



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Willi Schaefer

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

Christoph Schaefer was all smiles, as soon as we started talking about his 2024 vintage: "I know many of my colleagues suffered dearly at the cost of this huge spell of frost which hit our region. We were hardly affected by it in our steep vineyards overseeing the river, but we experienced a heavy hailstorm just a week after the frost. This affected one-third of our vineyards and had an impact on our yield. The other thing which defined the vintage for us was the spell of cool weather during flowering, as this led to very varied moments of flowering and grapes with very different degrees of ripeness during harvest. Our harvest lasted from the end of September until mid-October and was not very easy. The weather and the predictions kept changing all the time and you had to be quite flexible and adapt all the time. Due to the long flowering, we had to do several passes through every vineyard to get grapes with the right level of ripeness. Fortunately, the weather was basically cool so the pressure from rot was minimal. But it also meant that Oechsle degrees did not really improve much during the harvest, and we harvested very little Spätlese fruit. But I don't complain at all, on the contrary: The 2024 vintage produced some stunning wines, light as a feather, yet at the same time incredibly intense thanks to the huge levels of dry extracts in the grapes. I love this vintage, which is so unique to the Mosel!"

The DNA of the vintage meant that the Estate has a smaller collection than in normal vintages. There is only one regular Spätlese (the Domprobst #05) and a small lot from the Himmelreich which will be released via the Auction.

The collection might be small, but the wines are no less great, on the contrary, they are simply a success from top to bottom. The Kabinett wines are some of the finest ever made. The Domprobst Spätlese is a stunner of elegance and precision. And if you are in the mood for a "small" wine, there is nothing small about the incredibly elegant dry Graacher Riesling. Once again, this Estate sets the standards for Riesling precision and elegance. May the battle to grab some bottles begin!

NB: The auction wines will be reviewed in Issue No 78, to be published before the November Auctions.

2024er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese #05	05 25	97
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The 2024er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese #05 (the reference to #05 is written in small on the bottom right of the label) is a sweet wine made from fruit harvested mainly in the Gerdgrub sector of the vineyard. It offers a superb but backward nose driven by passion fruit, plum, citrusy elements, herbs, and spices. The wine is stunningly playful and elegant on the palate. Far from being overpowering, the wine offers great tension, proves delightfully light-footed, and yet packed with subtle and complex flavors of fruits right into the long finish. Plum and cassis come through in the aftertaste and give an *avant-gout* of terroir finesse to come. This is a little jewel of a Spätlese in the making! 2034-2054

2024er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett	03 25	96
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The 2024er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett is a fruity-styled wine with a stunning nose made of prune, cassis, grapefruit, smoke, bergamot, whipped cream, and subtle elements of fine spices. It is hugely precise and subtly creamy on the palate and leaves a vibrating feel of ripe acidity and superbly complex fruity and spicy elements in the long finish. The aftertaste is still a touch firm but already so promising of the greatness packed into this gorgeous Kabinett at maturity. 2034-2054

2024er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett	02 25	95
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The 2024er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett is a fruity-styled wine with a beautiful nose of white peach, grapefruit, minerals, starfruit, and smoke. The wine is superbly airy and elegant on the palate and yet, despite being light-footed, it develops a great sense of inner structure. The finish is still a touch hard at this early stage, but the finesse and precision are already remarkable. This will benefit hugely from a few years of bottle aging to allow all the elements to integrate. 2034-2054

2024er	Willi Schaefer	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett	19 25	93
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The 2024er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett is a fruity-styled wine with a beautiful nose of apricot blossom, spices, fine herbs, ginger, white flowers, brown sugar, and smoke. The wine develops a juicy and subtly creamy feel on the palate and leaves a superbly playful, light-footed but intense feel of chalk, citrus, and white flowers in the long finish. This is a gorgeous expression of Kabinett in the making! 2034-2054

2024er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Riesling Trocken	06 25	90
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The 2024er Graacher Riesling Trocken is a dry wine made from fruit picked in the Grand Cru vineyards Domprobst and Himmelreich. This wine offers a beautiful nose made of white peach, citrus, herbs, and fine spices. It is nicely juicy and elegant and offers a great precise feel in the long finish. The finesse and elegance are simply remarkable. This kicks far above the usual levels of a "mere village" wine! Now-2034



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2024er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Riesling Feinherb	07 25	88
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The 2024er Graacher Riesling Feinherb is an off-dry wine (with 19 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked in the Grand Cru vineyards Domprobst and Himmelreich. This wine proves still a bit backward and only gradually reveals its scents of prune, citrus fruits, and fine herbs. It is nicely juicy and delicately firm on the palate and will benefit from a few years of bottle aging to allow all the elements to integrate. 2028-2034

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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