

# RESTAURANT WINE

The Full Service Guide to On Sale Beverage Profits



— **Notebook: A Good Time to Revisit Wine Service**

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# STAR LISTINGS



EVERY ISSUE, YOU CAN DEVELOP AN OUTSTANDING, WELL BALANCED WINE LIST AND WINE BY-THE-GLASS PROGRAM FROM THE WINES RECOMMENDED HERE.

## RESTAURANT WINE®'S EVALUATION SYSTEM

QUALITY ratings are:

- ★★★★★ **EXCEPTIONAL** quality for its type and style; a superstar within its price category. Merits an extra special effort to purchase. Very highly recommended.
- ★★★★ **EXCELLENT** quality for its type, style, and price. Among the very best of its type for its price. Highly recommended.
- ★★★ **VERY GOOD** quality for its type, style, and price. Has distinctive character and positive attributes. Recommended.



Unusually smooth for the wine's type and age, and a good wine by-the-glass choice.

**Alcohol content** – as stated, by volume (i.e., 7.5% to 22%)

**[2018-2021]** Anticipated peak drinkability, not aging potential.

★★★★★★★★★★

### USA

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*We taste approximately twice as many wines for each issue as appear in these pages. The top 880 are recommended here.*

## Wines & Wineries to Watch

USA—The Russian River Valley is becoming well-known for the quality of its classic method sparkling wines, and **Balletto's** Brut Rose is another feather in the region's sparkling cap... Impressive 2014 California Chardonnays on the market include those from **EnRoute**, **Grgich Hills** (Paris

Commemorative), **Ramey** (especially the single vineyard bottlings), and **Williams Selyem** (Lewis MacGregor)... The 2015 Chardonnays have now arrived, and the wines are—at their best—outstanding. Among those that have strongly impressed are those from **Cakebread**, **Clos Pegase**, **J. Lohr, Patz & Hall**, and **Trefethen**, among others... 2015 was also a terrific vintage for Sauvignon Blanc, as shown by the wonderful wines made by **Chalk Hill**, **Sidebar**, **Stag's Leap Wine Cellars**, and **Voss Vineyards**... Some terrific 2013 Cabernet Sauvignons to seek out include **Arrowood's** Knights Valley, **Beringer's** Private Reserve, **Charles Krug's** Generations, and **Robert Mondavi's** Reserve... Another 2013 Napa red not to miss is **St. Supery's** 2013 Rutherford Cabernet Franc... 2014 was an outstanding vintage for California and Washington state red wines. Here, we recommend Cabernet Sauvignons from **Amici**, **Beringer**, **J. Lohr**, **DeLille** (Four Flags), **Ramey**, and **Trefethen**, among others... 2014 was also a wonderful vintage for Pinot Noir; seek out those from **Balletto Estate**, **Bouchaine**, **Charles Krug**, **Freeman**, **EnRoute**, **Patz & Hall**, **Robert Mondavi**, **Square Peg**, and **Williams Selyem**... The 2015 vintage for California Pinot Noir is the fourth excellent vintage in a row; the wines have great aromatic intensity and depth, as reflected in the wines from **Dutton Estate**, **Kosta Browne**, **Talbott**, and **Williams Selyem**, among others... Syrah, anyone? Hard to find a better one than **DeLille's** 2014 Signature Syrah... Speaking of DeLille, its 2014 Cabernet-Syrah Doyenne is one of the best being produced in North America... Similarly, **J. Lohr's** 2014 Tower Road Petite Sirah is a benchmark for the varietal.

**ARGENTINA**—Torrontes is gaining traction in the US market, especially on-premise, where the varietal's aromatic intensity, drinkability, and affordability are spurring restaurateurs to drop it into their by the glass programs, at least during spring and summer months. Two of the best—and best value—Torrontes are those from **Colome** and **Amalaya**, the latter's is blended with 15% Riesling... **Pascual Toso** is an excellent Mendoza producer, whose wines deserve to be better known, as judged by the winery's excellent 2015 Estate Malbec and 2013 Alta Malbec (single vineyard)... Other Malbecs not to miss include those from **Amalaya** (2015 Salta) and **Colome** (2014 Estate)... **Santa Julia's** 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva is terrific, and a great value.

**AUSTRALIA**—**Pewsey Vale's** 2016 Eden Valley Dry Riesling is a winner... Hard to find a better medium priced Shiraz than **Earthworks'** 2015 (Barossa Valley), or a better medium priced Pinot Noir than **MacPherson's** 2015 (Victoria)... **Langmeil's** Three Gardens SMG is a splendid blend and an extraordinary value.

**CHILE**—Two top value Chilean Sauvignon Blancs to try are the 2016s from **Hacienda Araucano** (Reserva, Lolol Valley) and **William Cole** (Albamar, Casablanca Valley)... Chile is beginning to turn up the heat in terms of the quality and styling of its Cabernet Sauvignon-based wines—and they have never been better. Try, for example, the **Vina Maquis** 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Gran Reserva (Colchagua Valley), **Domus Aurea** 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Upper Maipo Valley), or the exceptional blend **Maquis Lien** from 2011 (**Los Maquis**, Colchagua Valley).

**FRANCE**—The Exem 2015 Bordeaux Blanc is a terrific Sauvignon-Semillon blend, at a great price... **Chateau de Beaucastel's** 2015 Vieilles Vignes Chateaneuf-du-Pape Blanc is one of the greatest dry white wines from France we have ever tasted... Of course, 2015 happened to be a great vintage in the Rhone Valley, and basic Rhone appellations produced high quality wines. A current standout: the 2015 Cote-du-Rhone-Villages from **La Renjardiere**... Beaujolais also enjoyed a superb 2015 vintage, and we were extremely impressed with the

offerings from **Georges Duboeuf**, both the Flower Label and Domaine bottlings, which are not only excellent wines but also wonderful values.

**GERMANY**—2015 was also a great vintage in Germany, and an extraordinary range of outstanding dry and sweet wines was produced. Some of the very best dry Rieslings we tasted (and awarded 5 star ratings to) include those from: **Baron Knyphausen, Bassermann-Jordan, Battenfeld Spanier, Bruder Dr. Becker, Burg Ravensburg, Burklin-Wolf, Castell, Domdechant Werner, Donnhoff, Grans-Fassian, Hans Wirsching, Heitlinger, Johannishof, Karl Haidle, Karthausenhof, Kloster Eberbach, Kuhling-Gillot, Juliusspital, Louis Guntrum, Muller-Catoir, Pffeffingen, Prinz zu Salm, Robert Weil, S.A. Prum, Schloss Johannisberg, Schloss Vollrads, von Kesselstatt, Wagner-Stempel, and Wittmann . . .**

Exceptional fruity and late harvest Rieslings (awarded 5 stars) included those from: **Baron Knyphausen, Bassermann-Jordan, Bruder Dr. Becker, Donnhoff, Dr. Thanisch/Erben Thanisch, Fritz Haag, Grans-Fassian, Johannishof, Karthausenhof, Kloster Eberbach, Kuhling-Gillot, Louis Guntrum, Muller-Catoir, Prinz zu Salm, Robert Weil, S.A. Prum, Schloss Johannisberg, Schloss Saarstein, Schloss Vollrads, Schmitt-Soehne, Toni Jost, von Kesselstatt, Wegeler, and Willi Schaefer . . .**

2015 was also a top vintage for Silvaner, and we strongly recommend those from Franconian producers **Castell, Hans Wirsching, and Juliusspital**. Other dry German whites to seek out include the Pinot Blancs from **Wagner-Stempel** (Rheinhessen), **Dr. Heger** and **Franz Keller** (Baden), **Castell** (Franconia); and the Pinot Gris from **Dr. Heger** and **Heitlinger** (Baden). Both **Hans Wirsching** (Franconia) and **Muller-Catoir** (Pfalz) also produced exceptional dry Scheurebes in 2015...

Germany is also a significant producer of Pinot Noir (Spatburgunder). Newly released 2015s from **Burg Ravensburg** and **Heitlinger**, both in Baden, are outstanding wines at very reasonable prices . . . The 2013 **Vorderer Winklerberg GG** Pinot Noir from **Dr. Heger** is an extremely impressive wine . . . As are the 2014 GG Lembergers from **Karl Haidle**, of Wurttemberg fame.

**ITALY**—Hard to find better medium priced classic method sparkling wines than **Rotari's** 2013 Brut and 2013 Rose Brut . . . **Carpene Malvolti** is a top Prosecco producer . . . Excellent Italian whites to seek out include **Sartori's** 2015 Ferdi and **Marotti Campi's** 2013 Salmariano Verdicchio Riserva . . . Piedmont's **Filipo Gallino** is producing wonderful Barbera d'Alba and Langhe Nebbiolo at very modest prices . . . **Carla Benini's** Sassotondo Ciliegolo from Maremma is an outstanding wine and a great value . . . **I Saltari's** 2012 Valpolicella Superiore is a remarkable wine . . . **Lungarotti's** 2010 Rubesco Riserva, Vigna Monticchio is one of Italy's best Sangiovese-based wines . . . Outstanding 2011 Chianti Classico Riservas include those from **Casaloste, Il Molino di Grace, Rietine, Setriolo, and Vignavecchia . . . Le Fonti di Panzano's** 2013 Chianti Classico is exceptional . . . As are the 2014 Chianti Classicos from **Poggio Scalette** and **Savignola Paolina**, both in Greve in Chianti.

**SOUTH AFRICA**—South Africa's fine wine boom has accelerated in recent years, as better and more interesting wines are regularly appearing, often from old vines. **Buiterverwachtig's** Beyond label, for example, produced an outstanding 2016 Sauvignon Blanc that is also a wonderful value . . . Similarly, **Man Family's** 2016 Free-Run Steen (Chenin Blanc) is an excellent wine at a very reasonable price . . . One of South Africa's best Chardonnays and one of its finest Syrahs are made by **Richard Kershaw Wines** (Kershaw is also a Master of Wine) . . . **Kanonkop's** 2011 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is its best yet . . . **De Toren's 'Z'** (2011, Stellenbosch) is an exceptional Merlot blend.



**USA**  
(SPARKLING, WHITE, ROSE & RED WINES)  
*(from California, unless noted otherwise)*

**CLASSIC METHOD SPARKLING WINES — High Priced:  
\$201-\$400/case (\$25.10-\$50/btl. full retail)**



**BALLETTO VINEYARDS, 2012 BRUT ROSE, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$360 (\$45) ★★★★★**  
Exceptional. Pale copper color. Fragrant in aroma, medium bodied, and crisp, this is a fine, youthful sparkling wine with complex baked bread, pineapple, candied lemon, cherry, walnut, and honey aromas/flavors. Very long finish. 70% Pinot Noir (tank fermented, no ML), 30% Chardonnay (barrel fermented, full ML). Aged 3 years on the yeast. 780 cases. 12.3% [2018-2020] 707.568.2455

**MERRIAM VINEYARDS, 2014 BLANC DE NOIRS, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$280 (\$35) ★★★**  
Very pale copper-yellow; almost water white. Fine and delicate in character (plum, baked bread, pineapple, lemon peel), medium bodied, crisp, and very long on the finish. A vibrant Blanc de Noirs; excellent value. 100% Pinot Noir. Certified organic. Aged 10 months on the yeast. 128 cases. Disgorged July 28, 2015. 12% [2017-2019] 707.433.4032

**CLASSIC METHOD SPARKLING WINES — Expensive:  
\$401-\$800/case (\$50.10-\$100/btl. full retail)**

**GOLDENEYE, 2013 BRUT ROSE, ANDERSON VALLEY, \$228/6 (\$57) ★★★**  
Light copper color. A crisp, full bodied sparkling wine that is round, finely flavored (cherry, lemon peel, plum, grapefruit, toast, walnut), and crisp and vibrant on the finish. Excellent; warrants further aging. 67% Pinot Noir, 33% Chardonnay. Base wine aged 10 months: 90% in French oak barrels, 10% in stainless steel. Aged 20 months on the yeast. Disgorged April, 2016. 13% [2018-2020] 707.895.3202

**CHARDONNAY — Medium Priced:  
\$73-\$160/case (\$9.10-\$20/btl. full retail)**

**IRONSTONE VINEYARDS, 2015 LODI, \$120 (\$15) ★★★**  
Screw cap. Excellent: round, full bodied, and balanced, it is a Chardonnay with apple, toast, lemon peel, pineapple, and oak aromas/flavors, and a medium long finish. Fine value. Aged 5 months in French oak. 4,500 cases. 13.5% [2017-2018] 209.728.1251



**WEINGUT PFEFFINGEN, 2015 DRY RIESLING, PFALZ, \$160 (\$20) ★★★+**

Screw cap. A dry, supple Riesling that is round, distinct in flavor (apple, honeysuckle, grapefruit), balanced, and medium long on the finish. Very good value. AP #27. 12.5% [2020-2024] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499

**WEINGUT ROBERT WEIL, 2015 RIESLING DRY, RHEINGAU, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★**

Screw cap. An excellent dry Riesling: very distinct in character (honeysuckle, pineapple, lime, peach, grapefruit), it is medium bodied, crisp, and medium long on the finish. Can be aged a bit. AP #006. VDP. Gutswein. 23,000 cases. 12% [2018-2020] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

**WEINGUT SCHLOSS VOLLRADS, 2015 RHEINGAU, \$100/6 (\$25) ★★★★★+**

Vinolok closure. Very fine quality: supple in texture, ripely flavored, and well balanced, it has modest richness and a long finish, tasting of peach, honey, pineapple, honeysuckle, and lime. Excellent value. 0.89% R.S. AP #017. 12% [2018-2020] Schmitt Soehne, Millersville, MD 410.729.4083

**WEINGUT TONI JOST, 2015 STEEGER ST. JOST, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★**

Screw cap. A medium rich, supple dry Riesling. It is medium bodied, floral and fruity in character (peach, jasmine, lime, rose petal, pineapple), balanced, and medium long on the finish. Great value. AP #09. 12% [2019-2021] Cavatappi Distribuzione (Seattle, WA), Valley View Wine Sales (Glen Ellen, CA), Golden Ram Imports (New York, NY), among others

**WEINGUT WAGNER-STEMPEL, 2015 RHEINHESSEN, \$194 (\$24) ★★★★★**

Screw cap. Exceptional quality and value, this is a medium bodied, intensely flavored dry Riesling that is smooth and long on the palate, with a lingering finish, tasting of pineapple, lime, green apple, and white peach. Can be aged further. Organically grown grapes. AP #01. VDP.Gutswein. 12% [2019-2022] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499

**WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER, 2015 GRAACHER, \$192 (\$24) ★★★★★+**

Screw cap. Excellent dry Graacher Riesling. It is dry, crisp, medium bodied, and distinct in character (green apple, lime, pineapple, white peach), with good balance and a medium long, vibrant finish. Fine value. AP #06. 11.5% [2019-2021] Skurmik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

**WEINGUT WINTER, 2015 RHEINHESSEN, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★+**

Screw cap. Excellent quality and value. A medium bodied, well balanced dry Riesling, with good fruit character (peach, lime, honeysuckle), and a medium long finish. Can be aged further. AP #05. VDP.Gutswein. 12% [2018-2020] Vision Wine Brands, Port Chester, NY 914.481.5170

**WEINKONTOR A. & J. PFLUGER, 2015 BUNTANDSTEIN, PFALZ, \$184 (\$23) ★★★+**

Screw cap. Very good dry Riesling. It is round, medium full bodied, and crisp; a wine with pineapple, lime, peach, and grapefruit aromas/flavors and a crisp finish. Organic. AP #11. 2,500 cases. 12.5% [2018-2020] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

*VDP—VDP, the world's oldest national association of quality wine estates, has 200 members, including the majority of Germany's most prestigious estates from all 13 German winegrowing regions. Each estate must own at least 5 hectares of vines, planted 80% to varieties traditional in the region.*



**WITTMANN WEIN, 2015 100 HILLS, RIESLING DRY, RHEINHESSEN, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★+**

Screw cap. An outstanding wine at the price: medium full bodied, ripely flavored (peach, grapefruit, lime), crisp, and quite long on the finish. Delivers remarkable value. Organically grown grapes. AP #003. 588 cases. 12.5% [2018-2020] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

**DRY/TROCKEN GERMAN RIESLING — High Priced: \$201-\$400/case (\$25.10-\$50/btl. full retail)**

*NOTE: All wines are QUALITATSWEIN TROCKEN except where indicated otherwise*

**BISCHOFSLICHE WEINGUTER, 2014 RESERVE, TRITTENHEIMER APOTHEKE, \$144/6 (\$36) ★★★★**

Concentrated and complex, this is an intensely flavored dry Riesling with firm acidity, light oakiness, and a very long finish, tasting of lime, pineapple, peach, pine resin, honey, wood, and candied lemon. Excellent; can be aged further. AP #124. 13% [2019-2022] Schmitt Soehne, Millersville, MD 410.729.4083

**DOMAINE WITTMANN**

**DOMAINE WITTMANN, 2015 WESTHOFENER, \$320 (\$40) ★★★★★**

Exceptional dry Riesling. It is round, full bodied, and fairly rich in flavor (lime, grapefruit, pear, white peach, honeysuckle), with excellent balance and length. A blend of wines from three top Westhofen vineyards. Great value. Warrants modest aging. Organically grown grapes. AP #012. VDP.Ortswein. 1,548 cases. 13% [2020-2025] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041



**WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER**



**WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER**

- 2015 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH KABINETT, ★★★★★  
\$248 (\$31)
- 2015 GRAACHER DOMPROBST KABINETT, ★★★★★  
\$248 (\$31)
- 2015 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH SPATLESE, ★★★★★  
\$344 (\$43)
- 2015 GRAACHER DOMPROBST SPATLESE, ★★★★★  
\$344 (\$43)

Willi Schaefer produces fine Rieslings from 9.9 acres of vines in three celebrated vineyards, and is best known for his exceptional Graach bottlings. Production is small: only 3,000 cases a year. ♦ This is a quartet of outstanding 2015 Rieslings; each of these is stunning, and a great value. The Himmelreich Kabinett (screw cap closure) is elegantly flavored, light bodied, and beautifully balanced; a wine with intense aromas/flavors (lime, pineapple, green apple, honeysuckle, white peach) and a very long finish. AP #02. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% ♦ The Domprobst Kabinett is a richer wine, but still light bodied. It is crisp and well balanced, and very long and persistent on the finish, tasting of green apple, lime, white peach, honeysuckle, and pineapple. AP #03. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% ♦ The Himmelreich Spatlese is exceptional: light bodied, finely flavored, crisp, and very long and vibrant on the finish, with excellent persistence (white peach, lime, honeysuckle, pineapple, honey). AP #08. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% ♦ The Domprobst Spatlese is spectacular: round, rich, crisp, and vibrant and long on the palate, with intense white peach, melon, lime, and pineapple aromas/flavors, and a long, full finish. Top quality. AP #10. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% All four wines warrant at least 3+ more years of bottle aging. [2020-2027] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300



**WEINGUT S.A. PRUM, 2015 WEHLENER SONNENUHR AUSLESE, \$300/6 (\$75)** ★★★★★  
 Screw cap. A very good Auslese: light bodied, intensely flavored, crisp, and long on the palate, with very complex character (peach jam, pineapple, honey, candied lemon, honeysuckle), and a long finish. Excellent; warrants aging. 8.44% R.S. AP #01. VDP.Grosse Lage. 52 cases. 8.5% [2022-2032] Palm Bay Int'l, Port Washington, NY 516.802.4700

**WEINGUT SCHLOSS SAARSTEIN, 2015 SERRIG SCHLOSS SAARSTEINER AUSLESE, \$568 (\$71)** ★★★★★+  
 An elegant Auslese. It is very finely flavored (honey, honeysuckle, white peach, linden blossom, lime), medium rich, and very crisp and long on the finish. Still quite young; needs aging. AP #11. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% [2023-2033] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

**WEINGUT ST. URBANS-HOF, 2015 OCKFENER BOCKSTEIN AUSLESE, \$256/12 375 m.l. (\$32/375 m.l.)** ★★★★★  
 A vibrant, intensely flavored Bockstein Auslese, with supple texture, firm acidity, fine flavor (lime, peach, linden blossom, pear, pineapple), and a very long finish. Still very young; needs aging. AP #15. VDP.Grosse Lage. 9.5% [2021-2030] HB Merchants, New York, NY 917.402.0456

**WEINGUT WVE. DR. H. THANISCH, ERBEN THANISCH, 2015 BERNCATELER DOCTOR SPATLESE, \$340/6 (\$85)** ★★★★★  
 An excellent wine: light bodied, richly flavored, and finely balanced, with a very long finish, tasting of lime, yellow plum, honey, peach, and honeysuckle. Warrants aging. AP #5. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% [2020-2028] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

**RICH/SWEET GERMAN RIESLING — Very Expensive: \$801/case & Up (\$100.10/btl. & Up full retail)**

**DOMANE SCHLOSS JOHANNISBERG, 2015 ROSALACK, SCHLOSS JOHANNISBERGER AUSLESE, \$604/12 375 m.l. (\$76/375 m.l.)** ★★★★★  
 Luscious and refined in style, this is a very fine Auslese: light bodied, round, very concentrated (peach, linden blossom, honey, lime, pineapple), crisp, well balanced, and vibrant and persistent on the finish. Warrants extended aging. 12.84% R.S. Aged 5 months in stainless steel tanks. AP #008. 7% [2025-2038] MW Imports, Brooklyn, NY 718.596.3339

**WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER**



**WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER**

- **2015 GRAACHER DOMPROBST SPATLESE, NO. 5, \$416 (\$52)** ★★★★★
- **2015 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH AUSLESE, \$524 (\$65.50)** ★★★★★
- **2015 WEHLENER SONNENUHR AUSLESE, \$628 (\$78.50)** ★★★★★
- **2015 GRAACHER DOMPROBST AUSLESE, \$680 (\$85)** ★★★★★

Willi Schaefer's 2015s are superb across the board, as are these. Each one has intense, fine, distinguished character, excellent balance, and good concentration, and, as a group, they warrant at least 5 more years of bottle aging. The Domprobst Spatlese #5 is Auslese-like: very refined in character, rich, and well balanced, this is a crisp Spatlese with complex white peach, honeysuckle, lime,

and pineapple aromas/flavors, and a very long, persistent finish. AP #5. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% ♦ The Himmelreich Auslese is outstanding: round, rich, and vibrant on the palate, it is elegant in flavor and balance (honey, white peach, pineapple, caramel, lime), and very long on the finish. AP #04. VDP.Grosse Lage. ♦ 7.5% The Sonnenuhr Auslese has more depth and structure (but not the finesse). It is concentrated, crisp, and medium rich, with fine balance and flavor (apple, honey, honeysuckle, pineapple, lime), and a very long, lingering finish. AP #17. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% ♦ The Domprobst Auslese is fantastic: a wine with elegance, depth, and length. It is rich, round, crisp, and vibrant and persistent on the finish, tasting of white peach, lime, yellow plum, pineapple, peach skin, and honeysuckle. A top Auslese. AP #11. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% [2022-2032] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

**WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER— Auction Lots**

- **2015 GRAACHER DOMPROBST SPATLESE, ★★★★★**  
NO. 13, \$500/6 (\$125)
- **2015 GRAACHER DOMPROBST AUSLESE, ★★★★★**  
NO. 15, \$600/6 (\$150)

Two extraordinary 2015 Rieslings from Willi Schaefer. The Spatlese is extremely ripe and refined in flavor (like a fine Auslese), light bodied, supple, and rich; a wine with firm acidity, great balance, and a very persistent finish, tasting of lime, white peach, honey, honeysuckle, kiwi fruit, and yellow plum. AP #13. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% ♦ The Auslese is a luscious, elegant wine that has the depth and character of a BA. It is very concentrated, well balanced, and complex in aroma/flavor (honey, peach, pineapple, apricot, honeysuckle), and powerful and long on the finish. One of the top Ausleses of the vintage. 10.8% R.S. AP #015. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% Both wines are suitable for long-term aging. [2025-2035] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

**WEINGUTER WEGELER, 1991 OESTRICH ★★★★★**  
**LENCHEN AUSLESE, \$390/6 500 m.l. (\$97.50/500 m.l.)**

Medium golden green color. A mature Auslese of excellent quality. It is very complex in character (peach skin, mandarin orange, lime, honey, candle wax, toffee, walnut), light bodied, crisp, and very long and harmonious on the finish. Now at its best, but should hold for several more years. AP #9/92. 9% [2017-2020] Truly Fine Wine, San Diego, CA 858.270.9463

**OTHER DRY/TROCKEN WHITE VARIETALS— Medium Priced:  
\$101-\$200/case (\$12.60-\$25/btl. full retail)**

NOTE: All wines are QUALITATSWEIN TROCKEN,  
except where noted otherwise

**FURSTLICH CASTELL'SCHES DOMANENAMT**

- **2015 SILVANER, SCHLOSS CASTELL, ★★★★★+**  
\$92/6 (\$23)
- **2015 SILVANER, CASTELLER 49 44', ★★★★★**  
CASTELLER, \$200 (\$25)
- **2015 WEISSBURGUNDER, SCHLOSS CASTELL, ★★★★★**  
\$92/6 (\$23)

All three wines have screw cap closures, and all are wonderful values. The Schloss Castell is an excellent Silvaner: round, full bodied, and ripely flavored; a wine with very good balance, good character (honey, apple, pear, white peach, lime), and a long finish. Aged 3 months in tank. Bocksbeutel. AP #020. 13% ♦ The Casteller 49 44' Silvaner is outstanding: full bodied, intensely flavored, crisp, and moderately rich; a wine with ripe fruit flavors (grape, lime, pear, apple), and a very long finish. Aged 5 months in stainless steel tanks. Made with grapes from the excellent Kugelspiel, Hohnart, and Trautberg vineyards. Bordeaux bottle. AP #031. 13.5% ♦ The Weissburgunder is also outstanding: a supple, full bodied wine with fine flavor (peach, pear, lime, honey), excellent balance, and a long finish. Unwooded. Aged 3 months in tank. Bocksbeutel. AP #025. 13% [2018-2020] [2019-2021] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

**JOACHIM HEGER, 2015 GEMISCHTER SCHATZ, ★★★★★**  
**BADEN, \$160 (\$20)**

Very floral in character, this is a dry, medium bodied blend with herbal, floral, fruity aromas/flavors, good balance, modest depth, and medium length finish. 40% Rivaner, 35% Sauvignon Blanc, 14% Muskateller, 8% Weissburgunder, 3% Riesling. AP #17. 12% [2017-2018] Schatzi Wines, Milan, NY 845.266.0376

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**JULIUSSPITAL, 2015 SILVANER, IPHOFER, ★★★★★**  
**\$184 (\$23)**

Screw cap. An elegant Silvaner in a dry, medium full bodied style. It is fragrant (pear, lime, honeysuckle, white peach), well balanced, and long on the finish. Great value. Bocksbeutel. AP# 078. 12.5% [2018-2020] Northwest Wines, San Francisco, CA, and others

**PFLUGER, 2016 CHARDONNAY, PFALZ, \$184 (\$23) ★★★★★**

Screw cap. An excellent Chardonnay in a medium full, fruity style. It has moderate depth, good flavor (pear, apple, honey, roasted nut, lemon) and balance, and a medium long finish. Organic. AP #54. 666 cases. 12.5% [2018-2019] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

**SCHLOSS SAARSTEIN, 2014 PINOT BLANC, ★★★★★**  
**MOSEL, QUALITATSWEIN, \$184 (\$23)**

Screw cap. A crisp, medium full bodied Pinot Blanc. It tastes of apple, lime, and roasted nut, and has a medium length finish. Very good value. AP #02. 12.5% [2017-2019] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

**WEINGUT BRUDER DR. BECKER, ★★★★★+**  
**2015 SCHEUREBE, RHEINHESSEN, \$144 (\$18)**

Fine quality dry Scheurebe. It is fragrant (lime, honeysuckle, pineapple), full bodied, well balanced, and medium long on the finish. Warrants further aging. Great value. Organically grown grapes. AP #13. VDP.Gutswein. 13% [2018-2020] Savio Soares Selections, Brooklyn, NY 718.797.4114

**WEINGUT DR. HEGER, 2015 SILVANER, ★★★★★+**  
**IHRINGER WINKLERBERG, \$100/6 (\$25)**

An excellent, complex Silvaner. It is fruity in character (yellow plum, lemon peel, honey, pear), lightly oaked, full bodied, well balanced, and long on the finish. Excellent value. Warrants modest aging. AP #14. 13.5% [2018-2021] Schatzi Wines, Milan, NY 845.266.0376

**WEINGUT HANS WIRSCHING, 2015 SILVANER, ★★★★★**  
**IPHOFER, \$176 (\$22)**

Screw cap. Excellent quality and value, this is a distinct, somewhat spicy Silvaner, that is round, moderately intense in flavor (pear, grapefruit, pineapple, black pepper), balanced, and lingering on the finish. Bocksbeutel. AP #047. 12.5% [2018-2020] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499

**WEINGUT HEITLINGER, 2015 SPICY STONE, ★★★★★**  
**PINOT GRIS, BADEN, \$192 (\$24)**

Screw cap. Exceptional quality and value, this is a supple, distinct, well balanced wine with a long finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of pear, white peach, lemon peel, and passion fruit. AP #131. 12.5% [2017-2019] WineWise, Oakland, CA 510.473.548, and others

**WEINGUT PFEFFINGEN, 2015 DRY SCHEUREBE, ★★★★★**  
**PFALZ, \$182 (\$22.75)**

Screw cap. Excellent: supple, medium full bodied, and ripely flavored (apple, lime, grapefruit, honeysuckle, lemon peel), it is well balanced and medium long on the finish. Excellent value. AP #06. 12.5% [2018-2020] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499

**WEINGUT WAGNER-STEMPEL, ★★★★★+**  
**2015 WEISSBURGUNDER, RHEINHESSEN, \$192 (\$24)**

Screw cap. Delicious Pinot Blanc: supple, medium full bodied, crisp, finely flavored (pear, almond, lime, white peach, pineapple), and well balanced, with a smooth, long finish. Great value. Organically grown grapes. AP #03. VDP.Gutswein. 12.5% [2019-2021] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499