

RESTAURANT WINE

The Full Service Guide to On Sale Beverage Profits



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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%)

[2022-2024] Anticipated peak drinkability, not aging potential.

★★★★★★★★★

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We taste approximately twice as many wines for each issue as appear in these pages. The top 900 are recommended here.

Wines & Wineries to Watch

USA—J Vineyards & Winery's Cuvee 20 is one of California's best classic method sparkling wines; it's a blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Meunier . . . **Louis Martini's** Cabernet Sauvignons recently have upped the ante, evident both in the 2017 Napa Valley (the best in years) and the exceptional 2016 Monte Rosso Vineyard, perhaps the finest version of this wine I have tasted . . . Two of the best Pinot Noir values from the outstanding 2018 vintage include the Kali Hart from **Talbott** and the Winemakers Selection, made with grapes from Monterey, Sonoma, and Santa Barbara counties, from **J Vineyards & Winery**.

AUSTRALIA—Dry Rieslings from Clare Valley are among the finest produced anywhere; many of them can also be outstanding values, like those from **Wakefield**, both from its Estate tier and top-level St. Andrews bottlings . . . Rightly esteemed for its range of exceptional red offerings, **Wakefield** truly excels

with its recent red releases, which are among its best ever. Among its moderately priced wines, I am especially impressed with **Wakefield's** 2019 Promised Land Shiraz; Estate Label Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Shiraz; and Jaraman Cabernet Sauvignon (Clare Valley, Coonawarra blend) and Shiraz (Clare Valley, McLaren Vale blend)—all of them remarkable values. But **Wakefield's** higher-end reds are no less outstanding, from its newly launched Masterstroke tier (2019 McLaren Vale Shiraz, 2019 Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon) to its fine St. Andrews wines (Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon); to its top two wines, The Visionary Cabernet Sauvignon and The Pioneer Shiraz, made with Clare Valley grapes. Both wines are among Australia's finest.

AUSTRIA—The 2019 vintage in Austria was outstanding, the best in two decades, for both white and red wines. The 2019 whites display unusual character, depth, intensity, and length. Producers such as **Domane Wachau** made perhaps its finest Gruner Veltliners and Rieslings ever, in both Federspiel and Smaragd styles. The 2019 Smaragds are particularly stunning wines.

FRANCE—**Chateau La Mascaronne's** 2020 Cotes de Provence Rose is an exceptional wine . . . Great value reds continue to pour out of France's Languedoc. Of special note is the **Sanssouci** project launched by prominent Mosel vintner Ernst Loosen and French vintner Laurent Delaunay. The two current reds, a Cabernet Sauvignon and a Syrah blend (called Le Rouge) are both appealing, quality wines at a very modest price . . . The Bordeaux region is justly renowned for its enormous production of high quality Cabernet family red wines, primarily from leading estates in the Medoc and Graves regions, and the 'right bank' appellations of Pomerol and St. Emilion, where the wines generally are sold in the USA for \$30 and more—sometimes, much much more. But Bordeaux is also the source of a vast number of estates producing excellent wines at moderate prices, such as the Blaye Cotes de Bordeaux estate, **Chateau Bourdieu**, whose current releases range from \$20 to \$30 per bottle retail (\$160 to \$240 per case wholesale, non-discounted). Based on Merlot, they are all delicious, top value wines.

GERMANY—2019 was an outstanding vintage throughout Germany, and in our current German Wine Report we recommend nearly 400 of them, mostly Rieslings, but also terrific Pinot Blancs, Silvaners, Muskatellers, Scheurebes, as well as top Roses and red wines, especially Pinot Noirs and Lembergers, with several other wines from Pinot Meunier, Samtrot, and Syrah also included.

Most of the white wines reviewed are from the 2019 vintage, but releases from 2020, 2018, and 2017 were also tasted. Red wine vintages are almost all 2017 and 2018. The vast majority of wineries whose wines were tasted for this report are VDP members. (VDP is one of the world's elite wine estate organizations—and the first, founded in Germany in 1905—currently with 198 members, whose estates are among the greatest not only in Germany, but also the world.)

A few highlights: superb 2019 dry (D) and/or fruity (F) Rieslings that were rated 5 stars within their respective price categories are from the following producers; all but one are VDP members. The 2019s, as a group, are among the best wines I have ever tasted from these respective wineries.

Top Rated 2019 German Rieslings by Category & Producer:

Ansgar Clusserath	D, F
Bassermann-Jordan	D, F
Domdechant Werner	D, F
Dr. Loosen	D, F
Dr. Thanisch, Erb.-Thanisch	D, F
Emmrich-Schonleber	D, F
Fritz Haag	D, F
Grans-Fassian	D, F
Gunderloch	D, F
Hans Wirsching	D, F
Hermann Donnhoff	D, F
Kloster Eberbach	D, F
Johannishof	D, F
Juliuspital	D
Karl Haidle	D
Louis Guntrum	D
Muller-Catoir	D, F
Pfeffingen	D
Philip Kuhn	D
Prinz Salm	D, F
Prinz von Hessen	D, F
Rainer Sauer	D
Rebholz	D
Robert Weil	D, F
S.A. Prum	D, F
Schloss Johannisberg	D, F
Schloss Lieser	D, F
Schloss Saarstein	D, F
Schloss Vollrads	D, F
von Buhl	D
von Hovel	D, F
von Kesselstatt	D, F
Wagner-Stempel	D
Wegeler	D, F
Willi Schaefer	D, F
Wittmann	D

D=dry/Trocken Riesling, F=fruity/rich Riesling

Note: Many producers had more than one 5-star wine per category. For example, Willi Schaefer had 1 dry Riesling and 10 fruity/rich Rieslings that received 5-stars.

The 2019 vintage in Germany also yielded remarkable wines from many other white wine varieties.

Estates producing outstanding wines (all rated 5 stars) from other white varieties (indicated) in 2019 include:

Castell	Silvaner
Dr. Heger	Grauburgunder, Weissburgunder
Graf Neipperg	Muskateller
Hans Wirsching	Silvaner, Scheurebe
Juliuspital	Silvaner
Louis Guntrum	Weissburgunder
Muller-Catoir	Muskateller, Scheurebe, Weissburgunder
Pfeffingen	Scheurebe
Rainer Sauer	Silvaner
Rebholz	Weisser Burgunder

Terrific Roses with value pricing were made by **Bassermann-Jordan, Graf Neipperg, Hans Wirsching, and Von Buhl** . . . Many first rate reds are being made in Germany today. Here, we recommend selected Pinot Noirs from **Graf Neipperg, H.J. Kreuzberg, Karl Haidle, Kloster Eberbach, Pfluger, and Rebholz**; and Lembergers from **Graf Neipperg and Karl Haidle**.

HUNGARY—Excellent dry and sweet wines are being produced in the historic Tokaj region. Among them, **Balassa's** 2018 estate Furmint is a wonderful wine and a great value . . . So, too, that winery's botrytis sweet wines, where two Szamorodni's from the 2017 vintage are outstanding: Betsek 'Kvarc' and Bomboly, both single vineyard wines . . . Another wine to seek out is the elegant, vibrant 6 Puttonyos Aszu from **Barta Pince**, from the Oreg Kiraly Vineyard—a wine that will develop, improve, and age for decades.

ITALY—The wines of Mt. Etna have been gained international recognition in the past decade for the unique character, and, to a degree, their rarity. The DOC Etna is very small, only about 2,655 acres (1,075 hectares) are cultivated at present, yielding around 350,000 cases of DOC wine annually—from all producers combined. Of this, about 10% is Rosato, 35% is Bianco, and 50% is Rosso, with the remaining 5% sparkling . . . Two Etna whites from 2019 we are very impressed with are **Tornatore's** Pietrarizzo, and **Petradolce's** Archineri, both based on the local variety, Carricante . . . Etna DOC red wines from the same producers that are exceptional, include **Tornatore's** 2017 Pietrarizzo Rosso, **Petradolce's** 2017 Contrado Santo Spirito, and **Petradolce's** remarkable 2016 single vineyard Barbagalli, (made from 100 year old Nerello Mascalese vines), which is also one of Sicily's top red wines . . .

Other fine white Italian wines to seek out include **Lungarotti's** 2019 Torre di Giano (Bianco di Torgiano) and 2018 Aurente (Chardonnay di Torgiano), both also offering excellent value

GERMAN WINE REPORT

2019 VINTAGE (WHITE WINES)



The harvest crew at Mosel estate Willi Schaefer at the end of harvest 2019: 'exhausted but deliriously happy' with the results.

Not long after German wines from the 2019 vintage had finished fermentation, it was evident to most German producers that the potential quality of the 2019s—white, rose, red, sparkling—was something special, perhaps even exceptional.

After bottling, the young wines did not disappoint. In fact, once released, they only became more and more approachable, ripe, and delicious. Suddenly, talk about an excellent vintage was ratcheted up—especially by the wine trade and media—to 'outstanding', and even 'great'.

Comparisons were drawn to other 'great' German vintages, including 1976, 1990, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2015, and 2017, among others. Even 1971.

As a wine professional who 'came of age' with the great 1971 vintage German Rieslings—and who purchased and tasted dozens (hundreds, actually) of them, and continued to drink them through 2010, when the last of them was consumed, with great pleasure—this comparison to 1971, one of the greatest German wine vintages of the 20th Century, was one I looked forward to making for myself—albeit from four decades of accumulated memories.

Now, after tasting hundreds of whites from 2019, I am convinced: the 2019 vintage is not only the single best white wine vintage since 1971—but also, in most cases, better than 1971; most, but not all.

Where the 2019s excel is in the extravagance of their appeal. Whether dry or sweet, or Muskateller or Riesling, the 2019s have a dimension of opulence, harmonious ripeness, and sheer deliciousness not found to the same degree in any other vintage I have tasted, even the 1971s.

The dry wines from 2019 are outstanding wines, but comparing these wines to the dry wines of 1971 is hardly a contest: not many ‘quality’ dry white wines were being made then, and even the ‘quality’ dry wines available from 1971 (Riesling included) were not very good.

I would also weigh in on the side of the 2019s for most mildly sweet wines over their 1971 counterparts, such as the fruity Qualitätsweins and Halbtrocken wines of that era, from any of the main varieties: the 2019s are simply much better wines—they have more character and are more complete wines—in large part because the knowledge base has expanded significantly in the past several decades, and wine making standards are much higher today. Not to mention a steadily warming climate. Better wines can and now are being made.

So, too, many of the noble sweet and rich 2019s—notably from Silvaner and Riesling—are dazzling wines.

But, two things to state about the riper versions of the 1971s: 1. Botrytis was much more widespread in 1971 than 2019 and many, many more late harvest wines were made. And, 2: The botrytis in 1971 was relatively ‘clean’, and the 1971 late harvest wines, especially from Riesling, consequently were wines of great nuance, elegance, balance, and finesse—wines that, although lacking the ‘presence’ (fleshiness and weight) of the 2019s, were great in a different way.

In short, both 1971 and 2019 were great vintages. But in this discussion 2019 clearly has the edge as being a greater white wine vintage: the 2019s were highly successful across all major white wine styles and wine types; the 1971s primarily in its fruity and noble late harvest wines—nearly all of which have by now now disappeared into memory.

In my reviews that follow, I have to add this, with respect to the 2019s: since founding Restaurant Wine in 1988, I have not encountered so many exceptional (5-star) German white wines—dry, off dry, sweet, and rich—as a percentage of those tasted, as I did with the 2019s.

2019 Growing Season

The season itself was fraught with challenges: a devastating frost hit in early May, reducing the crop in some vineyards by 30%, or more. A number of producers had hail damage.

Übersicht/Table 12

Weinerzeugung 2019 nach Anbaubereichen

Wine production 2019 by wine-growing region

Anbaubereich / Wine-growing region	Deutscher Wein, Landwein / German wine, Landwein		Qualitätswein		Prädikatswein		Insgesamt / Total	
	hl	%	hl	%	hl	%	hl	%
Ahr	4.107	9,9	35.757	86,0	1.701	4,1	41.565	0,5
Baden	11.660	0,9	576.704	46,7	645.898	52,3	1.234.261	15,0
Franken	2.824	0,9	98.262	30,2	224.665	69,0	325.750	4,0
Hessische Bergstraße	324	1,2	15.627	59,8	10.175	38,9	26.126	0,3
Mittelrhein	1.756	7,4	14.839	62,8	7.042	29,8	23.636	0,3
Mosel	26.521	2,3	876.632	75,3	260.515	22,4	1.163.666	14,2
Nahe	2.375	1,1	152.484	69,1	65.838	29,8	220.697	2,7
Pfalz	40.462	2,5	1.297.418	78,8	308.847	18,8	1.646.727	20,0
Rheingau	1.116	0,6	103.720	51,8	95.233	47,6	200.068	2,4
Rheinhessen	174.949	7,3	1.640.495	68,5	580.757	24,2	2.396.201	29,2
Saale-Unstrut	75	0,2	28.811	78,1	8.013	21,7	36.900	0,4
Sachsen	951	3,7	13.822	53,1	11.253	43,2	26.026	0,3
Württemberg	2.322	0,3	635.288	72,8	234.481	26,9	872.090	10,6
andere	3.981	99,9	-	-	-	-	3.984	0,0
Deutschland	273.423	3,3	5.489.858	66,8	2.454.416	29,9	8.217.697	100,0

In 2019, 29.9% of wine was Prädikatswein; the top 5 regions (Rheinhessen, Pfalz, Baden, Mosel, Württemberg) produced 89% of all German wine.

The summer months were dry and warm, and occasionally very hot (especially in August), leading to sunburned grapes. However, rot from wet and humid weather was not an issue in 2019—a major relief to growers.

The weather cooled in September and rains returned, sporadically. The harvest began at the end of September, and continued through October, as the weather warmed again, and noble rot spread in some vineyards, allowing for many excellent Prädikatswein to be made. (To cite numbers: in 2019, 29.9% of the wine produced was Prädikatswein; in 2018, 37% of total production was Prädikatswein.)

During harvest, due to the drought and sunburn, growers had to select grapes carefully, and discard underripe or damaged clusters. But berry size in 2019 tended to be smaller than usual, forecasting aroma- and flavor-rich wines, which turned out to be the case.

And although 2019 was a short vintage for producers whose vineyards had significant frost, hail, and/or sunburn damage 2019 overall was not a small crop: in Germany, it yielded 8.2 million hectoliters of wine (91 million cases).

Yes, this was down 12.3% from 2018; but 2018 was an abundant harvest; the highest in years. In fact, average annual German wine production during the past 30 years was only 5.9 million hectoliters (65.5 million cases)—or 39% less than produced in 2019. Now, on to the wines . . .

WEINGUT ROBERT WEIL, ★★★★★
2019 'RIESLING DRY', RHEINGAU, \$168 (\$21)
 Screw cap. Supple and fruity in style, this is an excellent medium bodied dry Riesling that has apple, white peach, and lime flavors, and a medium long finish. Can be aged a bit. 0.81% R.S. AP #036. VDP.Gutswein. 20,900 cases. 12% [2022-2023] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT S.A. PRUM, 2019 'PRUM BLUE RIESLING', MOSEL KABINETT TROCKEN, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★+
 Screw cap. An excellent dry Mosel Riesling. Fairly intense in flavor (lime, apple, white peach), it is round, quite crisp, very long on the palate, and zesty on the finish. Still evolving; better after 2022. Great value. 0.61% R.S. AP #03. VDP.Gutswein. 12% [2022-2025] Taub Family Selections, Port Washington, NY 561.893.9998

WEINGUT SCHLOSS VOLLRADS, ★★★★★
2019 RHEINGAU, \$100/6 (\$25)
 Screw cap. Delicious dry Riesling: supple in texture and medium bodied, it is generously flavored (peach, pineapple, honey, lemon, yellow plum), smooth and long on the palate, with crisp acidity, and a long finish. Terrific quality and value. Can be aged a bit. 0.77% R.S. AP #004. VDP.Gutswein. 12% [2022-2024] Transcendent Wines, Napa, CA 707.265.1700

WEINGUT VON HOVEL
 • **2019 NIEDERMENNIGER, \$192 (\$24) ★★★★★+**
 • **2019 OBEREMMELER, \$192 (\$24) ★★★★★**
 • **2019 KRETNACHER, \$192 (\$24) ★★★★★**
 Three first rate Saar Rieslings. The Niedermenniger is medium bodied, crisp, and refined in character (peach, honey, linden blossom), with good depth and balance, and a very long finish. Great value; can be aged a bit. Aged in oak barrels. 0.65% R.S. Grapes from Eucharisberg vineyard. AP #02. 11% ♦ The Oberemmeler is exceptional: fragrant, finely flavored, and balanced; a delicious medium bodied wine with peach, honeysuckle, pineapple, lime, and honey flavors, and a very long finish. Great value; can be aged further. Unwooded. 0.64% R.S. Grapes from 2 Oberemmel vineyards (Hutte, Karlsberg). AP #12. 11.5% ♦ The 2019 Kretnacher is a wonderful dry Riesling: supple, concentrated, and finely balanced, with excellent flavor (peach, pineapple, honeysuckle, lime), and a very persistent finish. Terrific value; can be aged further. Aged in oak barrels. 0.7% R.S. Grapes from the Altenberg vineyard. AP #03. 11% [all three: 2022-2025] Schatzi Wines, Milan, NY 845.266.0376

WEINGUT WAGNER-STEMPEL, ★★★★★
2019 'GUTSWEIN', RHEINHESSEN, \$194 (\$24)
 Screw cap. Wonderful wine, and a great value, this 2019 Gutswein is very ripe and fruity in flavor (pineapple, white peach, lime, honeysuckle), with crisp acidity, good balance, and a long, vibrant finish. Delicious now, but can develop further. Organic. AP #011. VDP.Aus Ersten Lagen. 12% [2023-2025] The German Wine Collection, Carlsbad, CA 760.815.3545

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WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER, ★★★★★
2019 GRAACHER, \$200 (\$25)
 Screw cap. Outstanding quality and value, this 2019 Graacher Riesling is a supple, medium bodied wine with evident richness, good balance and flavor (white peach, linden blossom, yellow plum, wood), and a long finish. Delicious now, can can develop further. AP #06. 233 cases. 11.5% [2022-2024] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT WITTMANN, ★★★★★
2019 RHEINHESSEN, \$188 (\$23.50)
 Screw cap. Ripe and complex in style, this is a dry Riesling with unusual depth and intense flavor (apple, pineapple, dried peach, honeysuckle, toast, oak). It is long on the palate, and lingering in the finish. Excellent. Native yeast fermented; aged in large oak barrels. Organic & biodynamic. AP #006. VDP.Gutswein. 5,500 cases. 12% [2022-2024] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT WWE. DR. H. THANISCH, ★★★★★
ERBEN THANISCH, 2019 MOSEL, \$168 (\$21)
 Screw cap. Outstanding dry estate Riesling. It is fragrant and fine in aroma, medium bodied and elegant on the palate, with crisp acidity and a very long finish, tasting of apple, kiwi fruit, white peach, lime, and pineapple. Remarkable value. Can be aged further. AP #04. VDP.Gutswein. 11.5% [2022-2025] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUTER GEHEIMRAT J. WEGELER
 • **2019 MOSEL, \$160 (\$20) ★★★★★**
 • **2019 BERNKASTEL, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★+**
 • **2019 OESTRICHER, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★**
 All three wines have screw cap closures, and are excellent wines. The Mosel Riesling is medium bodied, round, and crisp, with good balance and flavor (pear, apple, lime, pineapple), and a medium length finish. Excellent value; drink through 2023. From vineyards in Bernkastel, Graach, and Wehlen. 0.8% R.S. AP #001. VDP.Gutswein. 12% ♦ The 2019 Bernkastel is crisp, medium full bodied, and vibrant; a wine with apple, lime, and white peach flavors, with floral overtones, and a refreshing finish. 0.79% R.S. AP #004. VDP.Ortswein. 12.5% [first two wines: 2022-2023] ♦ The Oestricher is an outstanding dry Riesling, with supple texture, medium richness, good balance, and crisp finish, tasting of apple, white peach, lime, and pineapple. Great value; warrants modest aging. 0.71% R.S. AP #003. VDP.Ortswein. 12.5% [2022-2024] Truly Fine Wine, San Diego, CA 858.270.9463

WITTMANN WEIN 2020 '100 HILLS', ★★★★★
RHEINHESSEN, \$128 (\$16)
 Screw cap. Remarkable value in a dry Riesling: very distinct in character, medium full bodied, supple in texture, and well balanced, with moderate richness and excellent flavor (pineapple, peach, honeysuckle, lime); very long finish. Hard to beat at the price. Can be aged a bit. From vines aged 60 years old, on average. Aged 50% in oak barrels and 50% in stainless steel. Organic. AP #012/20. 2,500 cases. 12.5% [2022-2023] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

Prices listed for western USA wines & spirits are based on New York prices. Imported and eastern USA wines & spirits prices are based on Los Angeles prices.



WEINGUT VON HOVEL

**WEINGUT VON HOVEL**

• 2019 SAAR QUALITATSWEIN FEINHERB, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★★

• 2019 SAAR KABINETT, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★★

Both wines have screw cap closures, and both are remarkable Saar Rieslings at this price level. The Feinherb is medium bodied, round, intensely flavored (apple, honeysuckle, white peach, honey), and long and vibrant on the finish. Should be delicious through 2024. Aged in stainless steel. 2.35% R.S. Grapes from Krettnacher Altenberg. AP #09. VDP.Gutswein. 11.5% [2022-2024] ♦ The Kabinett is light bodied but intensely flavored, crisp, medium sweet, and very ripe in flavor (honeysuckle, white peach, lime, pineapple), with a very long, zesty finish. Still developing; better after 2023. Remarkable value. Aged in stainless steel. 5.47% R.S. Grapes from the Altenberg vineyard. AP #01. VDP.Gutswein. 8% [2023-2027] Schatzi Wines, Milan, NY 845.266.0376

WEINGUT WVE. DR. H. THANISCH, ERBEN ★★★★★
THANISCH, 2019 'THANISCH RIESLING
KABINETT', MOSEL KABINETT FEINHERB, \$168 (\$21)

Screw cap. Wonderful Kabinett: very fruity and crisp, with excellent balance and flavor (honeysuckle, lime, yellow plum, white peach, pear), it is medium bodied, lightly sweet, and very long on the palate, with a zesty finish. Great value! Can be aged further. AP #01. VDP.Gutswein. 11% [2022-2025] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUTER GEHEIMRAT J. WEGELER

• 2019 MOSEL QUALITATSWEIN FEINHERB, \$160 (\$20) ★★★+

• 2019 GRAACHER QUALITATSWEIN FEINHERB, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★+

• 2019 JOHANNISBERGER QUALITATSWEIN FEINHERB, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★

Delicious off dry Rieslings, all with screw cap closures. The 2019 Mosel is a very good wine: medium bodied, distinctly flavored (lime, apple, white peach, yellow plum), balanced, and crisp on the finish. From vineyards in Bernkastel, Graach, and Wehlen. 1.9% R.S. AP #002. VDP.Gutswein. 11.5% [2022-2023] ♦ The Graacher is excellent: medium bodied, crisp, and finely flavored (apple, lime, white peach, honeysuckle, lemon grass), with a zesty, long finish. Great value; can be aged a bit. Entirely from the Himmelreich vineyard. 2.22% R.S. AP #005. VDP.Ortswein. 11.5% ♦ The Johannisberger is exceptional: medium bodied, crisp, well balanced, and fairly intense in flavor (peach, honeysuckle, peach skin, lime), with a very long finish. Delicious, and a great value. 1.58% R.S. AP #006. VDP.Ortswein. 11.5% [last two wines: 2022-2024] Truly Fine Wine, San Diego, CA 858.270.9463

WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER, ★★★★★
2019 GRAACHER QUALITATSWEIN
FEINHERB, \$200 (\$25)

Screw cap. An exceptional Feinherb Riesling, the 2019 Graacher is a fragrant, crisp wine with fine character and flavor (apple, white peach, pineapple, jasmine), very good balance, and a crisp, long finish. Terrific wine; will develop further. AP #07. 310 cases. 11% [2023-2025] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

FRUITY/FRUCHTIG RIESLING — High Priced:
\$201-\$400/case (\$25.10-\$50/btl. full retail)

DOMANE SCHLOSS JOHANNISBERG, ★★★★★
2019 'ROTLACK', SCHLOSS JOHANNISBERGER
KABINETT, \$168/6 (\$42)

Feinherb style. Exceptional Riesling: medium full bodied and quite richly flavored for a Kabinett (peach, passion fruit, lemon, oak), it is nicely balance, and lingering on the finish. Delicious even now, but likely at its best after 2023. Fermented and aged: 2/3 stainless steel, 1/3 oak casks from Schloss Johannisberger forests. 2.3% R.S. AP #004. VDP.Grosse Lage. 12.5% [2023-2026] Freixenet Mionetto USA, Brooklyn, NY 718.596.3339

DOMDECHANT WERNER'SCHES WEINGUT, ★★★★★+
2019 HOCHHEIMER HOLLE SPATLESE, \$140/6 (\$35)

Screw cap. An opulent, ripe Spatlese of excellent quality—and a fine value. It is fleshy in texture, very intensely flavored (apple, peach, pineapple, honey), balanced, and long on the finish. Still evolving; likely at its best after 2023. AP #010. 10% [2024-2028] Slocum Imports (CT), Ewald Moseler (OR), Metamora Importing (OH), Great Lakes Wine (IL), Classic Wine Imports (MS)

WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER

**WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER**

- **2019 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH KABINETT, ★★★★★**
\$264 (\$33)
- **2019 GRAACHER DOMPROBST KABINETT, ★★★★★**
\$264 (\$33)
- **2019 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH SPATLESE, ★★★★★**
\$320 (\$40)
- **2019 WEHLENER SONNENUHR SPATLESE, ★★★★★**
\$336 (\$42)
- **2019 GRAACHER DOMPROBST SPATLESE, ★★★★★**
NO. 5, \$360 (\$45)

Willi Schaefer produced splendid Kabinett and Spätlese in 2019. They are wines with character, depth, vibrancy, balance, and length. Here, the Himmelreich Kabinett is light bodied, crisp and long on the palate, with excellent flavor (white peach, linden blossom, green apple, pineapple), and a very long finish. First rate; can be aged further. AP #02. VDP.Grosse Lage. 470 cases. 8% [2023-2027] ♦ The Domprobst Kabinett is fragrant and intensely flavored (green apple, linden blossom, white peach, lime), with evident richness, crisp acidity, fine balance, and with a long finish. Great value; warrants at least 2 more years of aging. AP #03. VDP.Grosse Lage. 456 cases. 8% [2024-2028] ♦ The Himmelreich Spätlese is exceptional: a fragrant, crisp, fairly rich wine with excellent balance, and a very long finish, tasting of honey, green apple, linden blossom, grapefruit, white peach, and lime. Still quite young; likely at its best only after 2025. AP #08. VDP.Grosse Lage. 335 cases. 7.5% [2025-2030] ♦ The Sonnenuhr Spätlese is the finest I have tasted from Willi Schaefer. It is refined and elegant in style: light bodied, intensely flavored (peach, honey, pineapple, nectarine, linden blossom), and beautifully balanced, with a long palate impression, and a vibrant, persistent finish. Wonderful wine; warrants 3+ more years of aging. AP #17. VDP.Grosse Lage. 121 cases. 7.5% [2024-2030] ♦ The Domprobst Spätlese (No. 5) is first rate: a rich, vibrant wine with excellent depth and flavor (white peach, linden blossom, honey, green apple, pineapple), a very long flavor evolution, and a persistent, rich finish. Exceptional quality and value; warrants several more years of aging. AP #05. VDP.Grosse Lage. 338 cases. 7.5% [2024-2032] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER

**WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER**

- **2019 GRAACHER DOMPROBST AUSLESE, #11, \$800, (\$100)** ★★★★★
- **2019 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH AUSLESE, \$800, (\$100)** ★★★★★

Two superb 2019 Ausleses, displaying the ‘harmonious ripeness’ that helps define the 2019 vintage, and sets it apart from other top Riesling vintages reaching all the way back to 1971 (a great vintage whose wines also shared this attribute, although in a somewhat more elegant fashion). ♦ The Domprobst Auslese #11 is terrific: fine and elegant in flavor (linden blossom, white peach, honey, honeysuckle,

pineapple), crisp and vibrant on the palate, and very long and persistent on the finish. Superb quality and value. Needs aging. AP #11. VDP.Grosse Lage. 125 cases. 7.5% ♦ The Himmelreich is stunning; one of the best Rieslings I have tasted from this vineyard, from any producer. It is very concentrated, finely balanced, and extremely long on the palate, with refined flavors (pear, honey, peach, apple, honeysuckle), and a minute long finish. Terrific quality and value; needs further aging. AP #09. VDP.Grosse Lage. 55 cases. 7.5% ♦ [both wines: 2028-2040] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER



WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER

- 2019 AUCTION LOT, GRAACHER DOMPROBST SPATLESE, NO. 13, \$500/6 (\$125) ★★★★★
- 2019 GRAACHER DOMPROBST AUSLESE, #14, \$1,200 (\$150) ★★★★★
- 2019 GRAACHER DOMPROBST BEERENAUSLESE, #16, \$2,000/12 375 m.l. (\$250/375 m.l.) ★★★★★

These are simply remarkable wines; among the vintage's finest—and produced in miniscule quantities. The Domprobst Spatlese #13 is an Auction lot. It has intense, refined character (white peach, honey, pineapple, peach jam, linden blossom), evident richness, firm acidity, and a long, full finish. Top notch Spatlese; truly Auslese-like. Very young wine; likely

at its best only after 2026. AP #13. VDP.Grosse Lage. 33 cases. 7.5% [2026-2034] ♦ The Domprobst Auslese #14 is quite rich, with remarkable flavor, balance, and length. It is fleshy in texture, light bodied, and very intense, tasting of white peach, honeysuckle, honey, pineapple, and nectarine. Very long and rich on the finish. Outstanding quality; a top 2019 Auslese that warrants several more years of aging. AP #14. VDP.Grosse Lage. 50 cases. 7.5% [2028-2042] ♦ The Domprobst Beerenauslese is ultra-ripe and refined in aroma and flavor (peach, apricot, honey, linden blossom, peach jam), quite crisp, and very long, full, and persistent on the finish. Truly remarkable quality; a wine that can develop, and age for years. AP #15. VDP.Grosse Lage. 16 cases. 7.5% [2035-2050] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

CHARMAT METHOD SPARKLING WINE - High Priced:
\$129-\$256/case (\$16.10-\$32/bottle full retail)

REICHSGRAF VON KESSELSTATT, ★★★★★
2018 MAJORAT RIESLING BRUT, SEKT
b.A. MOSEL, \$128/6 (\$32)

A youthful Riesling Brut of excellent quality: distinct in character, full bodied, and crisp, with white peach, apple, lime, honey, and roasted nut flavors, good balance, and a medium long finish. Drinks well now, but will develop with modest aging. 1.07% R.S. AP# 07/20. 13% [2022-2023] American BD Co., Glen Rock, NJ, 201.689.1200

CLASSIC METHOD SPARKLING WINE - High Priced:
\$201-\$400/case (\$25.10-\$50/bottle full retail)

LOUIS GUNTRUM WEINKELLEREI, ★★★★★
2016 RIESLING BRUT, DEUTSCHER SEKT
b.A., \$128/6 (\$32)

Delicious classic method sparkling Riesling. It is medium yellow-light gold in color, fine and complex in character (toast, baked bread, candied lemon, white peach, walnut, honeysuckle), with medium body, well integrated bubbles, excellent balance, and a very long, lingering finish. Outstanding quality and value. Aged 3+ years on the yeast. AP #006/20. 12% [2022-2023] Broadbent Selections, Richmond, VA 804.353.1818