



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Special Issue: Auction Guide – August 2014

Vade-Mecum to the Grosser Ring / VDP Auction

Mosel Fine Wines

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

Mosel Fine Wines appears on a regular basis and covers:

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

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

Table of Contents

Key facts to remember about the Grosser Ring / VDP Auction	3
2014 Auction: Tasting Notes by Estates	4
About Mosel Fine Wines	9

Contact Information

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Principles

Drinking window

- The drinking window provided refers to the maturity period: Mosel Riesling has a long development cycle and can often be enjoyable for 20 years and more. Like great Bordeaux or Burgundy, the better Mosel Riesling generally goes through a muted phase before reaching its full maturity plateau. At the end of each tasting note, we provide a drinking window, which refers to our estimation of the maturity period for the wine. This maturity period consists of the 'fruit' and 'terroir' phases defined in our introduction on Maturing Mosel (which can be found [here](#)).
- Without further reference, all wines are assumed to have in addition a drinking window of 1-3 years after the vintage: Top Mosel Riesling is also extremely enjoyable in its primary fruit phase, which typically lasts 1-3 years after the vintage. This primary fruit drinking window always applies and is therefore not referred to in each individual tasting note.

Scoring Approach

The use of scores to evaluate a wine is often debated and has its advantages (communicating a perspective) and its disadvantages (in particular in reducing such a complex and fascinating matter as Riesling wine to a number). We believe that the advantages outweigh the drawbacks as long as a score is put in perspective of a tasting note and all our scores should be seen in that context.

We believe that Riesling is not about "more is better" but rather about seeking a combination of the following:

- Intrinsically complex and balanced: Great Riesling should be complex and multi-layered, and offer a perfect balance between acidity, flavor intensity and alcohol as well as sweetness for wines with some residual sugar.
- Expression of a terroir: Any wine should carry the signature of its unique terroir into the bottle. An Ürziger Würzgarten should not taste like a Scharzhofberger or vice-versa.
- True to its wine style: German Riesling has the incredible richness of coming in different styles, which vary in terms of degrees of residual sugar or in terms of flavor profile and intensity (i.e. Kabinett, Spätlese, Auslese, etc.). Great Riesling should glorify its declared style.

A great Kabinett, which remains true to its style, can therefore get a higher score than, say, an average Spätlese or Auslese.

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

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

Riesling is an aromatic grape that rarely goes through malolactic fermentation. Therefore, bottling generally occurs six to nine months after the harvest, which allows us to generally taste bottled wines. Some wines may however not yet be bottled at the moment of our tasting. In such an instance, we provide a tasting note based on a cask sample and only a score range (instead of a firm one).

Nomenclature

Nomenclature: please note that we are using the following simplifying principles in any wine description:

- No Prädikat in the name of a wine means that it is bottled as QbA.
- GG stands for Grosses Gewächs and EG for Erstes Gewächs.



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Key facts to remember about the Grosser Ring / VDP Auction

Here are the key things to keep in mind concerning this year's auction. More details are available in the overall Special Issue – Auction Guide 2014 (also released in July 2014).

The auction is open to the public and professionals.

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

<u>Place:</u>	ERA Conference Center Metzer Allee 2-4 54295 Trier	<u>Timing:</u>	09.00-11.00: 13.00 onwards:	Pre-tasting Auction
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In general, only special casks of the finest wines (not sold via traditional sales channels) are brought to the auction.

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

- Only special wines from special casks (i.e. with a distinct AP number) are brought to the auctions. These wines are therefore not available via traditional sales channels.
- Kabinett, Spätlese or Auslese brought to the auctions are likely to be from the latest vintage (i.e. from the 2013 vintage for the auctions to be held this year).
- The practice varies more widely what concerns BA, TBA or Eiswein bottlings. Some Estates tend to bring them to the auctions immediately or soon after the minimum two years period Other Estates prefer to let them mature somewhat in their cellars before bringing them to the auctions.

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

Technically speaking, only the accredited commissioners are actually allowed to bid at these auctions. However, anyone who wishes to acquire some bottles at these auctions can do so by placing bids with their wine merchant / importer (if they offer this service) or by contacting directly one of the accredited commissioners. Bids are put in the form of "I want X bottles of wine so-and-so for up to €Y hammer price per bottle". After the auctions, the commissioners will contact the successful bidders for payment and shipment. As far as we know, commissioners can ship directly to any resident within the European Union (wine lovers may still choose for easiness to work via a wine merchant / importer to avoid the logistics hassle). For bidders from outside the EU (and in particular from North America or Asia), particular shipping / importing restrictions may apply and it is advisable to contact a commissioner or your wine merchant / importer to check how this is best organized.

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

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

Bidding occurs through registered commissioners.

Any bidding will occur through a set of accredited commissioners who handle the bids on behalf of the individuals or professionals. We provide here below the list of the accredited commissioners to the VDP auctions as per VDP website (capture – July 2014):

Hans Allendorf Weinkommission	Sigrid Haber Weinkommission
Josef Becker Weinvermittlung GmbH	Lieselotte Jörz Weinkommission
Elmar Bergweiler- Weinkommission	Rudolf Ohl Weinkommission Inh. Wolfgang Walter
Gustav Robert Bildesheim Weinkommission	Karl A. Ress Wein KG
Joachim Dünweg Weinkommission W. Dünweg	J. & H. Selbach Weinkommission
Fritz Freund Weinkommission GmbH	Fritz Steinlein e.K. Bernd Weber
Stefan Gerhard Weinkommission	Heinrich Koch – Weinkommission

Full details on the commissioners (address, phone, email, etc.) can be found here: [VDP Commissioners](#).



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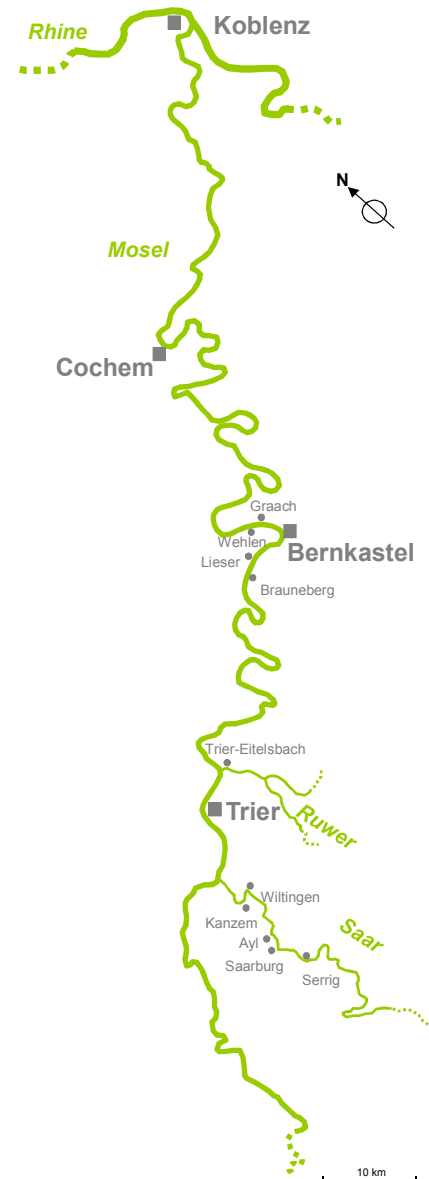
2014 Auction : Grosser Ring / VDP Tasting notes by Estates

Overview

We provide here a review of wines that will be auctioned off by the Grosser Ring / VDP on September 19, 2014 and that we can recommend on quality grounds. This includes wines from the following Estates (presented in alphabetic order):

Geltz-Zilliken
Fritz Haag
Reinhold Haart
von Hövel
Karthäuserhof
Peter Lauer
Schloss Lieser
Dr. Loosen
Egon Müller
Joh. Jos. Prüm
Willi Schaefer
Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch
Wegeler

Saarburg
Brauneberg
Piesport
Oberemmel
Trier-Eitelsbach
Ayl
Lieser
Bernkastel
Wiltingen
Wehlen
Graach
Bernkastel
Bernkastel





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Tasting Notes by Estates

Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

2008er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein	01 09	Auction	94
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This Eiswein was harvested with 163° Oechsle on December 30, 2008. A whiff of volatile acidity gives way to stunning scents of ripe pear, quince compote and fine scents of herby tea, chamomile and gooseberry on the nose. The wine is quite rich, creamy and intense on the palate, with a juicy multi-layered feel of fruit sorbet, and leaves a long and spicy feel in the finish. 2018-2038

Weingut Fritz Haag

2013er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese lange GK	15 14	Auction	96
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Harvested with a cool 125° Oechsle, this offers gorgeously honeyed and flowery scents of cassis and juicy white orchard fruits. The wine is complex and long on the palate with quite some almond and spices coming through at this stage in the finish. This is a great wine in the making and one which will develop great botrytis complexity with age. 2028-2043

2013er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	14 14	Auction	93
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This offers a great nose of yellow fruits and whipped cream, and is still very primary at this early stage. While definitively Auslese in style, a gorgeous racy side brings tension on the palate and gives the wine a nicely playful and mouth-watering side in the finish which wipes away the surprisingly powerful structure. This is a wine with a statement. 2023-2038

Weingut Reinhold Haart

2011er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Trockenbeereauslese	20 14	Auction	(93-96)
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This thick dark-colored TBA harvested at a full 235° Oechsle delivers quite baroque flavors of herbs, toffee, pineapple, mango, nut, dried fruits and apricot puree. A stunningly pure feeling of creaminess comes through on the palate, a sure sign of a clean botrytis selection. Juicy exotic fruits come through as well and all this leads to a superbly smooth and long finish. It is really only a work in progress at the moment as sweetness dominates completely the wine. However, once the sweetness has receded, say in 20-30 years, this should prove a gorgeous TBA to sip after dinner on a cold winter night. 2031-2061+

2013er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese GK	16 14	Auction	94+
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Harvested at 108° Oechsle, this delivers a gorgeous and delicately exotic cocktail of peach, coconut, pineapple and oregano which has made the success of Goldtröpfchen over the years. A killer combination of creaminess and zest frames the aromatic power and intensity on the palate and gives way to an airy and delicately honeyed feel in the long and harmonious finish. While hard to resist now, this will turn into a superb Auslese in a decade or two, and could then easily exceed our high expectations. 2028-2048

Weingut von Hövel

2013er	von Hövel	Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Spätlese	02 14	Auction	92
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This beautiful Spätlese offers great freshness as well as fine spicy notes, underlined by quite some passion fruit and pear, and delivers a long and refined feel in the finish. This gorgeous wine combines good complexity with lots of drinking pleasure. 2023-2038



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Weingut Karthäuserhof

2010er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Beerenauslese Nr. 25	Auction	96
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This gorgeous wine delivers a show-stopping nose of cassis, pineapple, passion fruit and strawberry mint. The wine is smooth and elegantly focused on the palate and leaves just a perfumed feel in the finish. This is a stunner of a BA in the making. 2021-2036

2013er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Spätlese Nr. 26	Auction	92
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This selection of clean fruit harvest at approx. 90° Oechsle enhanced by a small addition of highly selected botrytis-affected berries yields a fascinating combination of cassis, cumin, mint and fresh herbs, blended into an underlying touch of more exotic pineapple and honey. The finish is still gorgeously fruity but also remarkably racy, giving the wine a firm Spätlese character (despite the hint of botrytis). This is dangerously easy to drink. 2023-2038

Weingut Peter Lauer

2011er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	21 14	Auction	100
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We had the privilege to taste this stunning TBA from cask several times and have been following the development with keen interest right from the start, as it was obvious that Florian Lauer had produced something extra-ordinary out of this very strict selection of botrytized fruit harvested with 235° Oechsle. We could not have been happier when finally tasting this beauty after bottling. As many TBAs from 2011, this boasts an already quite golden-bronze color. An oily fluid glides into the glass but, far from being offered a diesel-like sweet syrup, one is rewarded with lively orange, pineapple, mango and candied lime that provide the natural counter-balance to some dried fruit and nutty flavors. What sets this wine into its own category is this natural inner balance of the very best wines. This wine is not loud or trying to make a statement. It is just itself as every element is in balance and ready to play its part for a great moment of wine drinking in a decade or two. This is brilliant! As the saying goes: Wine does not get better than this, only different. As the acidity is quite high, we would probably opt to enjoy this in its earlier part of the maturity period. 2021-2051

2013er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Spätlese Fass 23	Auction	92
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Made from partially botrytized fruit, this deliciously racy and exotic true Spätlese, made from fruit with a refreshingly low 87-88° Oechsle, delivers gorgeous scents of ginger, yellow peach and mango. The wine only develops a hint of creaminess on the palate but plenty of mouth-watering fruits bring pleasure and complexity. This is a very nice wine in the making, which remains true to its category and region. 2023-2033

2013er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Kabinett Fass 5	Auction	91+
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Harvested with not much more than 80° Oechsle, this real Kabinett delivers great intense flavors of yellow peach, ginger and fine spices framed by a zesty acidity and a deliciously mouth-watering feel in the finish. Thankfully, this is not a big Kabinett but a real one with gorgeous complexity and quite some development potential. We would not be surprised it this would only shine in a big decade. 2018-2028+

Weingut Schloss Lieser

2013er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese lange GK	17 14	Auction	95
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Harvested with a cool 120° Oechsle, this offers a rich and opulent nose of yellow and white fruits, honey and apricot tree flowers. The wine is deliciously spicy and quite refined on the palate and leaves a clean and long feel of creamy honeyed fruits in the quite zesty finish. This is a gorgeous botrytis Auslese in the making. 2028-2043

2013er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	16 14	Auction	94
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This delivers a stunningly bright and inviting nose of cassis, spices and a hint of juicy yellow orchard fruits in the background. The wine is still quite reduced and will need time to develop its full potential. This Auslese in every aspect but the label is a gorgeous wine in the making! 2028-2043



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Weingut Dr. Loosen

2013er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese lange GK	49 14	Auction	(96-98)
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Harvested with a whopping 120° Oechsle, this is a stunning wine in the making as the Estate seems to have been able to capture the strength of the Prälat vineyard in this vintage. Glorious scents of almond paste, mango, pear and candied lime lead to a creamy but playful palate and leaves an incredibly intense and oily feel in the after taste, where honey adds depth to baroque scents of almond and honey. 2028-2043

2013er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese GK	48 14	Auction	(91-93)
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Harvested with 95° Oechsle, this delivers a great nose of pear and raspberry cream which leads to a powerful and intensely fruit and mineral driven feel on the palate. The wine is on the full-bodied side of life (and really behaves like a rich Auslese) but a mouth-watering finish gives it a gorgeous playful side. 2023-2043

Weingut Egon Müller

2013er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese GK	05 14	Auction	97
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This wine, "made from fruit technically at BA level" as Egon Müller underlines, delivers very pure and complex flavors of creamy pear, honey and yellow exotic fruits on the nose. These give way to a more honeyed and apricot-driven feel on the palate of this beautifully racy Auslese. It shows the telltale finesse, subtle complexity and oily consistence of great BA wines. This is a great effort and a must have for lovers of Egon Müller wines. 2028-2053

2013er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett Alte Reben	03 14	Auction	92
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This racy expression of Scharzhofberger made from extremely old vines is still quite primary and only hints at smoke, white flowers, lime and some mirabelle-driven fruits. The wine is intensely racy on the palate and leaves an off-dry and rather fruity feel in the long and spicy finish. This will offer great juicy flavors at maturity. 2018-2028

Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

2013er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese lange GK		Auction	
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Not ready for tasting.

2013er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GK		Auction	(96-100)
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This BA styled wine is simply mind-blowingly complex and refined. There is incredible and nearly oily concentration and yet the wine is not heavy at all and just delivers gorgeous scents of dried fruits, apricot, candied lime, grapefruit and herbs. The palate oozes with finesse, nothing is out of place and the finish is simply to die for. This hugely primary could eventually turn into a perfect wine if it keeps its promises after bottling. It is simply that impressive! 2033-2063

2013er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese		Auction	(92-95)
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This incredibly intense wine delivers ripe and creamy flavors of pear, quince and apricot. The aromatic intensity is simply mind-blowing on the palate flirting with over-concentration. This essence of Wehlener Sonnenuhr GK is quite impressive as all parts of the wine are delivered in a concentrated form, leaving one with a nearly indefinite feel on the palate. More than in recent years, this is a real dessert wine firmly in Auslese GK territory and one which will need time to settle down. 2028-2043

2013er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese		Auction	(90-93)
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This is a surprisingly intense and rich expression of Spätlese (at least by the usual standards of this Estate known for its ethereal wines) in which pear cream, quince and candied grapefruit woe for attention. The wine is powerful yet nicely focused on the palate and leaves a clean and long feeling of creamy fruits in the finish. The wine, which lives on intensity and complexity, could turn into a delicious Auslese-styled wine at maturity. 2023-2043



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Weingut Willi Schaefer

2013er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	01 14	<i>Auction</i>	95
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This delivers a great nose of almond, yellow fruits, grapefruit and spices enhanced by some firm (almost Eiswein-like) acidity on the palate. The whole balance reminds us of a beefed-up version of the gorgeous 1996 Auslese crafted by this Estate. This is plain delicious. 2028-2043

2013er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	09 14	<i>Auction</i>	93
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This offers a gorgeous bright nose of cassis, yellow peach and spices which lead to a structured and racy feel on the palate. The finish is long and gorgeously fresh and zesty. This is very nicely done. 2021-2033

Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

2013er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	08 14	<i>Auction</i>	92
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As so often with wines from the Doctor vineyard, at this early stage, this wine comes over as slightly broad, with only some diffuse scents of yellow fruits, herbs and a hint of volatile acidity on show. We mention this specifically because great Doctor wines are a really treat and one of the great experiences of Mosel Riesling. However, too few get the pleasure of it as wine lovers are scared by how "squared" Doctor wines can be in their youth. However, our experience with these wines tells us that they will miraculously slim down, focus aromatically and eventually turn into a beauty at maturity. In the present case, this looks like a modern version of the gorgeous 1996 or 1998 Auslese in the making. But patience will be needed for this duckling to turn into the beautiful swan it is destined to become. 2023-2043

Weingut Wegeler

2013er	Wegeler	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese GK		<i>Auction</i>	
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Not tasted.



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About Mosel Fine Wines - 2013 Vintage Reports

PART I of the comprehensive 2013 Vintage Report is available now!

**June
2014
Issue**

- Detailed report on the **2013 vintage in the Mosel:**
 - Vintage conditions & growing season
 - What to expect as wines in 2013

- Detailed Review **for 17 leading Estates:**
 - A.J. Adam / Adam & Haart
 - Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben
 - Jos. Christoffel jr.
 - Karl Erbes
 - Dr. Fischer
 - Geltz-Zilliken
 - Julian Haart
 - Dr. Hermann von Hövel
 - Karthäuserhof
 - Schloss Lieser
 - Carl Loewen
 - Mönchhof
 - Willi Schaefer
 - von Schubert
 - Vollenweider
 - Weiser-Künstler

PART II will include further detailed reviews of leading Estates!

**October
2014
Issue**

- **Further detailed Estate Reviews** which will include:
 - Reinhold Haart
 - Fritz Haag
 - Immich-Batterieberg
 - Peter Lauer
 - Dr. Loosen
 - Egon Müller
 - Joh. Jos. Prüm
 - Max Ferd. Richter
 - Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

- In addition, **many recommended wines from other Estates** (incl. great bargains).

Subscribe now to the independent wine publication dedicated to Mosel Riesling

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