



# Mosel Fine Wines

*"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"*

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

## Weingut Willi Schaefer

*(Graach – Middle Mosel)*

Christoph Schaefer could not hide a little smile of satisfaction when looking back at his 2022 vintage: "Who would have known that such a hot and dry vintage could lead to such beautifully ethereal and balanced wines? The vintage was really out of the norm because it was so dry and nobody really knew what was to be expected. We were comparatively lucky because the Graacher hills are packed with small streams and retain a lot of water. But the impact of the dry weather was clear to see on our young vines, where we often had to cut back to save the vines. This also concerned our parcel in the Wehlener Sonnenuhr. Our harvest lasted a month, from Mid-September until mid-October. The dry weather led to vines shutting down their development and hence the grapes kept the Oechsle degrees at a moderate level. However, some of these grapes never recovered and generated visually ok berries but which were actually completely unfit. We had to taste a lot of grapes and tasting these off-grapes was anything but pleasurable! Our harvest did not start with Kabinett but with Spätlese as the Oechsle degrees and acidity structure were adequate. As the harvest progressed, we did try to get some Auslese but the rain that eventually came squashed our hopes. Despite this small setback, as I mentioned at the beginning, we are completely and positively surprised at how elegant and under-cooled our wines have turned out in such a hot and dry vintage. What I particularly like is the transparency in the wines, which makes each terroir come through so vividly. Yet, at the same time, the wines are packed with intense flavors thanks to quite remarkable levels of dry extracts."

The Estate produced a classic portfolio of wines with, however, only a more limited selection of Spätlese than usual (only one regular from both Domprobst and Himmelreich) and no Auslese. Also, as mentioned, there was no wine produced from the holdings in the Wehlener Sonnenuhr. In addition to the regular portfolio, the Estate will bring a special cask of Kabinett and Spätlese from the Domprobst to this year's Auction.

The Estate produced a superb collection of wines in 2022, which indeed shines through elegance, transparency, and this incredible sense of precision and subtlety which has made the success of the Estate over the years. The Domprobst wines have a slight edge over the Himmelreich ones but all are terrific and hugely representative of their terroir. In addition, the "simple" Graacher Trocken is anything but "simple" but a hugely complex dry wine which would proudly be given the label GG at many Estates. Lovers of Willi Schaefer wines will hail 2022 as a huge success. The major issue will be to be able to lay one's hands on some of these gems: happy hunting!

*NB: Auction wines will be reviewed in Issue No 67 to be released by early September (ahead of the Auctions).*

2022er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese	05 23	95
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The 2022er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese is a sweet wine made from picked mainly in the Gerdgrub and Nikolauslay. It offers a superb nose but still rather reduced nose made of pear, smoky-reductive elements, a hint of cassis and blackberry, and fresh herbs. The wine proves superbly playful and delicate on the palate and leaves a great feel of spices and ripeness in the long finish. This is a marvelous Spätlese in the making. 2032-2042

2022er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett	03 23	94
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The 2022er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett is a fruity-styled wine with a stunning even if initially backward nose of cassis, blueberry, earthy spices, citrusy fruits, and very elegant notes of spices. The wine is superbly playful and elegant on the palate, where those fresh elements are packed into a great filigreed structure. The finesse and persistence are extraordinary for the vintage: What a great success! 2032-2042

2022er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese	08 23	93
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The 2022er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese is a sweet wine made from picked in the Stablay. The wine offers a superbly elegant nose made of pear, spices, herbs, and creamy and smoky elements. The wine is beautifully playful and elegant on the palate. The finish is long and refreshing. The wine is packed with tart, mouthwatering, and ripe elements and makes one magically go for more. 2032-2042

2022er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett	02 23	92
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The 2022er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett is a fruity-styled wine with a beautiful even if initially slightly closed nose made of pear, mirabelle, citrusy elements, cassis, earthy spices, and fine herbal notes. The wine is superbly juicy and precise on the palate where tart elements mingle with spicy elements. The finish is subtle, intense, and multi-layered. This is a beautiful Kabinett in the making. 2032-2042

2022er	Willi Schaefer	Riesling Trocken	06 23	92
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The 2022er Graacher Riesling Trocken comes mainly from the Grand Cru Himmelreich. It offers a very intense nose made of pear, citrusy elements, spices, and herbs. The wine proves superbly chiseled on the palate where a kick of tart zest adds a great sense of freshness to the underlying ripe and subtly creamy flavors. The wine is beautifully long and well balanced. The aftertaste proves deceptively shy but the finesse and elegance are truly remarkable. This stunning dry Riesling cruises far above the levels of an Estate wine! 2027-2037



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2022er	Willi Schaefer	Riesling Feinherb	07 23	89
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The 2022er Graacher Riesling Feinherb is an off-dry wine made fruit picked mainly from the Grand Cru Himmelreich. It offers a nice nose of pear, mirabelle, herbs, and spices. The wine proves nicely juicy and packed with tart zest on the palate and leaves a superb sense of precision and elegance in the finish. The touch of ripeness is superbly packed into zesty elements in the aftertaste. 2027-2037

### 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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