



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Willi Schaefer

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

Christoph Schaefer explained with some relief that they did not suffer as much from the outbreak of peronospora as from hail: "We had to work hard in May and June to handle the outbreak of peronospora, which we eventually manage to achieve. We did however suffer some losses from hail as Graach got hit twice, at the end of May and then again, although less severely, in August. August and September proved really dry, which meant that unhealthy grapes simply fell off but also no botrytis developed. In the end, the losses from hail proved almost beneficial because sugar levels were higher in those vineyards and this allowed us to make some Auslese selections. The weather proved so warm and ripeness was progressing so fast that we first believed that we would have to start the harvest very early. In the end, things settled down and we harvested from October 11 until the end of October. For me, it is a classic Kabinett and Spätlese vintage because the late flowering did not allow the sugar levels to go through the roof."

The Estate produced its usual portfolio of wines, including three bottlings of Domprobst Spätlese and Auslese, one of each being destined for the upcoming Auction in September).

The collection oozes the telltale Schaefer elegance with some pure and ripe fruits superbly wrapped into delicately tickly and acidity. Unlike recent vintages, Domprobst seems to have the upper hand on Himmelreich in 2016 at Willi Schaefer. Highlights of the collection are the Domprobst Spätlese AP05 and the Domprobst Auslese AP14. However, admirers of Willi Schaefer wines will find much to like at all levels of these classic and elegant rendition of Mosel Riesling.

NB: The Domprobst auction Spätlese and auction Auslese will be reviewed in the Auction Report 2017 to be released ahead of the upcoming Auctions.

2016er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	14 17	94+
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This Auslese is the result of a selection harvested at above 105° Oechsle. It develops a gorgeous nose of greengage, pear, candied grapefruit and earthy spices, with some cassis in the background. The wine is nicely fruity, with exotic flavors of mango, citrus and pear wrapped in gorgeously zesty acidity. This baby has huge development potential if the fresh side of the wine comes through. 2025-2041

2016er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese	11 17	93
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This Auslese harvested at just above 100° Oechsle delivers a gorgeous nose of vineyard peach, mango, almond and fine spices. The wine proves delicately lively on the palate and delivers great purity and multi-layered complexity in the ripe and creamy finish. 2026-2041

2016er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	05 17	93
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This offers a gorgeous nose of slightly yellow fruits, ginger and earthy spices. The wine proves quite lively and nicely focused on the palate, with zesty acidity driving the aromatic profile. The wine is nicely elegant and well balanced in the focused and yellow peach infused finish. This is a gorgeous Spätlese in the making. 2026-2041

2016er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett	03 17	92+
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This offers a gorgeous nose of pear, earthy spices and some citrusy grapefruit elements in the background. The wine proves gorgeously well balanced on the palate, where a delicately smooth side is nicely wrapped into zesty acidity. The finish is all about pear-infused fruit purity and finesse and one is left with a great mouth-watering playfulness in the after-taste. This could ultimately exceed our expectations if the fresher side takes the upper hand at maturity. 2026-2041

2016er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese	04 17	92
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The wine proves nicely elegant with ripe pear, a hint of white peach and lots of fresh herbs. It proves nicely juicy and smooth on the palate, with just the right amount of zesty acidity to make for a lovely multi-layered finish. 2026-2041

2016er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	10 17	92
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This offers a gorgeous nose of pear, candied lemon, spices and herbs. The wine proves gorgeously elegant and pure on the palate. Unlike in other vintages, the fruity side of the Domprobst is already present and adds to the wine's early charm. The finish is all about silk, finesse and delicacy. This gorgeously light Spätlese is all about elegance. 2026-2041



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2016er	Willi Schaefer	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	17 17	92
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This offers a slightly under-cooled nose of vineyard peach, apricot blossom and grapefruit. The wine is beautifully playful on the palate and leaves a ripe and yet juicy and delicately creamy feel in the finish. 2024-2041

2016er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese	08 17	91
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This offers a deliciously ripe nose of melon, pear and citrusy fruits. The wine proves nicely ripe and juicy on the palate, with ripe acidity. The wine is beautifully balanced, with playful but ripe acidity providing the right balance to the overall structure of the wine. The finish is multi-layered and quite elegant in its complex expression of ripeness. 2026-2041

2016er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett	02 17	90+
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This offers a gorgeous nose of melon, herbs and spices, with a citrusy and peachy element only lurking in the background at this (early) stage. The wine proves nicely playful and delicately zesty on the palate and leaves a nice feel in the hugely complex and elegant finish. This only needs time to develop its full potential. It could ultimately exceed our expectations if the fresher side takes the upper hand at maturity. 2026-2041

2016er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Riesling Feinherb	07 17	88
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This offers a gorgeous nose of pear, quince, grapefruit and earthy spices. The wine is nicely balanced on the palate and develops great presence, underpinned by zesty acidity in the lively finish. This is a textbook Estate wine with plenty of life ahead. Now-2026

2016er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Riesling Trocken	06 17	87
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This offers an inviting ripe nose of pear and fine spices. The wine proves nicely tart and fresh on the palate and leaves a satisfyingly ripe feel in the long and surprisingly full-bodied and intense finish. 2018-2026

About Mosel Fine Wines

[Independent publication](#) on Mosel Riesling (and beyond!) with reports on vintages, Estates and wines at maturity.

Covering every year up to [1,000 wines from the current vintage](#) from all leading Estates of the region, of which the best make it into the Issues.

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