



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Special Issue: Auction Guide – August 2013

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.

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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 visit to Estates for our reports. 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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An introduction to the auctions held in Bernkastel and Trier

Every year, two winemaker associations in the Mosel, the Bernkasteler Ring and the Grosser Ring / VDP, each hold an auction at which the supposedly best casks of its members are auctioned off. These are always proposed in minute quantities.

We regularly get many questions about these auctions: What are these auctions? Which wines are being offered? Are they the same as those available in the shops? How can one participate? Etc.

We provide here some background information on these auctions including on their origins, how they work and what are the best buying strategies.

How did these auctions come about?

The auctions were set up at the turn of the 20th century by grower associations to secure the traceability of their wines.

In order to understand the annual auctions, one needs to go back to the 19th century and have a look at how the wines were sold at the time. The wine trade in Germany was very much dominated by wealthy and powerful merchant houses. They went to the Estates, purchased wines in casks and had these transferred to their own cellars for bottling and delivery to their customers in Europe and worldwide. The demand for top German wines was immense, the prices very high and the inevitable happened: Some merchant houses could not resist the temptation and started to 'fiddle around' (blending wines, adding sweetening products, etc.). To address this problem, leading growers in different parts of the Mosel started to organize themselves into grower associations and committed themselves to some stringent practices to ensure the quality of their wines:

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

Commercial considerations most certainly also played a role in setting up these grower associations, be it only to improve their bargaining power with respect to the mighty merchants.

For much of the first half of the 20th century, auctions were to be the standard approach for selling wines, with commissioners as middlemen.

Until the 1930s, all casks produced by a member of such a grower association were exclusively sold at auctions and this meant that such auctions were organized several times per year. Estates sold only full casks at auction. While this is not an issue for lesser wines, it proved more problematic for top casks of Auslese because the price and demand were often too much to handle for a single buyer. Here, 'commissioners' came into play as middlemen. They would buy the casks on behalf of several buyers and organize the orders between them. For instance, a famous cask of 1911er Aylor Kupp feinste Auslese auctioned off in the 1920s went to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, another part to a prince in Sweden and the remainder to private English customers.

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

As of the 1930s, leading Estates started to market their wines directly and to use the auctions only to sell their finest casks. With time, the smaller quantities on offer led the grower associations to reduce the number of auctions to one per year. The fact that better casks were supposed to be sold off at the auction required makers to introduce some differentiations between casks sold directly (via merchants) and those sold via the auction. Consequently, a sticker with the year and location of the auction was added on all auction bottles to distinct them from regular ones (more on how to recognize auction bottles in the last part of this introduction).

Two annual auctions take place today in the Mosel.

Many grower associations were operating at the turn of the 20th century, each holding its own auctions. These were gradually to merge to leave only two such grower associations today:

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

Today, each of these two grower associations organizes one auction per year. The one of the Bernkasteler Ring takes place at Nell's Park hotel while the auction organized by the Grosser Ring / VDP usually took place at the Europahalle in Trier but will be held at the Robert Schuman Haus in Trier this year.



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How are the auctions working today?

Auctions are held annually in September.

They are held once a year on two consecutive days in the second half of September. The Bernkasteler Ring traditionally holds its auction on a Thursday and the Grosser Ring / VDP on the subsequent Friday. In 2013, these auctions will take place on September 19 and 20.

Auctions are open to the public and professionals.

Both auctions are 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 is not the case of course for some rare old bottles, such as the 1999er Egon Müller Scharzhofberger Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese auctioned off in 2011).

In general, only special casks of the finest wines (not sold via traditional sales channels) are brought to the auctions.

Still today, the wines that are being sold off remain a major source of confusion, even to the most experienced Mosel wine lovers. In principle, each Estate has the freedom to decide which wine(s) to auction off: A young wine, a mature one, a special cask, etc. The only restriction is that any BA, TBA or Eiswein has to have seen at least two winters (i.e. 2 years old) before going to auction. For the rest, every winemaker has a free hand. In practice however, growers want to bring their best wines to the auctions and the following rules of thumb generally hold true for the Mosel auctions:

- 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 (although some Estates may offer them ex-cellar at the hammer price after the auction). On an exceptional basis, some Estates may bring unique mature rarities to the auctions (such as the bottle of 1971er Graacher Domprobst Riesling BA sold by the Willi Schaefer Estate in September 2010) that could have been sold via regular channels upon release.
- Any Kabinett, Spätlese or Auslese brought to the auctions is likely to be from the latest vintage (i.e. from the 2012 vintage for the auctions to be held later this year).
- The practice varies more widely what concerns BA, TBA or Eiswein bottlings. Some Estates tend to bring them to the auctions immediately after the minimum two years period (such as for instance Schloss Saarstein this year). Other Estates prefer to let them mature somewhat in their cellars before bringing them to the auctions. For instance, Egon Müller only sold his 1997er Scharzhofberger Riesling TBA and Joh. Jos. Prüm his 1994er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling BA at the auction held in September 2008.
- Most wines are fruity-styled even though an increasing number of producers from the Bernkasteler Ring propose some off-dry (Feinherb) or dry wines as well.

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 in the United States and Canada), 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. We provide here below the links to the lists of accredited commissioners for the two auctions (note that there are some differences between the two lists):

List of commissioners for the [Bernkasteler Ring auction](#)

List of commissioners for the [Grosser Ring auction](#)

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 of the hammer price) for the accredited commissioners, shipping costs as well as any import duties and VAT (or sales tax).

What is the best buying strategy? Should one buy auction wines?

Auction wines represent the pinnacle of Mosel Riesling.

We have personally been avid buyers of auction wines for many years as these bottlings represent for us the essence of Mosel Riesling greatness. Simply put: Not all auction wines are magical but our greatest Mosel wine memories have nearly all come from auction wines (at least from those Estates that are members of the two grower associations).

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

The quantities of wines brought to the auctions are minute. They can go up to a few hundreds bottles for some Spätlese bottlings but sometimes not exceed 24-36 bottles for rare TBA ones. It is therefore not surprising that these wines can be very, very expensive. The price of a Spätlese or Auslese auction bottling can sometimes be three times that of an equivalent regular bottling. Prices paid for rare TBA can easily exceed €1,000 per bottle and this even before taxes, commissions, etc.!



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Some relative bargains can however be made, which allow one to get the 'best of Mosel' at reasonable prices.

While auction wines are hardly cheap, some of these wines can prove relative bargains. There is no wine that represents a systematic bargain every year but we have witnessed that, at each auction, some bottlings sell for hardly more than regular wines. In 2008 for instance, this was the case for the great 2007er Geltz-Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Auslese. In particular, such relative bargains can be made at the Bernkasteler Ring auction, which seems to get less international exposure and very often offers the opportunity to acquire great wines at reasonable prices. For instance, the delicious 2009er Merkelbach Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese went for only €8.20 (hammer price) in 2010.

The question of whether the premium and effort of buying at auctions is worth it is therefore a very personal one.

Anyone who 'only' seeks a good Mosel wines for everyday drinking is probably best served by buying regular (i.e. non-auction) wines from his favorites Estates. However, anyone seriously interested in Mosel Riesling should make the effort to get hold of some of these auction gems. In addition, lovers of BA, TBA and Eiswein often have no choice but to go through the auctions to be able to get their hands on some of the finest examples by the likes of Joh. Jos. Prüm or Egon Müller as these Estates generally only sell these wines through auctions.

Auction bottles do not necessarily need to be acquired at the auction itself: Some Estates and wine merchants / importers offer them also later.

While being made in minute quantities, auction wines can be found on the open market. Our experience is that many leading merchants / importers specialized in German wines throughout the world often acquire some auction wines to enhance their catalogue (either immediately or for release after some years). Also, some Estates offer the possibility to acquire their auction wines at the Estate after the auction, usually at or close to the hammer price. Going for this secondary market can therefore be an alternative option to acquire some of these auction wines, and one that does not require the hassle of preparing bids and importing the resulting wines.

How do I recognize auction bottlings on the open market?

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

In order to differentiate them from regular wines, auction bottlings do carry a round sticker, usually stuck to a corner of the label with the indication "auctioned off at the auction held on date [so-and-so]". As an image speaks more than a thousand words, we have attached pictures of recent auction bottles.

Auction Sticker – Bernkasteler Ring



Auction Sticker – Grosser Ring / VDP



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

In principle, Auction wines should be easy to identify in a shop. In practice though, things may not necessarily be as straightforward as it seems as several Estates offer these wines ex-cellar after the auction (of course at auction prices or higher). Over the years, our experience has been that these auction bottlings do generally not carry any 'auction sticker'. In that case, the only way to know whether a bottle is an auction one is to check the AP numbers.

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

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



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Auctions 2013 : Bernkasteler Ring Wines Guide

Overview

We provide here a review of wines that will be auctioned off by the Bernkasteler Ring on September 19, 2013 and that we can recommend on quality grounds. This includes wines from the following Estates (presented in alphabetic order):

Bauer	<i>Mülheim</i>
von Beulwitz	<i>Mertesdorf</i>
Ernst Clüsserath	<i>Trittenheim</i>
Clüsserath-Eifel	<i>Trittenheim</i>
Martin Conrad	<i>Brauneberg</i>
Reinhold Franzen	<i>Bremm</i>
Leo Fuchs	<i>Pommern</i>
Albert Gessinger	<i>Zeltingen</i>
Kallfelz	<i>Zell-Merl</i>
Karp-Schreiber	<i>Brauneberg</i>
Kees-Kieren	<i>Graach</i>
Heribert Kerpen	<i>Wehlen</i>
Lehnert-Veit	<i>Piesport</i>
Carl Loewen	<i>Leiwen / Longuich</i>
Alfred Merkelbach	<i>Ürzig</i>
Markus Molitor	<i>Wehlen</i>
Paulinshof	<i>Kesten</i>
Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	<i>Bernkastel</i>
Rebenhof	<i>Ürzig</i>
FJ Regnery	<i>Klüsserath</i>
Johann Peter Reinert	<i>Kanzem</i>
St. Nikolaus-Hospital	<i>Bernkastel</i>
Werner	<i>Leiwen</i>





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Tasting Notes by Estates

Weingut Bauer

<u>2001er</u>	Bauer	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese	23 02	<i>Auction</i>	90
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Already yellow in color, this enjoyable dessert wine delivers Sauternes-like scents of honey, dried fruits, mango, apricot, quince, vanilla and tar. It then offers a smooth, rich and creamy texture with a very attractive medium-long feel on the finish. This is ready now. Now-2016

<u>2012er</u>	Bauer	Mülheimer Eisenberg Riesling Auslese	13 13	<i>Auction</i>	89
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Some rich but juicy scents of canned yellow peach and pineapple lead to a nicely zesty and sparkling feel on the palate. A touch of alcohol in the background adds power to the mid-palate and the finish. This should be quite enjoyable over the coming few years. Now-2017

Weingut Erben von Beulwitz

<u>2003er</u>	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Eiswein	01 04	<i>Auction</i>	92
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Already yellow-orange in color, this complex wine delivers great flavors of almond, hay and marzipan as well as some ripe notes of melon and candied grapefruit. The feeling on the palate is ripe and comforting and the medium-long finish is all about complex and superbly integrated smoothed sweetness. This is now ready to enjoy! Now-2022

<u>2012er</u>	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	08 13	<i>Auction</i>	91
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This gorgeously light wine offers apple, white peach, mint and spices on the nose which lead to a richer, more quince-driven structure on the palate. The wine has this telltale airy lightness of von Beulwitz wines and leaves a long and spicy feel as well as a light touch of cream and toffee in the after-taste. This gorgeous Spätlese will age effortlessly. 2022-2032

<u>2012er</u>	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Feinherb	09 13	<i>Auction</i>	90
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This starts off with a rich and creamy feel of white peach, citrus and mint which lead to a nicely zesty feel on the palate. The finish is deliciously tart and makes one naturally go for more. This very nicely made wine is fresh and easy. Now-2017

Weingut Ernst Clüsserath

<u>1994er</u>	Ernst Clüsserath	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Beereauslese	14 95	<i>Auction</i>	93
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This BA is quite 1976 in style with delicate yet rich flavors of almond, frangipane and dried (apricot) fruits paired with a touch of mango and acacia honey. Contrary to its 1976 counterparts, this BA turns into a quite racy experience on the palate, where the sugar is framed by zesty acidity. This zesty feel carries right through into a long and focused finish. This is fully mature now and quite enjoyable. Now-2019

Weingut Clüsserath-Eifel

<u>2012er</u>	Clüsserath-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Fährfels Alte Reben	08 13	<i>Auction</i>	92
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This slightly off-dry wine is made from a prime parcel in the Trittenheimer Apotheke planted with over 100 years old un-grafted vines. This delivers a most beautiful nose of spices, white flower and apple on the nose and some refined notes of spices on the palate. The whole thing oozes quality, delicacy and refinement. This gorgeous wine is a worthy successor to the great 2009 version! 2015-2022



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2012er	Clüsserath-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling 1745 GG	Auction	88
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This offers an attractive even if still somewhat subdued nose of slate, herbs, pineapple and banana. This leads to a comparatively full-bodied feel on the palate with quite smoky and peppery scents coming through in the mineral and slightly phenolic finish. This is nicely made in a rather forceful and ostentatious style. Now-2015

Weingut Martin Conrad

2007er	Martin Conrad	Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Feinherb GK	17 08	Auction	89
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This is now approaching maturity with some complex scents of pear to which a touch of petrol and caramel bring depth. The feel on the palate is reminiscent of that of a leaner version of a Rheingau and the finish is powerful yet playful. This is quite attractive in its slightly ostentatious and ripe style. Now

Weingut Reinhold Franzen

2011er	Reinhold Franzen	Bremmer Calmont Riesling GK	15 12	Auction	89
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This dry-tasting wine is still quite primary on the nose and offers ripe notes of yellow fruits, quince, vanilla and toffee. It is driven by attractive but very mineral elements on the palate. The finish is all about minerals and spices and will benefit from some bottle age to find its inner balance. But then, this will be quite a nice piece of dry-tasting Riesling to enjoy with food! 2014-2019

Weingut Leo Fuchs

2012er	Leo Fuchs	Klottener Brauneberg Riesling Auslese Feinherb	20 13	Auction	90
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After some initial reduction, this offers rich scents of apple, cinnamon, peach, banana and rosewater. The wine is very nicely balanced on the palate and leaves a playful feel in the finish, despite the Auslese structure and balance (which includes some honeyed flavors). This is very nice effort. Now-2017

Weingut Albert Gessinger

2012er	Albert Gessinger	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** Alte Reben	16 13	Auction	92
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This offers a highly botrytized nose of almond, yellow fruits, brown sugar and ground spices. There is a great feeling of tension which carries right through to the long and complex finish. This is very nicely made in an Auslese lange GK style. 2022-2037

Weingut Michael Goerg

2011er	Michael Goerg	Piesporter Domherr Riesling Spätlese Trocken	08 12	Auction	87+
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This somewhat subdued wine offers an attractive profile which includes honey, orchard fruits, floral nuances, grapefruit and spices. The feel on the palate is racy (with a touch of grapefruit) and rather lean but also nicely buffered off by a smooth structure and a medium long finish. This is an attractive nice dry Riesling made in a direct and straightforward style. Now-2016

Weingut Kallfelz

2011er	Kallfelz	Merler Königslay-Terrassen Riesling Beerenauslese	Auction	N.A.
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Not tasted.



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Weingut Kanzlerhof

2012er	Kanzlerhof	Pölicher Held Riesling Auslese	11 13	Auction	90
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This is the virgin wine from a parcel situated in the classic steep-hill part of the Held (i.e. the part situated on the western shore of the Mosel near the Detzemer hill). The wine offers some slightly broad but hearty notes of white peach, almond paste, pear and brown sugar. A catchy touch of strawberry cream comes through on the impeccably balanced palate and carries over into a long and deliciously zesty finish. This is a very nice fruit-driven Auslese. 2022-2037

Weingut Karp-Schreiber

2011er	Karp-Schreiber	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeereauslese	12 13	Auction	96
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This was harvested with a whopping 215° Oechsle. After a whiff of volatile blows away, this comparatively dark-colored wine is all about complex scents of peach, apricot and almond, paired with a most glorious touch of candied orange and raisin. This stunning TBA, made in the usual slightly oxidative style preferred by the Estate, needs time but will eventually, be the modern-day equivalent of the great 1994 auctioned off a few years ago. This is a terrific wine in the making! 2026-2051

Weingut Kees-Kieren

2012er	Kees-Kieren	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese ***	26 13	Auction	94
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This offers a most stunning and pure expression of botrytis with a very pure and precise touch of honey, coconut and pineapple. The oiliness is superbly framed, and this adds to the great feel of precision and purity. The finish is long and complex and the aromatics grow in the after-taste. We should draw the attention that this wine is quite marked by sulfur. Those especially sensitive to sulfur should either wait for the maturity window or decant this well in advance if they want to taste it at an early stage. Also, the wine will need a lot of time and patience for it to integrate the noticeable touch of sulfur. But then, this will be a glorious BA-styled wine. 2027-2047

2012er	Kees-Kieren	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett **	19 13	Auction	90
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This rich wine offers quite some attractive yet slightly creamy aromatics on the nose but turn to be quite forceful yet playful on the palate. The juicy Auslese in all but in name is marked by sulfur at this early stage, which means that this is one for the long hall and that it will need time to develop its aromatic complexity. 2022-2037

Weingut Heribert Kerpen

2009er	Heribert Kerpen	Bernkasteler Bratenhöfchen Riesling Eiswein *	27 10	Auction	94
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Harvested with 170° Oechsle at -14°C (7°F) on December 19, this remarkably racy wine delivers gloriously complex flavors of citrus, pineapple, mango, star anise and coconut sorbet. The feel on the palate is also remarkably fresh and easy. This fruit-driven Eiswein will be a pleasure to enjoy with desserts or on its own for many years to come. It will age harmoniously but many may prefer to enjoy these fruit-driven Eiswein on their early fruity side. Now-2024

2012er	Heribert Kerpen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese *	15 13	Auction	89
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This offers a rather reduced nose of apple, banana and white flowers yet the feel on the palate is nicely balanced with good zest and salty smoothness in the finish. This will however need quite some time to integrate the noticeable touch of sulfur on the nose. 2022-2032

Weingut Lehnert-Veit

2005er	Lehnert-Veit	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese **	09 06	Auction	88
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This opens up to a delicious and enticing nose of mango, apricot, anise and beeswax and delivers these with quite some presence on the palate. The comparatively high level of alcohol (10% by volume) comes slightly through in the finish and adds to the overall rich and firm presence of the wine. Now-2015



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Weingut Carl Loewen

<u>2011er</u>	Carl Loewen	Longuicher Maximiner Herrenberg Riesling Beerenauslese	18 12	<i>Auction</i>	95
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This glorious wine offers a most wonderful fruity, herby and flowery side which is enhanced by some great fruity density from the purest of botrytis. Sweetness still dominates the palate at this stage (as it should!) but the underlying aromatic complexity is just stunning. This will turn into quite a wine at maturity! 2021-2041

Weingut Alfred Merkelbach

<u>2012er</u>	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese	13 13	<i>Auction</i>	92
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This is Mosel classicism at its best. The wine oozes cassis and other fresh red berry fruits as well as minty herbs. The gorgeously racy feel on the palate is nicely balanced out by a delicate creamy touch which will mature nicely into beeswax with time. This modern-day equivalent of the great Auslese from the 1990s is really hard to resist and we would understand anyone rating this even higher, just on pure "drinkability" grounds! 2022-2037

<u>2012er</u>	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese Urglück	17 13	<i>Auction</i>	90
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This is made from a prime parcel situated in the heart of the classic part of the Ürziger Würzgarten and still planted with old un-grafted vines trained in single pole. This gorgeous Spätlese delivers hugely attractive scents of cassis, oregano and other herbs as well as a touch of grapefruit. The feel on the palate is delicate and yet incredibly intense. A touch of power comes through in the finish, which would make us opt to enjoy this beauty over the coming years. Now-2022

Weingut Meulenhof

<u>2011er</u>	Meulenhof	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Auslese ***	18 12	<i>Auction</i>	90
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After a whiff of volatile acidity blows off, this already golden-yellow colored wine delivers some rich and ripe flavors of fruits as well as some honey and a touch of toffee in the after-taste. The wine is nicely made in a slightly forceful style. 2022-2037

<u>2012er</u>	Meulenhof	Erdener Prälat Riesling Spätlese	08 13	<i>Auction</i>	92
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This offers a most attractive nose of bakery products, some apple and pear but also a hint of mango and yellow prune. The wine is just incredibly playful on the palate where it unfolds a more Auslese-styled complexity. The finish is just plain delicious with this playful and mouth-watering quality which has made the success of this Estate over the years. This is a great "drinking Auslese"! 2022-2037

Weingut Markus Molitor

NB: The Estate does not refer to the style of wine (dry-tasting, off-dry or fruity) on the label but defines this via the capsule color: white for dry, green for off-dry and golden for fruity-styled. In order to avoid any confusion, we add the color of the capsule in parenthesis in the description of each wine for all wines up to Auslese. Readers should be aware that this is neither found on the label nor referred to as such by the Estate internally.

<u>2010er</u>	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese ***		<i>Auction</i>	N.A.
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Not tasted.

<u>2011er</u>	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** (Golden Capsule)	113 12	<i>Auction</i>	96
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This glorious Auslese offers quince, brown sugar, spices, pineapple, cinnamon and apple. It coats the palate with glorious layers of honey and exotic fruits. This BA-styled wine is hugely long and the aromatics in the after-taste are incredibly complex. This little master-piece of a wine will require plenty of bottle age for the noticeable sweetness to recede into the background. But this is a glorious de-facto BA in the making! 2032-2062



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2011er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Golden Capsule)	114 12	Auction	92
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This offers a multi-layered and complex nose of creamy pear, spices and herbs. The wine is rich and smooth on the palate but oozes depth and class. The finish is subtle and superbly well-balanced. This is a gorgeous wine made for the long haul! 2022-2042

2012er	Markus Molitor	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** (White Capsule)		Auction	N.A.
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Not tasted.

Weingut Paulinshof

2012er	Paulinshof	Kestener Paulinshofberg Riesling Spätlese Feinherb	06 13	Auction	89
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A complex and rich nose of apple, pear and cumin leads to a round and mouth-coating feel on the palate. A delicious salty and juicy touch comes through in the finish, bringing freshness and a nice playful side to this very nice wine. Now-2018

Weingut Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler

2006er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Beerenauslese	49 07	Auction	95
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This gorgeous BA opens up with some great scents of coconut, pineapple and a hint of laurel. The wine is superbly smooth, precise and multi-layered on the palate, with a great oily touch just intensifying the pleasure. This is still in its infancy as sugar levels are still on the high side. But in a decade or so, this will be a staggering wine to enjoy on a cold winter night! 2021-2036

2012er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	21 13	Auction	93
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This stunning effort offers glorious scents of fresh apple, yellow peach, star fruit and dried herbs on the nose (in a style very close to that of Doctor wines in this vintage) and delivers a great a great juicy yet intense feel on the palate. This superb "drinking Auslese" will be a pleasure to enjoy in a decade or two. 2022-2037

Weingut Rebenhof

2010er	Rebenhof	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	20 11	Auction	94
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Despite the high ripeness and botryzied fruit, this still manages to start off with a telltale touch of cassis and citrus. The wine, made in a very attractive fruit-driven reductive style, delivers a focused yet oily impact on the palate and a great ethereal feel in the long, zesty and focused finish. 2020-2040

2012er	Rebenhof	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese Fass 12		Auction	92
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Bottled under Stelvin screw cap, this gorgeous wine delivers plenty of scents of cassis and strawberry as well as precise flavors of fruits and honey on the palate. The finish is clean, pure and very long. This remarkably linear Auslese should age beautifully well. 2022-2042

Weingut FJ Regnery

2012er	FJ Regnery	Klüsserather Bruderschaft Riesling Spätlese Feinherb	20 13	Auction	88
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This delicate wine driven by bakery products, rosewater and orange blossom is all about finesse and delicacy. This then gives way to a more stringent and racy feel on the palate. This needs to be left alone for a year or two for the finish to integrate its current firm tannic structure. But then, this will turn into quite an attractive wine. 2014-2017+



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Weingut Johann Peter Reinert

NB: All wines by the Estate are bottled under VinoLok, a glass closure system developed by Alcoa which proves quite popular in Germany. As this closure system has no long-term track record yet, we take a prudent (and possibly conservative) view on maturity windows.

2012er	Johann Peter Reinert	Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Auslese	17 13	Auction	92
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Bottled under VinoLok, this gorgeous Auslese is all about fresh apple, citrus, fresh conference pear and herbs. The wine is well balanced and long on the palate. The finish is just racy and fresh, with a tart side still in need of integration. This should develop nicely for those having the patience to wait. 2017-2027

Weingut Andreas Schmitges

2011er	Andreas Schmitges	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Beerenauslese	19 12	Auction	92
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Already quite dark in color, this focused and delineated expression of BA is all about fruity intensity (driven by apricot and orange marmalade) and spices. It starts off as quite rich and smooth with candied fruits but the finish is racy and firm. This will please lovers of wines with a lot of tension. 2016-2026

Weingut Stiftung St. Nikolaus-Hospital

2012er	St. Nikolaus Hospital	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese ***	12 13	Auction	91
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Golden-yellow on color, this offers a very attractive nose of yellow peach and a flowery scent of apricot. A remarkably zesty and racy side gives it a nice "Eiswein-Auslese" style which brings freshness to the rich aromatics. This is a gorgeous effort which should age nicely. 2022-2037

Weingut Werner

2012er	Werner	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese	14 13	Auction	87+
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This bright-colored was made from fruit harvested at 114° Oechsle in a prime un-grafted parcel situated above the bridge of Trittenheim planted with un-grafted vines in 1930. It offers a subdued and initially quite reduced nose of banana, white flowers and green herbs and some rich and spicy fruits on the palate. The wine is quite firm on the palate, with a touch of earthy spices coming through in the medium long finish. 2018-2027



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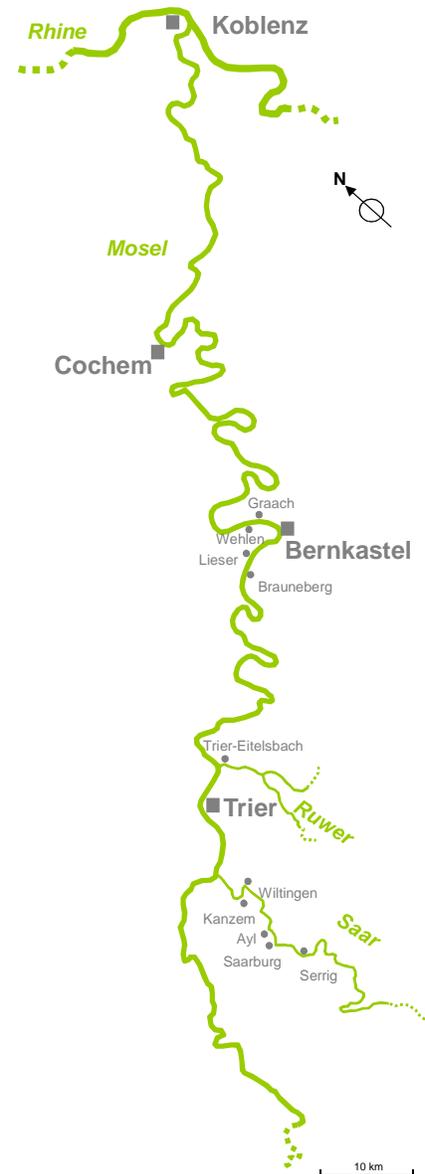
By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Auction 2013 : Grosser Ring / VDP Wines Guide

Overview

We provide here a review of wines that will be auctioned off by the Grosser Ring / VDP on September 20, 2013 and that we can recommend on quality grounds. This includes wines from the following Estates (presented in alphabetic order):

Le Gallais	<i>Kanzem</i>
Geltz-Zilliken	<i>Saarburg</i>
Fritz Haag	<i>Brauneberg</i>
von Hövel	<i>Oberemmel</i>
Karthäuserhof	<i>Trier-Eitelsbach</i>
Peter Lauer	<i>Ayl</i>
Schloss Lieser	<i>Lieser</i>
Dr. Loosen	<i>Bernkastel</i>
Egon Müller	<i>Wiltingen</i>
Joh. Jos. Prüm	<i>Wehlen</i>
Schloss Saarstein	<i>Serrig</i>
Willi Schaefer	<i>Graach</i>
Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch	<i>Bernkastel</i>





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Tasting Notes by Estates

Weingut Le Gallais

2012er	Le Gallais	Wiltinger braune Kupp Riesling Auslese GK	09 13	Auction	94
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This offers a most complex nose of raspberry, cassis and pineapple on the nose which leads to a superbly balanced and creamy feel on the palate. The finish is long and delicate and leaves an ethereal feel of flowers, honey and coconut in the after-taste. 2022-2042

Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

2012er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	02 13	Auction	94
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This offers the telltale pure gorgeous flavors of Rausch in which one finds back juicy white fruits, some fresh herbs, a hint of cream. What sets this apart is the most incredible presence on the palate, which, despite the intensity, is all about precision, purity and elegance. This is a huge success made along the lines of the great Auction Spätlese / Auslese from the 1990s. 2022-2042

Weingut Fritz Haag

2012er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	13 13	Auction	98
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This show-stopper of a wine just delivers a most incredible clean and pure and delicate nose of fresh herbs, pineapple and coconut. The feel on the palate is just out of this world, packed with delicate and juicy flavors and yet airy and restrained. The finish is pure, multi-dimensional and deep and yet also just very clean and pure. This is a stunning wine in the making in the line of its great pendant from the 1990s! 2027-2047

2012er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	14 13	Auction	94
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This gorgeous wine is driven by deliciously juicy yellow fruits, cassis and the telltale touch of whipped cream on the nose. The feel on the palate is quite rich, making it really an Auslese but one which remains stunningly easy to drink. This is very Fritz Haag in style on the palate, with the telltale racy and delineated feel which leads to a beautifully ethereal and flowery feel in the finish. 2022-2037

Weingut Karthäuserhof

2009er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese Nr. 51		Auction	97
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Harvested at just under 170° Oechsle, this offers truly magnificent scents of juicy yellow fruits (driven by peach and pineapple) and blended into some more almond-driven bakery products. The underlying aromatic complexity is just mind-blowing. The high level of residual sugar makes the wine seem one-dimensional at this stage but make no mistake, this will turn into a legendary TBA in a few decades' times. This stunner is one for the furthest part of the cellar. 2029-2069

2007er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Eiswein Nr. 55		Auction	96
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This offers a stunning nose of beeswax, spices, quince, pear liquor and some fresher scents of mango and other exotic fruits. The wine is impeccably well balanced on the palate, with a very playful interplay between a subtle acidity and some salty sweetness. This all leads to a beautifully long and intense finish. This is a great ostentatious Eiswein in the making! 2017-2032

2012er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 42		Auction	95
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This shines through incredibly pure and racy scents of pink grapefruit, white peach, anise, some mango as well as a flowery touch of spearmint. The feel of the wine on the palate is stunningly racy, intense yet also incredibly delicate and complex. The finish is all about purity, zest, and mouthwatering saltiness. The sweetness is already remarkably well integrated, which increases immediate pleasure but requires one to keep a close eye on the evolution (to make sure that the acidity mellows away accordingly). 2020-2027+



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Weingut Peter Lauer

2012er	Peter Lauer	Ayler Kupp Riesling Spätlese Fass 23		Auction	93
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This is the result of a painstaking selection of clean golden-yellow berries from the prime part of the Ayler Kupp (around the original Kupp, i.e. the front part of the hill) harvested at the end of October after the frost. The wine offers a great floral nose in which scents of yellow and white fruits and a hint of coconut bring a great juicy side. The wine is gorgeously racy on the palate and the finish is precise, complex and multi-layered. This is a gorgeous effort which is at the same time lively, floral and intense. 2027-2042

Weingut Schloss Lieser

2012er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK	16 13	Auction	95
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This subdued effort offers a great light of white peach, some pineapple and star fruit as well as a great touch of flower of apricot tree. A powerful yet juicy feel on the palate leads to a long and zesty finish, which then leaves juicy scents of spices and herbs in the after-taste. 2027-2047

2012er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	15 13	Auction	94
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This offers a huge and hard-to-resist nose of cassis and herbs. Far from being over-powering, this then delivers the great playful feel of apple, zest and juicy peach of a "drinking Auslese" on the palate. The finish is very long and deliciously spicy and racy. 2022-2037

Weingut Dr. Loosen

2012er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese lange GK		Auction	(95-98)
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This looks like a grandiose effort from this Estate. The wine offers a great rich nose of almond, peach and brown sugar. A great feel of acidity cuts through the BA-richness on the palate and gives the wine a great drinking side. This is a great wine in the making! 2022-2037

2012er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese GK		Auction	(92-94)
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This rich Auslese-styled wine offers spicy notes of cassis and grapefruit to which more honeyed flavors are added onto the palate. The wine is really Auslese GK in style but, as such, a terrific wine. It will need time though. 2022-2037

Weingut Egon Müller

2012er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese GK	10 13	Auction	96
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This offers a huge and complex nose of coconut, pineapple, raisin and apricot which leads to a multi-layered and delicately honeyed structure delivered with BA oiliness and intensity on the palate. The finish is still on the sweet side but the aromatic freshness and depth in the after-taste are simply staggering. 2027-2052

2012er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	07 13	Auction	94
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This is all about white peach, apple and white flowers on the nose, which lead to a delicate touch of pear and cream on the palate. The finish is just incredibly pure and elegant. This is a gorgeously intense wine made in the old "clean Auslese" style. 2022-2042

2012er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett Alte Reben	04 13	Auction	93+
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This marvelously fresh wine offers stunning scents of cassis, white minerals and white mint which slowly lead to a more white peach and grapefruit base on the palate. A most succulent zesty acidity brings tension and the delicious salty feel in the finish just adds a superb concluding touch to the grandness of the wine. This sensational Kabinett remains true to its style despite a most incredible aromatic intensity on the palate. As impressive as it is now, this could easily exceed even our wildest expectations. It is that impressive! 2022-2037



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Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

2012er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese lange GK	Auction	(95-98)
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This offers a most elegant yet intensely creamy nose of peach, coconut, mint and whipped cream. The wine is quite oily on the palate but the zesty acidity brings energy and freshness to this incredible aromatics intensity. This is a great effort in the making! 2032-2052

2012er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GK	Auction	(92-95)
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This spicy wine is driven by subdued scents of yellow fruits, white peach, apple, kiwi and ground spices. The impact of botrytis is quite marked on the palate, where scents of apricot dominate the aromatics and gives it a surprising sense of richness. The finish turns however again to a more airy style. 2027-2042

2012er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	Auction	(93-96)
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This gorgeous wine is driven by fresh scents of apple, flowers and white and yellow peach. The feel on the palate is delicately rich but very clean and elegant and this leads to a gloriously mouth-watering finish. This will need time to find its balance, even if the zesty acidity makes it quite approachable now. 2027-2042

2012er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	Auction	(94-97)
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This stunningly well balanced Spätlese is all about cassis, white peach and light flowery scents on the nose. The feel on the palate is airy, racy and delicately fresh and juicy, without any undue richness. This is a stunning Spätlese in the making, in this juicy and racy yet light style we feel not seen here since the glorious 2002 or 2001. This is a grandiose Spätlese! 2022-2042

Weingut Schloss Saarstein

2011er	Schloss Saarstein	Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Beerenauslese	13 12	Auction	93
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A whiff of volatile acidity quickly gives way to a great and juicy nose of yellow fruits, date and spices. The wine is remarkably well balanced on the palate, where the baroque side of dried fruits and fine spices is nicely framed by an oily zesty structure. The finish is elegant and subtly racy. This is a gorgeous BA in the making. 2026-2041

Weingut Willi Schaefer

2012er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	01 13	Auction	95
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The fact that this wine is made with a comparably low percentage of botrytis is immediately apparent on the aromatics, which are driven by fresh and elegant scents of yellow fruits, apple, spices and smoke. They lead to a most wonderfully delicate and tactile feel on the palate, where more fresh fruits come through. The finish is most wonderfully zesty, with its creamy side nicely balanced out by grapefruit. This gorgeous and utterly drinkable Auslese will please lovers of classical Schaefer Auslese wines! 2022-2042

2012er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	13 13	Auction	94
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This juicy wine is all about complex yellow fruits, herbs and smoky slate. Some great zesty acidity brings freshness to the deep multi-layered feel on the palate of this deliciously playful and not overly sweet wine. The finish is just crisp yet very long, making it an utterly drinkable in a light Auslese-style. 2022-2037

Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

2012er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	05 13	Auction	92+
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This backward wine is driven by comparatively ripe and rich scents of brown spices, yellow orchard and exotic fruits as well as a hint of laurel in the finish. The wine is smooth and intense on the palate and offers some great power. However, as so often with young Doctor wines, this comes over as slightly bulky at this stage but, as this goes away with bottle age (one of the miracles of the Doctor), we would urge to give these bottles time to rest. Lovers of doctors will have to have own this gorgeous wine. 2027-2042



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2012 Vintage Report

PART I of the comprehensive 2012 Vintage Report is available now!

July
2013
Issue

- Detailed report on the **2012 vintage in the Mosel!**
 - Vintage conditions & growing season
 - What to expect as wines in 2012
- Detailed Review **for 14 leading Estates:**
 - A.J. Adam / Adam & Haart
 - Jos. Christoffel jr.
 - Geltz-Zilliken
 - von Hövel
 - Karthäuserhof
 - Schloss Lieser
 - Carl Loewen
 - Egon Müller / Le Gallais
 - Willi Schaefer
 - von Schubert
 - Vollenweider
 - Weiser-Künstler

PART II will include further detailed reviews of leading Estates!

October
2013
Issue

- **Further detailed Estate Reviews** which will include:
 - Julian Haart
 - Reinhold Haart
 - Fritz Haag
 - Immich-Batterieberg
 - Peter Lauer
 - Dr. Loosen
 - Joh. Jos. Prüm
 - Max Ferd. Richter
 - Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch
- In addition, **many recommended wines from other Estates** (incl. great bargains).

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