



# Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## Weingut Willi Schaefer

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

Christoph Schaefer is super passionate when talking about his 2021 vintage: "The year was not an easy one but it's great to see how the wines have turned out and especially the precision the vintage brings with it. We say that 2021 is small but beautiful. April proved cool and delayed the development of the vines, which helped them not to be hit by frost in May. The summer proved very wet and this brought quite some pressure of disease in the vineyards. The grapes only ripeness slowly and developed fine aromas and high extracts. We started our harvest on October 4 by doing a lot of pre-selection due to the uneven ripeness of the grapes. We put a lot of time and efforts in these careful selections to harvest the right grapes at the right moments. The grapes were fully ripe but showed only low levels of maturity so that we could them bring in up to Spätlese level and only were able to harvest very small quantities of Auslese from the Wehlener Sonnenuhr. The harvest was completed by October 29. Due to the high extract levels from the low yields, the wines have super energy and are even more precise. In the end, you get far more than what one could expect from the numbers on the wine analyses. It is really a marvelous vintage!"

The Estate produced only a reduced collection due to the low yields. The regular collection includes six wines, two "village" bottlings from Graach (one dry and one off-dry), two Kabinett (one from the Himmelreich and one from the Domprobst), and two Spätlese (one from the Wehlener Sonnenuhr and one from the Domprobst, the classic AP05). However, it will bring three wines to this year's Auction: a Graacher Domprobst Kabinett, a Graacher Domprobst Spätlese, and a Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese.

Andrea and Christoph Schaefer produced a very tiny but oh so breathtaking line-up of wines in the 2021 vintage. The wines show great purity, finesse, but also huge presence and energy, and really show the best of the Mosel can offer, with lightness yet immense complexity. They are all at least great, even for both village wines. The fruity-styled wines are all modern-day classics and true majestic Mosel wines. In a word: Bravo!

*NB: The auction wines will be reviewed in Issue No 63 (released ahead of the Auction).*

2021er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	05 22	98
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The 2021er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese AP 05 is a fruity-styled wine which is still marked by fine residual from its spontaneous fermentation. These then gradually give way to magnificent notes of white flowers, vineyard peach, whipped almond cream, candied grapefruit, blackberry, licorice, and herbs. The wine proves superbly juicy and finely creamy, yet the acidity and energy bring everything to another level. The wine has focus and presence, yet the finesse is quite breathtaking. This is an absolutely stunning Spätlese in the making! 2031-2051

2021er	Willi Schaefer	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	17 22	98
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The 2021er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese is a fruity-styled wine made from grapes harvested in the prime Redellay sector. It offers a beautifully and gorgeous nose of tangerine, fine floral elements, whipped almond cream, vineyard peach, cinnamon, and bergamot. The wine proves superbly balanced on the palate and shows a lot of finesse as fine creamy elements give a velvety side, which is well wrapped into fine spices and zest. The finish shows a lot of energy and presence, but without any undue weight. What a magnificent Spätlese! 2031-2051

2021er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett	03 22	96
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The 2021er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett AP03 is a fruity-styled wine with a still quite restrained and smoky nose at first? It takes a while to reveal its complexity and finesse underlined by fine notes of stone fruit, lead pencil, herbs, bergamot, blackberry, cherry, violet, and lavender. The wine is still very tight on the palate but already hints at the greatness to come as there is great density and purity. The finish is still somewhat sharp yet its incredibly multi-layered side is already lurking in the background. The balance is already more off-dry than fully fruity or sweet. This is a fabulous Kabinett. 2029-2046

2021er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett	02 22	95
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The 2021er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett is a fruity-styled wine driven on the nose by some refined and even very elegant residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation which gradually give way to stunning elements mixing whipped almond cream, vineyard peach, orange blossom, minty herbs, jasmine, and acacia. The wine shows great presence and intensity on the palate yet remains incredibly light and refined. The finish shows all the minerality and stony side of the wine, and is superbly chiseled and precise. 2029-2046



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2021er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Riesling Feinherb	07 22	93
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The 2021er Graacher Riesling Feinherb is an off-dry wine made from fruit harvested mainly in the Himmelreich. It offers a beautifully fresh and minty nose of wet stone, stone fruit, lozenge, white peach, lime, and lime tree. The wine has great energy and presence on the palate, while the wine maintains a great sense of airiness and lightness. The finish is beautifully long and focused and leaves an already dry and sharp taste of spices and fine herbs. This is a truly remarkable dry-tasting wine. 2023-2031

2021er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Riesling Trocken	06 22	91
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The 2021er Graacher Riesling Trocken is made from fruit harvested mainly in the Himmelreich. It offers a superbly spicy, fresh, and undercooled nose of spices, cardamom, anise, wet slate, dill, and mint. The wine proves superbly fresh and animating thanks to a playful and vivid acidity. The finish is straight, very long, and fully bone-dry in taste. The after-taste leaves spicy, smoky, and herbal flavors. This is a superbly racy yet complex dry Riesling. 2023-2029

### 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 finest ones make it into the Issues.

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