



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Special Issue: Auction Guide – September 2010

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.

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 Mosel wines are maturing.
- Perspectives on specific topics such as vineyards, Estates, vintages, etc.

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

Table of Content

An introduction to the auctions held in Bernkastel and Trier	3
Auctions 2010: Bernkasteler Ring Wines Guide	6
Auctions 2010: Grosser Ring / VDP Wines Guide	12
2009 Vintage Report	19

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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, top Mosel Riesling wines generally go 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 great Mosel Riesling is not about "more is better" but rather a combination of the following elements:

- 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.
- Reflects its terroir: Mosel Wine should carry the signature of its unique terroir into the wine. 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 Spätlese, which remains true to its style, can therefore get a higher score than, say, an average Auslese.

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

95-100	Classic : Is a true classic that sets standards. 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. 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 a simple straightforward style. Price is the key driver for the buying decision.
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.

Mosel Riesling is an aromatic grape that rarely goes through malolactic fermentation. Therefore, bottling generally occurs five 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.



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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 Ayler Kupp feinste Auslese auctioned off in the 1920s went to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, another part to a prince in Sweden and the remainder to 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 *Trierer Ring* (another small 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 *Triererverein 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 is held at the Kloster Machern in Bernkastel-Wehlen and the one of the Grosser Ring / VDP at the Europahalle in Trier.



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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 2010, these auctions will take place on September 23 resp. 24.

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 1959er Joh. Jos. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling TBA auctioned off last year).

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 1976er Berncasteler Doctor Riesling BA sold by the Wwe Thanisch – Erben Thanisch Estate in September 2008) 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 2009 vintage for the auctions to be held in September 2010).
- 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 S.A. Prüm). Other Estates prefer to let them mature somewhat in their cellars before bringing them to the auctions. For instance, Egon Müller only sold the 1997er Scharzhofberger Riesling TBA and Joh. Jos. Prüm the 1994er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling BA at the auction held in September 2008.
- Most wines are fruity-styled even though some producers from the Bernkasteler Ring now also propose some off-dry (Feinherb) or dry wines.

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

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 reach €500-1,000 per bottle (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 be relative bargains. There is no wine that represents a systematic bargain every year, but each year, some bottlings sell for hardly more than regular wines. This was for instance the case in 2008 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 2007er Merkelbach Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese * went for only €9 (hammer price) in 2008.

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

Someone 'only' wanting good Mosel wines for everyday drinking is probably best off buying regular (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 say Joh. Jos. Prüm, Egon Müller or Knebel 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 putting bids and importing 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, these wines are therefore easy to identify. In practice though, things may not necessarily be as easy as some 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 the '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 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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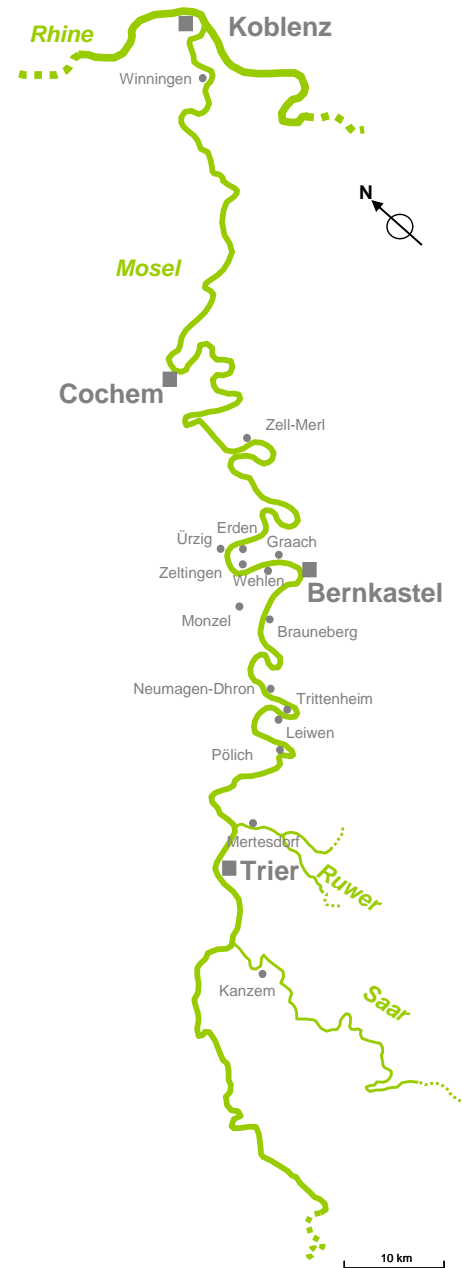
By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Auctions 2010 : Bernkasteler Ring Wines Guide

Overview

We provide here a review of wines that will be auctioned off by the Bernkasteler Ring on September 23, 2010 and that we can recommend on quality grounds. This includes wines from the following Estates (presented in alphabetic order):

Bastgen	<i>Monzel</i>
Bauer	<i>Mülheim</i>
von Beulwitz	<i>Mertesdorf</i>
Ernst Clüsserath	<i>Trittenheim</i>
Clüsserath-Eifel	<i>Trittenheim</i>
Albert Gessinger	<i>Zeltingen</i>
Michael Goerg	<i>Neumagen-Dhron</i>
Kallfelz	<i>Zell-Merl</i>
Kanzlerhof	<i>Pölich</i>
Karp-Schreiber	<i>Brauneberg</i>
Kees-Kieren	<i>Graach</i>
Heribert Kerpen	<i>Wehlen</i>
Knebel	<i>Winningen</i>
Carl Loewen	<i>Leiwen / Longuich</i>
Alfred Merkelbach	<i>Ürzig</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>
Andreas Schmitges	<i>Erden</i>
St. Nikolaus-Hospital	<i>Bernkastel</i>
Werner	<i>Leiwen</i>



NB: The wines by Leo Fuchs and Reinhold Franzen were not tasted.



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Tasting Notes by Estates

Weingut Bastgen

2009er	Bastgen	Kestener Paulinshofberg Riesling Spätlese "Auf den Felsen"	10 10	Auction	88+
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Made from 100 years-old vines in the parcel "Auf den Felsen", this is quite fresh and attractive on the nose, with notes of white and yellow peaches, as well as some honey and a touch of reduction. The wine is on the rich side on the palate, with aromatics tending towards the pear side of the fruit spectrum. The finish is however clean and precise. This is very nice even if somewhat broad at this stage and does not show the irresistible raciness of the outstanding 2008 version. 2014-2024

NB: This wine is bottled under Stelvin screw cap.

Weingut Bauer

2009er	Bauer	Mülheimer Sonnenlay Riesling Spätlese Trocken Alte Reben	09 10	Auction	89
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This comes over as quite zesty and fresh with notes of citrus, quince and melon. This dry wine is comparably light on the palate with good aromatic depth and length. The finish is somewhat powerful but should gain in finesse with a few more months of bottle aging. 2011-2016

Weingut Erben von Beulwitz

2009er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Trocken S	13 10	Auction	91
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This offers quite some powerful notes of cassis, rose-water and fresh herbs on the nose and comes over as clean and nicely delineated on the palate. The dry wine is quite racy (some may find it too acidic) with however superb precision in the finish. This is very nicely made. 2011-2016

2009er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Auslese Alte Reben	04 10	Auction	92
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This is quite intense on the nose with white peach blended into notes of pineapple and honey. The wine is rich and creamy on the palate, with great zesty notes providing a fresh side to the long and complex finish. This is very impressive in a comparatively full-bodied style for this Estate. 2017-2034

2008er	Erben von Beulwitz	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Eiswein	03 09	Auction	95
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This offers a most racy nose driven by passion fruit, pink grapefruit and citrus. The wine is balanced on the palate, with good raciness wrapping the oily structure. The finish is razor sharp aromatically speaking and yet remains well balanced in texture. This is a beautiful irresistible Eiswein. 2015-2028

Weingut Ernst Clüsserath

2009er	Ernst Clüsserath	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese **	15 10	Auction	92
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This offers great straightforward yet stylish notes of mango, peach enhanced by some citrus on the palate. The wine develops a honeyed side with some airing and some notes of vanilla are coming through. This is rich yet remains quite focused and balanced in the finish. It is very well made and very difficult to resist. 2017-2029

Weingut Clüsserath-Eifel

2009er	Clüsserath-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Spätlese **	10 10	Auction	90
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Ripe and rich, this offers juicy notes of peach, pear and some yeast on the nose. These are nicely enhanced by a sappy zesty feel on the palate. The wine is on the powerful side but remains deliciously precise and direct in the finish. This is very easy to drink. 2014-2024



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2009er	Clüsserath-Eifel	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese **	07 10	Auction	89+
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This is quite closed still but hints at honeyed and exotic aromatics driven by coconut, pineapple and whipped cream. The wine is rich and intense on the palate, with quite some tartness still requiring better integration. This is best waited for to allow it to blend its components. 2017-2029

Weingut Albert Gessinger

2009er	Albert Gessinger	Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese *** Alte Reben	14 10	Auction	92
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This offers an intriguing, still quite reduced nose of creamy lavender, exotic fruits and honey. The wine is rich and round on the palate with good length and quite some creaminess. The finish is very long and refined. This is beautiful! 2019-2039

Weingut Michael Goerg

2009er	Michael Goerg	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese	10 10	Auction	89
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This is quite expansive on the nose with notes of peach, pineapple and citrus. The wine is balanced and quite precise on the palate and offers a clean and direct finish. This is very easy to drink. 2014-2024

Weingut Kallfelz

2009er	Kallfelz	Merler Königslay-Terrassen Riesling Auslese	84 10	Auction	91
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Rich, soft and round, this offers a Sauternes type of experience with a great powerful and intense exotic touch on the nose as well as great creamy sweetness on the palate. The wine is rich, oily and simply delicious in its "no-prisoner-taken" baroque style. 2014-2029

Weingut Kanzlerhof

2009er	Kanzlerhof	Mehringer Blattenberg Riesling Spätlese	13 10	Auction	88
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This is quite rich and offers earthy notes of peach, banana, pepper and a refreshing touch of mint. The feeling of richness continues on the palate, which is powerful with some tartness still needing to integrate. The finish is intense with the length enhanced by a slight touch of heat. 2014-2019

Weingut Karp-Schreiber

2009er	Karp-Schreiber	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Trocken	17 10	Auction	90
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Harvested at 105° Oechsle and aged in small casks, this is a beautifully balanced dry wine with great elegant notes of yellow peach on the nose, enhanced by spices, citrus and smoke. The wine is racy and precise on the palate, without any undue weight but a great long finish. This is made in a more traditional (slightly more oxidative style) but is a great example of this. This should age very nicely. Now-2019

2009er	Karp-Schreiber	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese	18 10	Auction	91+
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This wine is the result of a strong selection at 140° Oechsle. It offers a great nose of peach, flowers and whipped cream, with in addition an intriguing note of horseradish which tends to disappear after extensive airing. The wine is long and balanced on the palate, with a long and refined finish. It is a quite impressive wine made in the typical traditional (slightly oxidative and higher in alcohol) style of the house. 2015-2024



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Weingut Kees-Kieren

2009er	Kees-Kieren	Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett **	22 10	Auction	89
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This offers a powerful expansive nose of cassis and dried herbs and is quite rich and fruit-driven on the palate yet remains comparatively fresh and zesty in the finish. It is more a juicy Spätlese than a light Kabinett but as such delightful. 2014-2024

2009er	Kees-Kieren	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese ***	26 10	Auction	91+
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This is still quite closed and reduced with some smoky notes before revealing a more honeyed and fruity side. The wine has the intensity of a BA (if not TBA) on the palate with an oily structure dominating at the moment the finish. This will need quite some time to integrate aromatically. 2019-2034

Weingut Heribert Kerpen

2009er	Heribert Kerpen	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese Trocken	14 10	Auction	90
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This offers a nice nose mixing freshness with some exotic notes of pineapple, citrus and passion fruit. The wine is racy on the nose yet comparably round and comfortable on the palate. The wine is very clean without any unnecessary alcoholic heat coming through. This is very nice indeed. Now-2016

2009er	Heribert Kerpen	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese *	21 10	Auction	91
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This is quite aromatic with notes of yellow peach and some dried herbs on the nose. The wine is on the rich side on the palate with outstanding complexity and quite some length. The finish is long and delicately creamy with good zest. This is a nice wine made in comparatively powerful and intense style. 2017-2029

Weingut Knebel

2008er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	13 09	Auction	92
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This has evolved beautifully well since tasting it last year (cf. last year's October Issue of Mosel Fine Wines) and boasts now a fresh, more cassis driven nose with the typical exotic touch of the Röttgen somewhat pushed into the background. The wine is long and very precise on the palate with a hint of peachy cream coming through after some airing. This is a beauty in a powerful and intense style. 2017-2028

2009er	Knebel	Winninger Röttgen Riesling Auslese	15 10	Auction	94
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This offers a superbly pure and clean expression of white and yellow peaches and mango, mixed with some subtle notes of honey. The wine is creamy on the palate, with well integrated acidity. The finish is again incredibly pure and precise, and yet multi-layered and complex. This is a great effort and a superb Auslese! 2019-2034

Weingut Carl Loewen

2008er	Carl Loewen	Riesling Trocken Alte Reben	05 09	Auction	90
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Made from at least 40 years-old vines, this offers a great opulent yet precise nose driven by yellow fruits, plum and hazelnut, as well as some flowery notes. The wine is nicely racy on the palate with great aromatic precision and quite some power. The finish is delicately fruity (with a tiny touch of residual sugar) and very long. This is a very impressive and quite "big" dry Mosel Riesling. Now-2016

2009er	Carl Loewen	Thörnicher Ritsch Riesling Auslese GK	05 10	Auction	93
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Made from 70% botrytized fruit, this offers an intriguing and fascinating floral and herby nose with some exotic fruits for good measure. The wine is rich and creamy on the palate yet offers a great structured finish. This is very nicely made! 2016-2034



Mosel Fine Wines

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Weingut Alfred Merkelbach

2009er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese	18 10	Auction	90
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This offers the most delightful pastel-like nose of fruit cocktail mixing red berry fruits with subtle white peach, verbena and citrus. The wine is still somewhat reduced on the palate with a clean and juicy finish. Despite being as light as a feather, the wine is intense and long. However, readers should be aware that this is more off-dry than fully fruity-styled (it boasts 10.5% alcohol) but it should go outstandingly well with food. Now-2017

2009er	Alfred Merkelbach	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese	14 10	Auction	91
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Vinified with 9% of alcohol, this is superbly sappy and elegant on the nose with great notes of cassis, strawberry as well as a touch of peachy whipped cream. The wine is comparatively forceful on the palate (for Merkelbach) with some heat. Yet the finish is lively and inviting one to go for another glass. This is pure delight in its structured style. 2014-2029

Weingut Paulinshof

2009er	Paulinshof	Kestener Paulinsberg Riesling Spätlese	14 10	Auction	89
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This offers a huge and aromatic nose driven by litchi and other exotic fruits. The wine is quite racy on the palate with good weight (akin to that of an Auslese) with a slight earthy and herby touch in the finish. 2013-2019

Weingut Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler

2009er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Ürziger Goldwingert Riesling Spätlese	13 10	Auction	92
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This offers the most wonderful nose of cream, cassis and red currant. The wine is rich and ample on the palate yet remains superbly balanced by zesty acidity. This is long and cuddly in the finish with more notes of fruits. It is a very nicely made fully fruity-styled Spätlese. This is just pure fun. 2014-2029

2009er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Auslese	27 10	Auction	93+
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Already quite yellow in color, this offers the most wonderful nose of quince, pear and creamy peach, with apricot and honey for good measure. The wine is very intense and rich on the palate yet remains superbly focused and comparatively racy (for an Auslese with the thickness of a BA). The finish is sappy, clean and racy. The wine is still on the bulky side but should gain considerably from bottle aging. 2019-2034

2008er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler Johannisbrunnchen Riesling Eiswein	25 09	Auction	91
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Harvested on December 29 with nearly 160° Oechsle, this is already quite yellow in color with great intensity on the palate. The aromatics are complex, mixing yellow peach and quince with pear cream. The acidity is now more prominent than last year. This is very impressive in a quite forceful style. 2015-2023

1997er	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler	Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Beerenauslese	50 98	Auction	94
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This offers splendid well matured aromatics mixing cassis, laurel and elderflower with more exotic notes of pineapple and coconut in the finish. The wine is slightly forceful on the palate but this is nicely framed by fresh whipped cream in the finish. The wine has great zest and well integrated sweetness. This is a beautiful, classic and complex BA for cold winter days. Now-2027

Weingut Rebenhof

2007er	Rebenhof	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	20 08	Auction	93
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This offers rich winter bakery notes of nougat, pears in rum, fig and kirsch. The wine is superbly complex on the palate, with great spicy notes adding to this feeling of opulence and decadence. The finish is long and remarkably fresh, encouraging one to go for another sip (for this is a sipping wine, not a drinking wine). This is very nicely made indeed with decades of life ahead. 2017-2037+



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut FJ Regnery

2009er	FJ Regnery	Klüsserather Bruderschaft Riesling Auslese Jakob's Wein	15 10	Auction	90
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This special bottling made for Jakob, the newly born son of Peter Regnery, is made in a "feine Auslese" style. This is still marked by some notes of wild yeast fermentation yet offers great flavors of yellow and white fruits, whipped cream, gooseberry with some spices. The wine is quite long and powerful on the palate, but remains playful in the finish. This is a delicious intense Auslese. 2014-2029

Weingut Johann Peter Reinert

NB: All wines by the Estate are bottled under VinoLok, a glass closure system developed by Alcoa which is 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.

2009er	Johann Peter Reinert	Ayler Kupp Riesling Spätlese "Alte Reben"	21 10	Auction	91
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Bottled under VinoLok, this is still quite closed at first before revealing subtle yet gorgeous notes of cassis, citrus and white peach. The wine is delicate, fresh and racy on the palate and offers a great razor-sharp finish. This is a light "true" Spätlese which will offer great pleasure. 2014-2017+

2009er	Johann Peter Reinert	Wawerner Ritterpfad Riesling Auslese	24 10	Auction	91
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Bottled under VinoLok, this offers a very nice nose of fresh juicy cassis-driven fruit blended into refined notes of honey and vanilla. The wine is fresh and balanced on the palate, with good zest but also a nice creamy side. The finish is long and delicate. This is a very nice and refreshingly light Auslese. 2015-2019+

2009er	Johann Peter Reinert	Wiltinger Schlangengraben Riesling Auslese	23 10	Auction	94
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Wow, this is a pure beauty! Nearly white in color, this wine (bottled under VinoLok) is very complex and refined. It is driven by cassis on the nose with some telltale Saar notes of smoky slate, mint and a pure herbal touch. It is delightfully elegant and playfully light on the palate with just a superb hint of creaminess (whipped cream) coming through in the very racy finish. This is a great irresistible Auslese! 2014-2019+

Weingut Andreas Schmitges

2009er	Andreas Schmitges	Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese ***	11 10	Auction	94+
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This offers a huge, complex and yet precise nose of apricot, pineapple, fresh plum, yellow peach and candied citrus. The wine is superbly zesty on the palate, with terrifying intensity and BA weight. The finish is just long and very pure. This is a great and big fruit-driven Auslese in the making. 2019-2039

Weingut Stiftung St. Nikolaus-Hospital

2009er	St. Nikolaus Hospital	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese ***	14 10	Auction	90
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This is quite honeyed and driven by direct notes of pineapple, apricot and toffee. The wine is still quite primary on the palate with straightforward notes of fruits. The finish is clean, racy with good depth. This is very easy to enjoy. 2017-2029

Weingut Werner

2009er	Werner	Schweicher Annaberg Riesling Auslese	15 10	Auction	91
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This offers a great irresistible fruit-cocktail nose with loads of exotic fruits. The wine is intense and powerful on the palate, in a style not unlike that of Sauternes. The finish is overtly fruit-driven yet playful. This is a great success in the typical explosive and joyful style cherished by the house. 2013-2024



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

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Auction 2010 : 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 24, 2010 and that we can recommend on quality grounds. This includes wines from the following Estates (presented in alphabetic order):

Clemens Busch

Geltz-Zilliken

Fritz Haag

Reinhold Haart

Heymann-Löwenstein

von Hövel

Le Gallais

Karthäuserhof

von Kesselstatt

Schloss Lieser

Dr. Loosen

Egon Müller

Joh. Jos. Prüm

S.A. Prüm

Schloss Saarstein

Willi Schaefer

Wegeler

Pünderich

Saarburg

Brauneberg

Piesport

Winningen

Kanzem

Oberemmel

Trier-Eitelsbach

Morscheid

Lieser

Bernkastel

Wiltingen

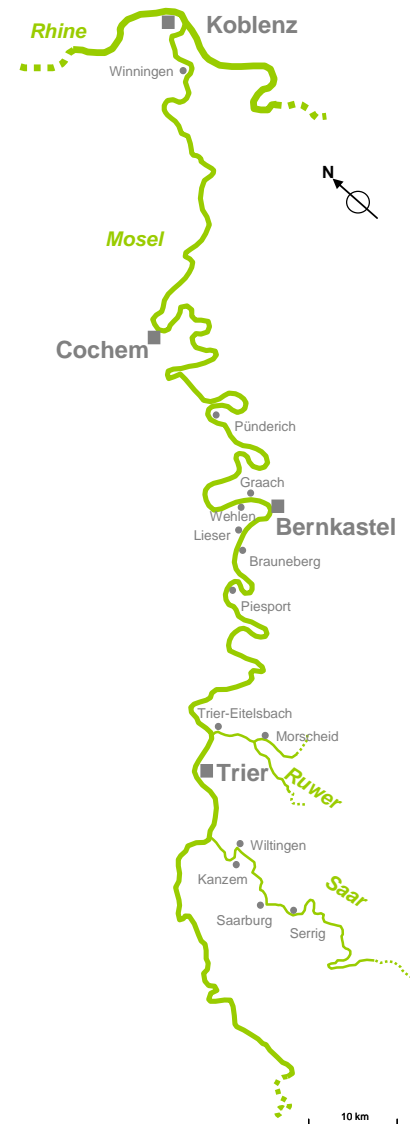
Wehlen

Wehlen

Serrig

Graach

Bernkastel



Note on rarity bottlings

The VDP is celebrating its 100th anniversary and several Estates took this occasion to bring mature rarities (ranging from 1911 to 1985) to this year's Auction.

As a service to our readers, we decided to provide some background information on these wines, even if we have not tasted the wine itself. This information does however not constitute any form of recommendation or provide a qualitative judgement on the wine itself.



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

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Tasting Notes by Estates

Weingut Clemens Busch

2009er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Auslese lange GK	15 10	Auction	96
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This is a stunner of a wine. It boasts a huge and pure nose of exotic fruits, with very fine and clean notes of honey. The wine is oily, rich and coating the palate with more fruity flavors. And yet, despite all this opulence, it remains clean, fresh and playful. This is really a BA in disguise but a breathtaking one. What an effort! 2017-2039

2003er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Trockenbeereauslese	01 09	Auction	93
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This offers a beautiful, rich nose of candied fruits and oriental desserts with some fig, licorice, date, melon as well as rich honey and nougat. The wine is as thick as oil, with good acidity but also quite some sweetness which still needs to integrate. It is a mighty, powerful and incredibly concentrated TBA to sip by the glass on winter days. 2015-2043+

Weingut Le Gallais

2009er	Le Gallais	Wiltinger braune Kupp Riesling Auslese GK	20 10	Auction	96+
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This offers telltale notes of peach, pineapple, star anise, pear infused in some tea and dried herbs which are so characteristic of this vineyard. The wine is superbly intense and racy on the palate but is also quite powerful and marked by its sweetness at this stage. This Auslese is already stunningly good now but could easily gain in stature with further bottle age. It is truly impressive. 2019-2044

Weingut Geltz-Zilliken

2009er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Spätlese	04 10	Auction	93+
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This offers a great complex nose of fruits, with good balance and an intense touch of smokiness and herbal notes, such as laurel, thyme and star anise. The wine is firm and quite powerful on the palate but the finish is intense and multi-layered. This impressive wine behaves more like an Auslese at this stage, with forceful intensity and presence, but could gain in refinement over the coming years, and eventually warrant a higher rating. 2019-2039

2009er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese	03 10	Auction	97
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Harvested at 116° Oechsle, this is flirting with perfection. It offers a huge, complex nose mixing fresh exotic fruits (mainly passion fruit), with minerals and fresh herbs (chamomile). The wine is superbly balanced on the palate, with some creamy buttery notes and a hint of reduction wrapped in the most beautifully ticking acidity. Despite all the intensity and power of this wine, the finish remains incredibly zesty and long. This *feine Auslese* (as it would have no doubt been called in the old days) is a stunner of a wine and certainly a must-have at the auction. 2017-2049

2009er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese GK	02 10	Auction	95
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Harvested from botrytized grapes with 130° Oechsle towards the end of the harvest, this wine is aromatically precise, with ripe notes of William pear, apricot flower, almond, as well as green herbs and smoke. It is incredibly intense and focused on the palate, like some of the Fritz Haag wines. A touch of honey and apricot comes through with some further airing in an incredibly long finish. This is hugely impressive in a light BA / long Goldkapsel style. 2017-2049

1983er	Geltz-Zilliken	Saarburger Rausch Riesling Eiswein	04 84	Auction	
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We have not yet tasted this rarity wine in our career. 1983 was a great vintage throughout the Mosel region. It was characterized by very little botrytis in the Saarburger area. An early frost around mid-November allowed many Estates to produce some great Eiswein in the whole Mosel region. This Saarburger Rausch Eiswein was harvested at 180° Oechsle and was auctioned off first in the 1980s.



Mosel Fine Wines

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Weingut Fritz Haag

2009er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	14 10	Auction	94
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This is quite powerful with ample notes of pear, quince and peach, blended with minerals and smoke. The wine is rich and ample on the palate (with the presence of an Auslese) enhanced by the most glorious precise touch of acidity. The finish is fresh and precise with loads of layers of fruits and more minerals. This is a superb effort. 2017-2034

2009er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese lange GK	15 10	Auction	97
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The wine is loaded with rich and ripe aromatics with honeyed notes of pineapple, pear and dried herbs. The intensity on the palate is simply breathtaking. Despite all the aromatic richness, the wine remains incredibly fresh, zesty and precise, both on the palate and in the finish. This is a stunning effort and will give the 2007 and 2002 a run for the money as best "long Goldcap" of Fritz Haag of the decade. 2019-2044

2005er	Fritz Haag	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	24 07	Auction	98
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This offers great powerful and intense notes of pineapple, fresh apricot and honey on the nose. The wine is more powerful on the palate than the 2001 or 1994 version. The finish seems endless with more layers of honey and fresh fruits. This beautiful and precise TBA shines through the utter inner balance: Nothing is out of place, everything is in harmony. This is stunningly good! 2015-2055

Weingut Reinhold Haart

2009er	Reinhold Haart	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese GK	17 10	Auction	(92-95)
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Still quite primary in its evolution and marked by fermentation notes (which is not surprising as it is a cask sample), this backward wine offers subtle notes of smoke, peach with exotic fruit lurking in the background. The wine is rich but very precise on the palate with a great acidic backbone coming through in the finish. This should turn into a true beauty with bottle aging. 2018-2034

Weingut von Hövel

1985er	von Hövel	Oberemmeler Hütte Riesling Auslese		Auction	
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We have not yet tasted this wine in our career so far. 1985 is not going down in memory as one of the top vintages of the century. However, there have been quite some great successes, which are still very much alive and kicking today. An early frost (in November) allowed many Estates to produce what would have been called Auslese-Eiswein wines in the old days. This bottling of Auslese was made from partially frozen grapes.

Weingut Heymann-Löwenstein

2009er	Heymann-Löwenstein	Winninger Uhlen L Riesling Auslese lange GK	02 10	Auction	97
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This is a stunner of an Auslese harvested on the Laubach terroir (hence the L) in the Winninger Uhlen, a terroir characterized by a high proportion of limestone in the grey slate base giving the wines a more opulent structure. Well, this wine is opulent with notes of white and yellow peaches infused in the most wonderful see bergamot tea with cream on the nose. The structure is rich, but what makes this wine so irresistible is the breathtaking silky fell on the palate. The wine does not coat but just caresses the taste buds with rich notes of whipped cream and honeyed citrus. This is flirting with perfection in this rich and ample expression of Mosel Auslese. It is impossible not to fall in love with this beauty. 2017-2039

Weingut Karthäuserhof

2009er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 37 GK		Auction	95
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Harvested at 118° Oechsle degrees, this offers a stunning nose mixing fresh peach and cassis with mint, all wrapped in delicate notes of cream and smoke: This screams of Ruwer and of Karthäuserhof. The aromatics are remarkably fresh, with great sappy acidity and just a hint of botrytis adding some length and extra dimensions to the finish, which is superbly long and elegant. The wine reminds us of a blend of the great 2001 and the 1993 version. This is a great Auslese! 2017-2034



Mosel Fine Wines

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2007er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Beerenauslese Nr. 50	Auction	95
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Harvested with 170° Oechsle, this is a great creamy wine with notes of quince, pear and candied apricot. It gains further in volume with some airing, and then offers a Sauternes-like feel in which some vanilla, tangerine and lead pencil come into play. The wine is smooth and broad-shouldered on the palate, yet remains very nicely balanced, with great aromatic intensity and zest. The finish is exotic, fresh and complex. This is quite an impressive BA in a rather opulent and baroque style. 2017-2047

1959er	Karthäuserhof	Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Trockenbeerenauslese Nr. 3	Auction	
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We have not yet tasted this rarity in our career. 1959 is one of mythical vintages in the region, whose wines still taste remarkably well today (see our assessment on this vintage and some tasting notes in the Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 1 – Oct 2008). The Karthäuserhof produced several TBAs in 1959, mostly from berry selections in late October. According to records at the Estate, this Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg TBA Fuder Nr. 3 was made from fruit boasting a cool 240° Oechsle with 14 g/l of total acidity.

Weingut von Kesselstatt

1999er	von Kesselstatt	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Spätlese Trocken	69 00	Auction	91
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Annegret Reh-Gartner bottled quite some quantities of magnums from this wine (and two other wines) in the 1999 vintage, which marked the 650th anniversary of this truly historic Estate. These magnums were kept in the Estate's cellar for release at maturity. And they are now at maturity! Served from magnum (i.e. in the format in which it will be sold at the Auction), this is still remarkably fresh and offers a refined and airy nose of candied citrus, peach skin, fresh lemon, anise and verbena tea. The wine is nicely structured on the palate, which is both light and racy. The finish is elegant and persistent. It is a lovely dry Ruwer wine and one with still great potential ahead. Now-2015

1998er	von Kesselstatt	Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling Eiswein	45 99	Auction	93
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Served from a full bottle (i.e. the format in which it will be sold at the Auction), this Eiswein presents an orange-golden color and has a hugely expressive and slightly oxidative nose with candied fruits, dried apricot, strawberry juice, kirsch, biscuit (cinnamon), anise, ginger and blood orange. The wine is superbly racy on the palate with a nice creamy side but also zesty flavors of grapefruit and citrus peel adding to a great sensation of freshness. The finish is marked by quite some acidity, a characteristics shared by many 1998 Eiswein bottlings. This delicious Eiswein is now at maturity but should drink well for many more years. Now-2018

Weingut Schloss Lieser

2009er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	17 10	Auction	95
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Based on a strict selection of perfectly clean grapes from 20 years old vines, this is a real head-turner! It offers wonderful notes of yeasts, citrus and lemon grass on the nose, which carry through onto the palate. The aromatic intensity on the palate is staggering and yet the wine remains so zesty and utterly drinkable. The finish is long with some exotic notes of fresh pineapple making one beg for another sip. This is irresistible and a great auction Spätlese. 2017-2039

2009er	Schloss Lieser	Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese lange GK	18 10	Auction	96
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Harvested at well over 140° Oechsle, this offers a stunning complex and deep nose mixing exotic fruits (pineapple, coconut) with fresh notes of yellow peach, vanilla and honeyed apricot. The wine is massively intense on the palate, with great liqueur, and yet it remains focused and playful in the finish. This is really a BA in structure but a very sappy one. What a success! 2019-2049

Weingut Dr. Loosen

2009er	Dr. Loosen	Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese GK	49 10	Auction	(93-94)
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This offers a great intense nose of cassis, pineapple, mango and star anise. The wine is quite powerful on the palate yet remains racy and very precise. The finish is long and intense. This has the weight, aromatic depth and length of a great Auslese and the raciness of a great Spätlese. And this is what makes this wine so fascinating ... and easy to drink! 2017-2034



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

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2009er	Dr. Loosen	Erdener Prälät Riesling Auslese lange GK	45 10	Auction	(92-95+)
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Still somewhat closed and marked by fermentation notes, this hugely impressive Auslese bowls one over with a stunning nose of pineapple, cinnamon, nutmeg, roasted nuts and dried herbs. The wine is powerful and slightly coarse at the moment on the palate with huge extraction and intensity, and yet it retains great tension and balance. The finish is nearly endless. This baroque expression of Prälät could be easily at the high end of the range after shedding some of the youthful exuberance. 2019-2044

Weingut Egon Müller

2009er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett Alte Reben	16 10	Auction	92
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This offers a great nose driven by cassis and raspberry cream as well as classical Scharzhofberger notes of white peach and white flowers. But where this wine really impresses is on the palate: The intensity and lightness are staggering. This remains a Kabinett and yet is packed with flavors and zesty acidity. It is a hugely impressive wine and a must have for Scharzhofberger lovers. This is a worthy successor of the great 2004 and 2001 auction Kabinett bottlings. 2017-2029

2009er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese	19 10	Auction	94
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This offers a great and complex nose of peach, cassis and gooseberry blended into fresh green herbs. The wine is delicately creamy but above remarkably zesty on the palate and offers good length. It is a true beauty in the making in a style not unlike that of the 1999 version, one of the greatest Spätlese ever made (see our Issue No 11 and the large 1999 retrospective), only a tad firmer and more structured. This is a beauty in the making. 2019-2044

2009er	Egon Müller	Scharzhofberger Riesling Auslese GK	21 10	Auction	98
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This is a great, deep and yet remarkably fresh expression of Scharzhofberger Auslese GK. The wine boasts delicately honeyed flavors of pear, pineapple and peach as well as some oriental spices on the nose. The balance and intensity are staggering. The wine coats the palate with creamy flavors of fruits and honey, and yet the wine remains comparatively fresh and elegant thanks to great acidity. The length in the finish is simply mind-blowing. This is (yet another!) milestone wine from this remarkable Estate, made in a less ostentatiously botrytized style than in 2008. 2024-2059

Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

2009er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese		Auction	(93-95)
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This is a beautiful and delightful Spätlese playing the full cassis and elderflower register on the nose. The wine is very light on the palate yet shows the telltale Prüm multi-layered complexity. The finish is fresh and zesty. Although still quite closed at this stage, which is not unusual for Prüm wines, this has terrific potential. 2017-2034

2009er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese		Auction	(95-97)
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Wow, this is a stunning Auslese made in the classic complex *feine Auslese* of the old days. The wine offers complex flowery notes with some pear, sappy white peach, a hint of cassis and a delicate touch of lightly candied citrus. The aromatic intensity on the palate is superb and yet all this happens in a wine which remains just incredibly airy. The finish is nearly endless and yet remains as light as a feather. This is a cracker of an Auslese which remains true to its style. 2019-2034

2009er	Joh. Jos. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese GK		Auction	(94-96+)
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This offers great complexity with some baking notes (from fermentation) yet reveals complex flavors of pear, honey and yellow peach. The wine offers good weight on the palate with just perfectly balanced intensity and acidity. The finish is gorgeously long and incredibly airy. This is superbly made in the classical light yet intense style of the House. 2022-2044



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

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Weingut S.A. Prüm

2009er	S.A. Prüm	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	26 10	Auction	(91-93)
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What a great positive surprise! The Estate introduced some changes in 2009, including more Fuder aging and recourse to wild yeast fermentation, and judging by the auction wines, this has been beneficial to the overall quality! Harvested from the oldest un-grafted vines around the Sonnenuhr in the original Prüm holdings, this wine offers a great delicate and complex nose driven by yellow fruits, white peach, candied citrus and some white flowers. It is remarkably precise and racy on the palate, with the intensity of an Auslese yet the raciness and delicacy of a Spätlese. This is a lovely and quite irresistible wine. 2017-2029

2009er	S.A. Prüm	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese Fass 33		Auction	92+
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What a great positive surprise! The Estate introduced some changes in 2009, including more Fuder aging and recourse to wild yeast fermentation, and judging by the auction wines, this has been beneficial to the overall quality! This Auslese offers a rich and intense nose of smoke, deep yellow fruits including peach, mango and pineapple as well as some hints of honey on the palate. The wine is remarkably precise, with good aromatic depth in the finish. This is a lovely wine. 2017-2034

1911er	S.A. Prüm	Wehlener Hammerstein Auslese		Auction	
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We have not yet tasted this wine in our career so far. 1911 is one of the mythical vintages in Germany, on par with 1893, 1904, 1921, 1959, etc. From the available records, the vintage was characterized by low yields, a very dry and sometimes tropical hot weather in July and no widespread outbreak of botrytis. The Hammerstein vineyard is today part of the Wehlener Sonnenuhr and is situated mid-hill in direction of Graach, on a slightly deeper soil (beneficial in case of dry vintages).

Weingut Schloss Saarstein

2009er	Schloss Saarstein	Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Auslese GK	15 10	Auction	94
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This offers a great nose of gooseberry, cassis with the classical Saar flavors of slatey smoke. The wine is racy and structured on the palate, with great aromatic precision and intensity as well as a nice delicate creamy touch in the finish to add a cuddly side to the fascinating Saar steely structure. This is a beauty and a great success of the vintage. 2017-2034

Weingut Willi Schaefer

2009er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	04 10	Auction	95
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Made from holdings in the Gerdgrub (a vineyard situated in the heart of the Domprobst), this is a remarkable expression of the terroir. It is quite intense and even powerful, yet so light and dancing on the palate. The aromatics are fresh with notes of peach flower, ginger, anise and green pepper. It has the complexity of an Auslese and the lightness and zesty presence of a Spätlese. This will be fascinating to follow over the coming decades! 2017-2034

2009er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	07 10	Auction	98+
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The story of this wine is worth telling, explains Christoph Schaefer: "When we came to this vineyard in the Fergert part of the Domprobst, there were hardly any berries left. Was it the result of wild boars? I don't know. But what was left was simply perfect: Very small and perfectly ripe berries. We harvested all in one go and this is the result." Well, the result is quite stunning. This has the intensity of the finest of Auslese but it is not a typical Auslese GK or LGK, it is fresher, lighter. The wine just offers the most unbelievable nose of white, yellow and red fruits (cassis, pineapple and citrus), wrapped in sappy notes of honey and spices. Despite all the opulence, the wine remains elegant and refined on the palate with a seemingly endless finish, where more flavors emerge and the acidity continues to tickle the palate for minutes on end. It is a stunning piece of winemaking and simply one of the most exciting young wines ever tasted in this "Feine Auslese" style. This could ultimately merit a perfect score: It is that impressive! 2017-2039

1971er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Beerenauslese	09 72	Auction	95
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We have tasted this rarity from a half-bottle at the Estate in Q1 2008. Here the tasting note published in Issue No 6 in April 2009: This wine is still quite marked by botrytis but remains incredibly fresh and elegant with good zesty flavors of honey, apple, apricot, orange peel and date. After some airing, notes of exotic fruit (passion fruit), white truffle and brioche kick in. The wine is powerful and remarkably sweet for such an old Beerenauslese. This is nearly too easy to drink. Now-2030



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch

2009er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Spätlese	Auction	(93-94)
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The wine is still quite backward (which is not surprising as these wines need a lot of time) but hints already at great notes of mango, yellow peach with the telltale hint of laurel and sage. It is remarkably racy and precise on the palate with a great creamy touch coming through in the finish. This is a great Doctor Spätlese in the making and one which, as usual, will require some time to show all its potential. But the patient wine lovers will be rewarded. 2019-2039

1960er	Wwe Dr. H. Thanisch – Erben Thanisch	Berncasteler Doctor feinste Auslese	Auction	
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We have not yet tasted this rarity in our career. Sofia Thanisch thought it interesting to bring a 50 year old rarity to the Auction (for those less accustomed to mature German wines, feinste was a denomination used before 1971, which is comparable to the modern long gold capsule). The vintage 1960 proved overall a rather off vintage characterized by very late harvesting (which started only in November and lasted well into December). Only few Auslese (let alone feinste Auslese...) bottlings were made and these were mostly from partially frozen (Eiswein) fruit. This is not a vintage often seen on the market: The few wines we have tasted from this vintage were on the austere side of life but had held up well thanks to firm acidity.

Weingut Wegeler

2009er	Wegeler	Bernkasteler Doctor Riesling Auslese lange GK	14 10	Auction	96
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This is a stunning wine which impresses through its breathtaking aromatic precision. The wine offers the most clean and pure notes of yellow fruits (with the telltale note of laurel only lurking in the background at this stage). It is superbly precise and balanced on the palate with honeyed notes beautifully wrapping juicy yellow fruits. The acidity is tickling and gives the whole wine a sense of freshness in the finish. This is a must have for all Doctor wine lovers. What a beauty! 2019-2044



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