-styled Riesling as well. The same is true for noble-sweet wines.

*The Mosel and Ruwer may have a slight edge over the Saar but, overall, the depth of quality is simply mesmerizing in 2001.*

It is clear that the Mosel and the Ruwer produced some stunning wines. In particular, we had the change to retasted modern-day classics not only from Fritz Haag, Joh. Jos. Prüm, Max Ferd. Richter, and Karthäuserhof, but also from A.J. Adam (in one of his first vintages), Dr. Loosen, and Merkelbach. The Saar did also yield some stunning beauties (among others by Egon Müller) but the touch of additional acidity often adds an ever so slightly sharper touch to the experience. Finally, more than the highlights, what really stands out is the depth of quality in 2001. It is hard to find a less than exciting wine in 2001! As we reported a decade ago, 2001 was less of a success at Maximin Grünhaus, which was going through a slightly rougher period from 1999 until 2003.

*In many ways, the 2001 reminds us now of the great 1971 and has plenty of life ahead.*

The whole structure, the fruit quality, and airy precision of the wines now start to show more than an air of commonality with the great 1971 twenty years ago. In both vintages, there is zest but it is a ripe one. There is ripeness, but it is juicy one. There is almond but it is melted into beeswax. It is hard to do much better in this stylistic direct. We therefore also anticipate that the vintage will age beautifully well over the coming decades!



# Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## 20-Years-After Retrospective: 2001 Vintage Highlights

2001er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	35 02		100
2001er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken R	16 02		98
2001er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 33	17 02		96
2001er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	14 02		96
2001er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	15 02		96
2001er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese	18 02		96
2001er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Auslese	26 02		96
2001er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Spätlese	02 02		95
2001er	Dönnhoff	Oberhäuser Brücke Riesling Spätlese	09 02		95
2001er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	09 02		95
2001er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Spätlese Nr. 45	10 02	<i>Auction</i>	95
2001er	Keller	Riesling Spätlese Trocken R	27 02		95
2001er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese	39 02		95
2001er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese	18 02		95
2001er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese GK	01 02	<i>Auction</i>	94
2001er	Kerpen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *	13 02		94
2001er	Schloss Lieser	Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Auslese ***	10 02		94
2001er	Martin Müllen	Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling	06 02		94
2001er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett	06 02	<i>Auction</i>	94
2001er	Selbach-Oster	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *	05 02		94
2001er	Vollenweider	Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese Portz	05 02		94
2001er	Wegeler	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese Vintage Collection	11 02		94
2001er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese	08 02		93
2001er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett	09 02		93
2001er	Meulenhof	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese	16 02		93
2001er	Martin Müllen	Kröver Steffensberg Riesling Auslese	16 02		93
2001er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese	08 02		93
2001er	St. Urbans-Hof	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Auslese GK	25 02	<i>Auction</i>	93



# Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

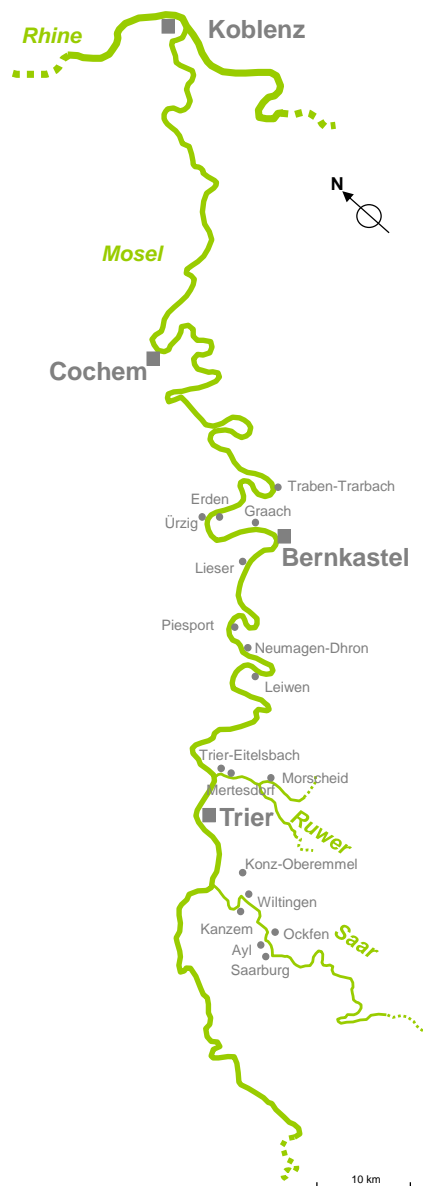
By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## 20-Years-After Retrospective: 2001 – Tasting Notes

We had the opportunity to re-taste 40 Mosel Riesling from the 2001 vintage over the last few months.

**A.J. Adam**  
**J.B. Becker**  
**Jos. Christoffel jr.**  
**Geltz-Zilliken**  
**Fritz Haag**  
**Reinhold Haart**  
**Heymann-Löwenstein**  
**Karthäuserhof**  
**Koehler-Ruprecht**  
**Keller**  
**Kerpen**  
**Dr. Loosen**  
**Maximin Grünhaus**  
**Alfred Merkelbach**  
**Meulenhof**  
**Martin Müllen**  
**Egon Müller**  
**Joh. Jos. Prüm**  
**S.A. Prüm**  
**Max Ferd. Richter**  
**Willi Schaefer**  
**Selbach-Oster**  
**Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch**  
**Vollenweider**  
**Wegeler**  
**Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof**

*Neumagen-Dhron*  
*Walluf*  
*Ürzig*  
*Saarburg*  
*Brauneberg*  
*Piesport*  
*Winningen*  
*Eitelsbach*  
*Kallstadt*  
*Florsheim-Dalsheim*  
*Wehlen*  
*Bernkastel-Kues*  
*Mertesdorf*  
*Ürzig*  
*Erden*  
*Traben-Trarbach*  
*Wiltingen*  
*Wehlen*  
*Wehlen*  
*Mülheim*  
*Graach*  
*Zeltingen*  
*Bernkastel-Kues*  
*Traben-Trarbach*  
*Bernkastel-Kues*  
*Leiwen*







# Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## 20-Years-After Retrospective: 2001 – Detailed Tasting Notes ( 40 Wines )

### Weingut A.J. Adam

(Neumagen-Dhron – Middle Mosel)

2001er	A.J. Adam	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Spätlese	02 02	95
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The golden-colored 2001er Thronerhofberger, as it is referred to on the consumer label (the reference to Spätlese is left for the back label), offers a captivatingly refined and complex nose of smoke, thyme, candied grapefruit and yuzu, lead pencil, a hint of delicate toffee, salted butter cream, dried apricot, and some pineapple. The wine proves beautifully playful on the palate as flavors of whipped cream and coconut are delivered with juicy and zesty acidity. The wine first appears on the smooth and delicate side but quickly shows more zesty intensity and precision, and some herbal elements and beeswax come through barely off-dry finish now (which is not unsurprising as it boasts 9% of alcohol.). However, the balance packed in this little beauty is simply stunning: What a huge success! Now-2031

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### Weingut J.B. Becker

(Walluf – Rheingau)

2001er	J.B. Becker	Eltviller Sonnenberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken	04 02	92
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The 2001er Eltviller Sonnenberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken delivers a smoky nose of white flowers, dried spices, almond, herbs, and cassia. The wine is superbly elegant on the palate, slightly creamy and develops a great zesty and linear side in the long finish. Grapefruit, lime, and earthy spices make for a great zesty and fresh side in the after-taste. Now-2026 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 46 – June 2019)

2001er	J.B. Becker	Wallufer Oberberg Riesling Auslese	10 02	92
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The light-golden colored 2001er Wallufer Oberberg Riesling Auslese was fermented down to off-dry rather than fully fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (30 g/l). It offers a beautiful smoky (and slightly reductive) nose of flowers, citrusy fruits, wet stone, licorice, and lime. The wine proves superbly straight and focused on the palate. The balance between the light perceptible residual sugar (now moving into a creamy side) and the intense zesty acidity is superb. This will please lovers of slightly austere and zesty wines. Now-2031 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 46 – June 2019)

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### Weingut Dönnhoff

(Oberhausen – Nahe)

2001er	Dönnhoff	Oberhäuser Brücke Riesling Spätlese	09 02	95
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The 2001er Oberhäuser Brücke Riesling Spätlese offers an engaging nose made of aniseed herbs, a hint of fern, pear, lemon elements, waxy elements, and smoke. The wine develops a subtly creamy feel on the pear-infused and spicy palate and leaves a broad but hugely playful and multi-layered feel in the long and silky finish. Where this wine really shines is in the absolutely immaculate aftertaste, which blends the finest of spices with elegant fruity elements. The telltale multilayered silkiness of Dönnhoff worked wonders on this wine! Now-2041

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# Mosel Fine Wines

*"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"*

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## Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

(Saarburg – Saar)

2001er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese GK	01 02	Auction	94
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The 2001er Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese GK was made from botrytized fruit harvested at 110° Oechsle. It offers a beautifully mature nose made of ripe and rich scents of toffee, honey, nutmeg, cinnamon, pear, acacia, lead pencil, tar, and licorice. The wine delivers exotic flavors (mango, passion fruit, pineapple, coconut, and star fruit) with outstanding spicy and zesty acidity on the intense palate. It leaves an Eiswein feel of zest in the long and punchy finish. The after-taste is all about lime, grapefruit zest, and yuzu with a dash of spices and salty elements. Although the wine proves fairly ripe and mature on the nose, it makes more than up for this with its classic Saar and Rausch character and freshness on the palate. Now-2031

2001er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	02 02	Auction	90
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The 2001er Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese AP 2, an auction lot, still proves marked by some sulfur reduction at first and needs a few moments in the glass to reveal a rather ripe and ample nose of honeyed peach, toffee, nutmeg, banana flambéed, roasted pineapple, tar, and white mushroom. The wine proves linear and zesty on the palate and leaves a riper side driven by fruity and even exotic flavors in the broad and smooth finish. This wine is now truly and well in its mystic phase and really one for lovers of truly mature wines. While it does not have the usual freshness of twenty-year-old wines from the Estate, it still offers much immediate pleasure. Now

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## Weingut Fritz Haag

(Brauneberg – Middle Mosel)

2001er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	09 02		95
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The 2001er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK proves still remarkably pale-colored and only gradually open up to reveal its superbly subtle nose made of apricot, vineyard peach, herbs, spices, and lots of almond cream. The wine is gorgeously zesty and incredibly precise on the palate. Lemon zest blended into minty elements add a glorious touch of freshness to the fully mature and playful finish. The aftertaste is all about herbs, spices, and gloriously almond-infused fruits. This is a great noble-sweet wine made in the Estate's telltale filigreed style. Now-2031

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## Weingut Reinhold Haart

(Piesport – Middle Mosel)

2001er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese	08 02		93
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The 2001er Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese AP 08 offers a beautiful nose made of almond paste, pineapple, pear, citrus, and earthy spices. The wine is gorgeously zesty and packed with flavors on the palate and leaves a juicy and animating feel in the long finish driven by spices, candied lime, baked pineapple, and smoke. This wine is a beauty. Now-2041

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# Mosel Fine Wines

*"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"*

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## Weingut Heymann-Löwenstein

*(Winningen – Terrassenmosel)*

2001er	Heymann-Löwenstein	Winninger Uhlen R Riesling Auslese lange GK	14 02	Auction	94
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The 2001er Uhlen Roth Lay Auslese, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, proves deeply orange colored and offers a complex and profound oriental nose of candied and exotic fruits (including date, apricot, papaya, mango, prune, and kumquat), almond paste, cinnamon, cherry, lavender, toffee, and plenty of herbs and smoke. More candied and exotic fruits come through on the smooth and sweet palate. Its initial satin-soft and BA structure then gives way to significantly more presence and energy. A good kick of acidity comes through and makes the wine truly shine and takes it to another level right into the aftertaste. This hypothetical blend between a Barsac and a Mosel is just splendid and will particularly please lovers of more opulent and baroque BA-styled wines. Now-2031

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## Weingut Karthäuserhof

*(Eitelsbach – Trier-Ruwer)*

2001er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 33	17 02		96
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The 2001er Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 33 offers an incredibly youthful bright yellow color and delivers a stunning nose of cassis, mint, herbs, whipped cream, herb, and subtle spices. The wine proves incredibly precise, racy, and focused on the animating yet beautifully balanced palate. This sensation of intensity and lightness is simply mind-boggling. A hint of apricot adds a subtle touch of Auslese GK to the wine, but the finish is superbly racy and driven by fresh pineapple and minty cassis. The aftertaste has the searing feel of a light citrus-infused Eiswein. What an incredible success! Now-2041

2001er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Spätlese Nr. 45	10 02	Auction	95
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The 2001er Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Spätlese Nr. 45 was released via the VDP Trier Auction in 2002. It offers an absolutely electrifying nose of lime, passion fruit sorbet, mint, a hint of mango, pineapple, and smoky elements. The wine is firm and racy on the palate and leaves a stunning feel of lime-driven acidity, beeswax, mint, pineapple, and chalky elements. The finish is juicy and underpinned by some almost Eiswein like kick of acidity. This wine with all the hallmarks of a light Auslese-Eiswein of the old days is simply stunning! Now-2041

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## Weingut Keller

*(Florsheim-Dalsheim – Rheinhessen)*

2001er	Keller	Riesling Trocken G-Max	35 02		100
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The 2001er G-Max truly shines thanks to multi-layered complexity offering myriads of nuances as the wine slowly develops in the glass. There are pure and fresh notes of freshly cut herbs, bergamot, mint, grapefruit, cassis, yuzu, fine spices, tobacco leaf and much more. Despite its age, the wine is still comparatively restrained on the palate where it exhibits a sublime combination of density, presence, and finesse. The finish is all about salty elements, herbs, and zesty fruits. The after-taste is admirably long and bone dry in taste. The 2001er G-Max is very harmonious and a glorious dry Riesling. This has now (and only very slowly) reached its drinking window where it will remain for quite some years and even decades. This is a reference wine for dry Riesling, and a real legend by now. Now-2041 (Reprint Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 40 – April 2018)

2001er	Keller	Riesling Spätlese Trocken R	27 02		95
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The 2001er Riesling Spätlese Trocken R is the first vintage of the Westhofener Kirchspiel GG even though the Estate did not declare it as such on the label. The wine immediately catches one's attention with its remarkable precise and pure nose made of yellow fruits (peach, pear, pineapple, and a hint of quince), minty notes of herbs, spices, and a touch of zesty grapefruit. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate, where its aromatic fruits give it a creamy and delicately smooth side. Yet, the finish is all about freshness, energy, and finesse. The persistence is quite stunning. This is a superb mature dry Riesling. Now-2026 (Reprint Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 45 – April 2019)

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# Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## Weingut Kerpen

(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)

2001er	Kerpen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *	13 02	94
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The 2001er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese \* was harvested at 108° Oechsle and was fermented down to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. This bottle from a batch released via the 2020 Bernkasteler Ring Auction reveals a nicely golden-colored wine with a beautifully mature nose of marzipan, mirabelle, acacia honey, butter cream, dried spices, lanoline, lavender, smoke, and candied orange zest. The wine is remarkably well-balanced and refined on the superbly smooth and juicy palate and leaves a beautifully sweet and smooth feel in the long and splendidly engaging finish. This gorgeous mature Auslese is still full of vigor and will offer much pleasure for certainly two more decades: What a beauty! Now-2041 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 53 – August 2020)

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## Weingut Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt

(Morscheid – Trier-Ruwer)

2001er	von Kesselstatt	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Trocken	13 04	92
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This proves quite aromatic and fruit-driven on the nose. A touch of vanilla and quince add depth and ripeness to this superbly mature Riesling. The mineral and smoky side of the wine comes through on the palate. A nice and vibrant touch of acidity adds to the very dry feel in the magnificently long finish. The after-taste is all about freshness with gorgeous notes of herbs, verbena, and mint. This is a great mature dry Riesling. Now-2021 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 40 – April 2018)

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## Weingut Koehler-Ruprecht

(Kallstadt – Pfalz)

2001er	Koehler-Ruprecht	Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken R	16 02	98
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The 2001er Kallstadter Saumagen Riesling Auslese Trocken R exhibits some gorgeous and hugely complex scents of candied grapefruit, sea breeze, lime, thyme, herbs, dried white flowers, almond, and orange blossom, all wrapped into a beautifully refined touch of reduction. The wine proves as fresh as a daisy on the magnificently complex and spicy palate. It has the precision of the greatest Riesling, yet proves also superbly juicy and fruity. It then leaves one with a subtly zesty and beautifully saline feel in the dry finish. This breathtaking mature Riesling is all about elegance and balance. The sense of freshness is simply bewildering (and this despite a non-shy 13.5%, certainly by the standards of the period). We would not be surprised if this will continue to live up to its high standards for several decades. What a huge success! Now-2041 (Reprint Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 55 – January 2021)

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## Weingut Schloss Lieser

(Lieser – Middle Mosel)

2001er	Schloss Lieser	Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Auslese ***	10 02	94
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The 2001er Lieserer Niederberg Helden Riesling Auslese \*\*\* AP 10 proves yellow-golden colored and offers a beautiful and subtly exotic nose made of melon, pear, almond paste, citrusy elements, barbeque herbs, and fine spices. The wine develops the subtle creaminess of an Auslese lange GK on the nevertheless nicely zesty and animating palate. The presence and the finesse are truly remarkable. The finish is ample, direct, complex, multi-layered, and surprisingly youthful! This beautiful sweet wine will offer much pleasure for many more years! Now-2041

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## Weingut Dr. Loosen

*(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)*

2001er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese	39 02	95
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The 2001er Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese proves bright-colored and offers a beautiful nose of apricot, almond, pear, citrusy fruits, and whipped cream, all wrapped into a subtle hint of petrol. The wine is gorgeously slender, focused, and precise on the palate. A dash of creamy almond adds the right amount of silky smoothness right in the finish. Then the wine grows crescendo in the incredibly multi-layered, playful, subtle, intense, and gorgeous after-taste. This is a hugely classy example of Prälat where the baroque side of the vineyard is delivered with gorgeous precision and subtlety. What a beautiful wine made in a light and alluring Auslese style rather than a big botrytized beast. Now-2041

2001er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett	09 02	93
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The 2001er Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett proves still remarkably green-yellow colored and offers a gorgeous and animating nose made of cassis, elderflower, smoke, and minty herbs, all wrapped into a hint of beeswax. The wine proves gorgeously light-footed on the juicy and zest palate and leaves a beautiful sense of fresh orchard fruits, herbs, wax, and a hint of tea in the long and focused finish. This is a stunning fruity-styled wine which combines the vivacity of a Kabinett with the subtle Schmelz of a Spätlese. Now-2051

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## Weingut Maximin Grünhaus

*(Mertesdorf – Trier-Ruwer)*

2001er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese	28 02	?
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We opened several bottles of the 2001er Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese AP 28 which all proved rather tired on the nose and marked by simple and advanced flavors on the palate. Drink up

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## Weingut Alfred Merkelbach

*(Ürzig – Middle Mosel)*

2001er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese	18 02	95
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The lightly golden-colored 2001er Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese AP 18 offers a beautifully refined and almost discreet nose, driven by subtle scents of flowers, but also of coconut, pina colada, spices, whipped almond cream, and herbs. The wine is gorgeously light-footed yet also deep, complex, and refined on the palate and leaves a subtly smooth feel in the still slightly sweet finish. Dollops of candied citrusy fruits bring liveliness to the after-taste of this stunning "drinking" Auslese. What a success. This bottle showed much more nicely than the one we tasted a decade ago! Now-2041

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## Weingut Meulenhof

(Erden – Middle Mosel)

2001er	Meulenhof	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese	16 02	93
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The golden and slightly orange colored 2001er Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese is marked by a hint of volatile acidity at first which gradually gives way to a quite rich and honeyed scents of exotic fruits (mango, passion fruit, and papaya), beeswax, furniture polish, roasted almond, nut cream, and butter. The wine proves quite imposing and rich on the palate, where the botrytis presence and sweetness are almost delivered with BA intensity. A touch of bitter-sweetness and nut cream add to the assertive and impactful presence in the finish (something which is not surprising as the wine boasts 9.5% of alcohol) and makes it come almost over as an Alsatian SGN. This bigger sweet wine will particularly appeal to lovers of intensely rich and forceful dessert wines. Now-2036

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## Weingut Martin Müllen

(Traben-Trarbach – Middle Mosel)

2001er	Martin Müllen	Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling	06 02	94
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The 2001er Trarbacher Hühnerberg Riesling is a fruity-styled wine (with 8% of alcohol) made from grapes harvested at a low 78° Oechsle. This lightly golden-colored wine offers a superbly refined, aromatic, and complex nose of yellow flowers, minty herbs, vineyard peach, anise, blueberry, and spices. The wine coats delicately the off-dry (rather fully fruity-style) palate with delicious ripe yellow fruits and whipped cream. The finish is beautifully precise and engaging thanks to a superb kick of zest, which gives plenty of freshness. Pineapple, coconut, and grapefruit define the aftertaste. This wine combines light-weighted presence with multi-layered finesse. It is in a really beautiful spot right now! Now-2041

2001er	Martin Müllen	Kröver Steffensberg Riesling Auslese	16 02	93
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The golden-orange colored 2001er Kröver Steffensberg Riesling Auslese offers a quite aromatic profile driven by orange zest, quince, mirabelle, ripe apple, apricot, vanilla cream, cinnamon, toffee, licorice, and lead pencil. It coats the palate with rich, ample, and juicy fruits, beautifully wrapped into some playful and juicy ripe acidity. The noticeable feel of sweetness gives way to a dryer and more forceful side in the finish. The aftertaste is all about toffee, crème brûlée, and mirabelle. This beautiful Auslese with not too high levels of sweetness will work well at the table now. Now-2031

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## Weingut Egon Müller

(Wiltingen – Saar)

2001er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett	06 02	Auction	94
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The 2001er Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett AP 06 was released via the VDP Trier Auction in 2002. It offers an absolutely stunning nose made of white flowers, cassis, candied lemon, smoke, and spices. The wine is gorgeously racy and structured on the palate and leaves a filigreed feel of fresh citrusy fruits, mint, herbs, and some slate in the long and focused finish. This timeless and stunningly vibrant expression of Kabinett will offer much pleasure for many more years. Now-2041

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## Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

*(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)*

2001er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	14 02	96
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The 2001er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese AP 14 proves remarkably bright-colored with some golden reflections. It releases a slight pop from CO<sub>2</sub> when opened and proves still rather reduced as scents of matchstick and sulfur emerge from the glass at first. The wine needs a few minutes before it starts revealing a superbly complex and elegantly floral nose of yellow peach, pear, candied grapefruit, tangerine, pineapple, and herbs. A gorgeous sense of fruity sweetness is beautifully framed by zesty and ripe acidity on the superbly balanced palate. The wine leaves one with a mouthwatering feel in the long and beautifully delicate finish. The sense of freshness of this Spätlese is truly remarkable and makes the wine look like half its age, or even less. This stunning expression of fruity-styled Riesling is only at the beginning of its drinking window and it has a bright and long future. Now-2041+

2001er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	15 02	96
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The 2001er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese AP 15 delivers a beautifully complex and full-blown nose of tangerine, candied grapefruit, pineapple, fresh herbs, spices, and smoke, all pepped up by a hint of gooseberry. The wine is magnificently multi-layered and playful on the palate. There is still quite some sweetness at play, but this sweetness is now elegantly integrated into the smooth and airy texture. Exotic and candied fruits emerge in the vibrating and hugely long finish. Some smoky and zesty flavors in the after-taste make one magically want to go for more. This bottling of Sonnenuhr Spätlese is an immense success and is certainly at the level of the finest auction bottlings from this Estate. It is THAT good. Now-2041 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 45 – April 2019)

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## Weingut S. A. Prüm

*(Wehlen – Middle Mosel)*

2001er	S.A. Prüm	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese Fass 45	15 02	Auction	92
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The 2010er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese Fass 45 was made from botrytized fruit harvested at 110° Oechsle, and was released via the 2002 VDP Mosel Auction. This golden-bronze colored wine offers a beautiful nose made of almond, honey, tea, apricot, pear, lemon zest, and some lactic elements. The wine is smooth and playful on the palate, and leaves a superbly complex feel of date, honey, apricot, baked pineapple, and herbs in the long and lingering finish. Now-2031 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 50 – April 2020)

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## Weingut Max Ferd. Richter

*(Mülheim – Middle Mosel)*

2001er	Max Ferd. Richter	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese	18 02	96
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The 2001er Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese proves almost age-defiantly green-yellow colored and offers a hugely appealing and most wonderful nose made of cassis, mint, white peach, grapefruit, lime, apricot blossom, a hint of pineapple, and lots of smoky elements. The wine is precise, finely chiseled, and incredibly animating on the now juicy and almost off-dry tasting palate. Lime with delicately creamy almond paste mingle right into the animating and multi-layered finish. This is simply stunning! Now-2036+

2001er	Max Ferd. Richter	Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Auslese	26 02	96
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The 2001er Veldenzer Elisenberg Riesling Auslese proves still light-golden colored and offers a superbly refreshing nose of minty herbs, cassis, and white mint, as well as pineapple juice, white peach, smoke, anise, and cardamom. Plenty of juicy yellow fruits give a smooth touch to the beautifully balanced palate. This smoothness is then whipped up by some bracing acidity in the vivid and razor-sharp finish, which makes the wine come over as rather off-dry than fully sweet. This incredibly youthful expression of Auslese combines depth and animating: It is truly irresistible! Now-2031+

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## Weingut Willi Schaefer

*(Graach – Middle Mosel)*

2001er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	09 02	92
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The 2001er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese AP 09 was the "smaller" of the two "regular" Auslese that the Estate produced from the Domprobst in that vintage. It proves already quite deeply (orange-golden) colored and offers a fully mature nose of beeswax, furniture polish, candied apricot, baked apple, vanilla, herbs, and a touch of licorice. The wine proves beautifully juicy and playful on the palate, where honeyed and ripe fruits are wrapped into zesty elements. This full mature and ripe expression of Auslese leaves an off-dry rather than sweet feel in the nicely long finish. Now-2026

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## Weingut Selbach-Oster

*(Zeltingen – Middle Mosel)*

2001er	Selbach-Oster	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *	05 02	94
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The 2001er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese \* proves already bright golden-colored and offers a stunning nose made of almond paste, starfruit, passion fruit, melon, pear, and herbs. The wine is gorgeously creamy and subtle on the palate and leaves a beautifully long feel of luscious fruits, fine acidity, and gorgeous spiciness in the long and animating finish. This is a great sweet wine to enjoy over the coming years. Now-2036

2001er	Selbach-Oster	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling ***	33 03	90
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The 2001er Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling \*\*\* is a dry wine which was fermented and aged in a new Fuder. It offers an opulent, complex, and aromatic nose not unlike a hypothetical blend of a mature Mosel and an Alsatian wine as scents of blood orange, tangerine, candied grapefruit, some coconut cream, smoke, cinnamon, and rose petal emerge from the glass. The wine proves quite forceful but without being overpowering on the palate, and leaves a nice feel of spices, tangerine, and candied citrusy fruits in the long and slightly tart finish. This wine may not be your typically light-footed dry Mosel Riesling, but it remains quite a fascinating experiment. Now (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 50 – April 2020)

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## Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch ( Erben Thanisch )

*(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)*

2001er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese	08 02	93
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The 2001er Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese offers a beautifully mature nose of almond cream, pineapple, guava, candied pear, herbs, smoke, anise, and a whiff of beeswax and petrol. The wine is delicately creamy and elegantly smooth on the palate and leaves one with a great sense of freshness and even some lightness in the creamy and almost by now more off-dry than sweet-tasting finish. This beautifully elegant and light-footed expression of Mosel Auslese is now in a really beautiful space. Now-2031+

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## Weingut Vollenweider

(Traben-Trarbach – Middle Mosel)

2001er	Vollenweider	Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese Portz	05 02	94
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The 2001er Wolfer Goldgrube Riesling Spätlese Portz comes from the similarly-named privileged sector of the Goldgrube. It proves rather backward at first and only gradually reveals its slightly imposing nose made of candied lemon, mango, pear, elderflower, whipped cream, and barbeque herbs. The wine develops the full-on presence and exotic side of an Auslese GK on the almond and pineapple infused palate. It leaves one with a flamboyant feel of pineapple, cassis, almond, and beeswax in the long and perfectly juicy finish. This is a great wine made in a big but still remarkably playful style. Now-2041

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## Weingüter Geheimrat J. Wegeler

(Bernkastel-Kues – Middle Mosel)

2001er	Wegeler	Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese Vintage Collection	11 02	94
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The 2001er Bernkasteler Doctor Spätlese Vintage Collection has been aged in the Wegeler cellars until its release in 2019 (the release information is provided on the back label). This hay-colored wine offers a beautifully fresh and enticing nose of cassis, pear, pineapple, coconut, and fine spices. The wine is gorgeously playful on the palate, where creamy elements emerge and mingle with the zest of the acidic backbone. The finish is all about fresh tropical fruits, whipped cream, and fine spices. This superb mature Spätlese is simply singing! Now-2031 (Reprint from Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 45 – April 2019)

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## Weingut Nik Weis – St. Urbans-Hof

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

NB: The Estate was commercializing its wines under the St. Urbans-Hof label until 2015.

2001er	St. Urbans-Hof	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Auslese GK	25 02	Auction	93
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The 2001er Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Auslese GK was released via the VDP Trier Auction in 2002. It offers a glorious nose of apricot, mango sorbet, baked pineapple, almond paste, herbs, spices, and honeyed smoke. The wine develops the almost unctuous texture of a BA on the rich and luscious palate. However, the flavors are beautifully wrapped into a ripe touch of acidity which cuts through the sweetness in the finish. This is a more dramatic and slightly riper but no less impressive expression of noble-sweet Mosel Riesling from 2001! Now-2041

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## Perspective - 1921 and the Tale of Great Vintages

2021 marks the centenary of the mythical 1921 vintage, which is hailed as one of the greatest (if not the greatest) of the 20th century. This anniversary is the perfect occasion to dive into the marvelous world of great German vintages, how their greatness was universal in the past (because linked to sugar density), and how this universality has given way to a more differentiated approach in recent years, among others with the advent of climate change and a focus of shift towards dry Riesling.



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The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling ... and Beyond

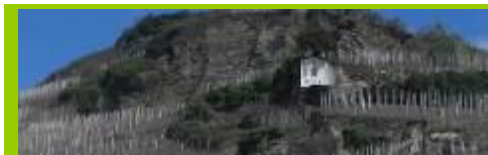
## GREAT VINTAGES | 1921 – A VINTAGE REVERED LIKE FEW OTHERS

Although 1921 is already 100 years ago, this vintage has remained burnt in the collective memory of Germany. The growing conditions were exceptional. Men were said to have drunk themselves to madness because they could not resist tasting and retasting this sweet nectar. It is a vintage which remains particularly close to the heart of Mosel growers as it yielded the first TBAs in the region.

1921 was one of those vintages which looked set on greatness right from the start. After some frosts in April cut down yields, the remainder of the growing season was marked by extremely high temperatures. May and June each only saw only one day of rain. Temperatures reached 30°C many times in July: There were no less than 23 summer days (with temperatures above 25°C), of which 15 were tropical (with temperatures above 30°C), with a record of 37.2°C hit on July 28. August proved very warm, but not as scorching hot as for instance 1911. There were 19 summer days, of which only 2 tropical ones. The draught was so severe that, as in 1911, the Mosel and the Saar hardly carried any water at all by September. The harvest started in many parts already on September 20. The heat carried on during the harvest (the October was characterized by a further 10 summer days). The early harvest was done in quite warm weather conditions and grapes sometimes started fermentation in the baskets. Rainfalls gave some outbreaks of botrytis.

As we already alluded to, this vintage saw the first TBAs made in the region, namely by the Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch Estate (Bernkasteler Doktor), von Schubert (Maximin-Grünhäuser Herrenberg), and by the Staatsdomäne in Trier (Serriger Vogelsang with a massive 290° Oechsle). The Joh. Jos. Prüm Estate did however not make anything above *feinste Auslese* because this was the first vintage of Sebastian Prüm-Erz. He had just taken over from his father who died suddenly in 1920, and he did not feel like capable of taking on such a challenge while getting to grips with the management of an Estate at the same time.





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The combination of levels of botrytis and comparatively low acidity led to many concerns at the time that these wines would not withhold the test of time. These concerns were proven baseless and the 1921 wines have been the highlight of many vinous evenings in the 20th century! We had the chance to taste a few of these rarities over the years and this unique combination of smooth almond complexity and low acidity is easily engraved in our memory.

## GREAT VINTAGES | A LOOK AT PAST GLORIES

While 1921 was certainly THE overarching example of a glorious vintage, the Mosel was regularly rewarded by vintages which were hailed by growers, the press, or the public as being of extraordinary quality, and this since centuries.

While records are far and few for the pre-1800 period, clearly the **1779** vintage was mentioned as being exceptional in the 1800s. A Dutch Merchant is said to have paid the princely sum of 1,144 Fl. for a cask of Grünhäuser wine by the Abbey of St. Maximin (the Estate known today as Maximin Grünhaus).

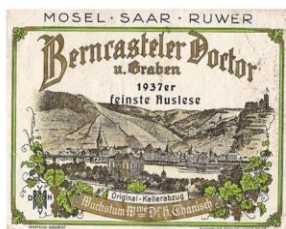
In the 19th century, the first grand vintage seems was **1811** (also hailed in other parts of Germany and in Europe as "the vintage of the comet" in reference to the Halley comet which was visible that year. Th region had to wait another 20 years for a grand vintage, **1834**. However, this vintage proved so extraordinary that the price of Saar casks shot through the rook and were 10 times their normal one. This single vintage alone made so many Saar vineyards end up in a high taxation category in the classification of 1851.

It was not until **1857** and **1865** that the region benefitted again from exceptional growing conditions. This long period of almost 25 years was to be among the darkest hours of Mosel growers. Hunger and misery were omnipresent and profoundly marked a certain Karl Marx.



This was followed by **1884** which marked a renewed interest in Mosel wine. However, the trio **1892-1893-1895** really launched the Mosel on the international stage. Simply put, Mosel became all the rage in the high society around the world.

The start of 20th century graced the Mosel with exceptional vintages in short succession: **1904** and **1911** (with **1915** not far behind: it had been given the nickname of "debt repayer"). **1920** delivered some great wines with good acidity. Skipping **1921** over which already amply reported, the trio **1934**, **1937** and **1938** produced some stunning wines but these vintages lacked the universal aura of 1921 to stick in the collective memory of the region.



After the war, **1945** was an incredible vintage ... but almost nothing was produced as the war was still raging on and people and equipment were scarce. The next great vintages would be **1949**, **1953** (to a lesser extent than for instance in the Rheingau), and then **1959**. If you ask an older grower about great past vintages, 1959 will be high up his list.



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One has then to wait for **1971** and **1976** for growers and journalists to dust off the term "vintage of the century" in the Mosel. Somewhat surprisingly, the 1980s and 1990s, despite some glory, did not really mark the collective memory of the region. Ask a grower about the most memorable vintages in his living memory, chances are high that he will not mention any vintage from those two decades, maybe with the exception of the great 1990 despite these decades having yielded a gorgeous 1983, a superb trio 1988-1989-1990 and plenty of great vintages in the 1990s (as our "20 Years-After" retrospectives published over the years have shown). We will come back to this apparent contradiction later in this article.

## GREAT VINTAGES | HISTORICALLY LINKED TO HIGH SUGAR DENSITY

What do all the vintages that we casually listed in the previous section have in common? It is pretty simple: unusually high sugar density levels and, possibly, some outbreak of botrytis (this concerns in particular 1904, 1921, 1949, and 1976).

The reason for this is the geographical position of the Mosel at the northern limit of ripeness. Only the finest terroirs, exposed fully south facing, on steep slopes, and with ideally sun exposure were deemed suitable for winemaking. Up to the 1980s, even these terroirs would only generate one great vintage per decade (three others would be average and six unripe).

Sugar density in the grapes was the single most important indicator of quality. Such vintages yielded wines with more body and riper acidity. Mosel wine back then could be thin and acidic, so these were critical characteristics which immediately reflected in the price achieved by not only the top Estates but also across the board. More often than not, they also yielded luscious, high-end Auslese, Beerenauslese, and Trockenbeerenauslese. These wines shared three characteristics: (a) They tasted divine (b) they were rare and (c) they were long-lived. Families would keep bottles for grand occasions, sometimes decades later, and thereby keep the flame and vivid memory to the vintage alive long after the dry and off-dry wines were drunk up.

This explains why the great vintages of the past were almost always rather universal and hence their aura resonated so much.

## GREAT VINTAGES | A LINK NO LONGER SO CLEAR IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The notion of glorious vintages has however evolved since the beginning of the 21st century out of two dynamics.

**Climate change:** "There has not been a single bad vintage since the 1990s" is a sentence we often hear and there is some truth in it. Reaching physiological maturity has gradually disappeared from the list of worries of Mosel growers. On the contrary, as we explained among others in our article on the climate change (Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 28, Jun 2015) and in our article on Kabinett (Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 55, Jan 2021), taming the ripeness process of the grapes is now a central issue to produce great Riesling.

This is why, if one asks wine lovers to list their "great German vintages," chances are high that 2001, 2004, 2008, 2012 will fall. With the exception of 2001, none of these vintages are stunning vintages for noble-sweet wines. But they are admirable vintages for dry German Riesling and fruity-styled Riesling.

**A shift in taste:** While grand sweet wines still remain awe-inspiring, there has been a definite shift of interest towards other expressions of Riesling. Many wine lovers now see great dry / dry-tasting Riesling as the defining factor for a vintage's quality. Others only swear by light-footed fruity-styled Riesling (be them labelled as Kabinett or Spätlese). These expressions of Riesling not only age extremely well, they bonify with age. 30-year-old dry Riesling by leading producers are now on par with the quality of grand white Burgundy wines. Fruity-styled Riesling from the 1980s and 1990s are still alive and kicking.

This shift explains, among others, why the 1990s seemed to have fallen between the cracks of the collective "great vintages" memory. Yet, if you ask us, the greatest period for fruity-styled wines in the Mosel are the 1990s, certainly now. 1990, 1993, and 1997 are possibly the greatest vintages ever for this unique expression of Riesling. But the Mosel (and Germany in general) were not yet famed for their dry and fruity-styled Riesling at the time and, except for 1990 or 1994, none of the vintages from the 1990s yielded large quantities of BA and TBA.

It remains fascinating to see how the Mosel and Germany as a whole have shifted gear in what is regarded as a "grand vintage." The days of the "universal grand vintages" may be over, but there are still plenty of great vintages ahead!






# Mosel Fine Wines

*"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"*

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## Upcoming Mosel Fine Wines Issues: Topics to be Covered

Here is an *avant-goût* on the upcoming Issues:

<b>June 2021</b>	<b>2020 Vintage Report (Part I)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mosel: 2020 Vintage Overview</li><li>▪ Mosel: 2020 Estate Reviews &amp; Noteworthy Wines (Part I)</li></ul>
<b>August 2021</b>	<b>2020 Vintage Report (Part II)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mosel: 2020 Estate Reviews &amp; Noteworthy Wines (Part II)</li><li>▪ Auctions Report</li></ul>
<b>October 2021</b>	<b>2020 Vintage Report (Part II)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mosel: 2020 Estate Reviews &amp; Noteworthy Wines (Part III)</li><li>▪ Dry German Riesling: 2020 Vintage Report</li><li>▪ Auctions: Look-Back and Highlights</li></ul>
<b>January 2022</b>	<b>Winter Stories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mosel: 2020 Vintage Look-Back and Highlights</li><li>▪ Mosel: 2021 Vintage Sneak Preview</li><li>▪ Perspectives: Verticals, History, Profiles, etc. (TBD)</li></ul>
<b>In Parallel</b>	<b>Regular Postings</b> on our Website and Social Media with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ News</li><li>▪ Issue Highlights</li><li>▪ Vintage Highlights</li><li>▪ 2020 Growing Conditions</li><li>▪ Updates of our TN database (via CellarTracker)</li><li>▪ Interesting Articles from other Sources</li></ul> <p><i>Follow us on social Media (click on logo)</i></p> <div></div>