



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling ... and Beyond!"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Willi Schaefer

(Graach – Middle Mosel)

Andrea and Christoph Schaefer are all smiles as they talk about the 2025 vintage while presenting the wines: "We're really happy with how the 2025 vintage turned out. It actually looked truly superb, both in terms of the quantity and quality of the grapes, and we didn't have any particular issues until early September. By then, they were already showing good ripeness, and the weather forecast for the second half of the month wasn't necessarily favorable. We decided to start early, on September 15, and were the only ones in the vineyards so early. The first week was perfect, and we harvested a good number of grapes with ideal levels of ripeness and acidity. In particular, we noticed that the grapes in Wehlen ripened very early and developed rapidly, which led us to harvest them early. Rain began to fall in the second week of the harvest, forcing us to sort the grapes and proceed with greater caution. Fortunately, most of our harvesters are veterans who know exactly what we want. We had to make some difficult decisions, and the further we got into the harvest, the more we realized we were losing yields, sometimes significantly. The harvest ended on October 6, which is the earliest date in the Estate's entire history. Looking back, we are extremely pleased to have made the right decisions, especially the decision to start early our harvest. This vintage bears some resemblance to 2015, with excellent ripeness, very good acidity, and high dry extracts. In fact, we are pleasantly surprised by the dry extract in the wines, which are exceptionally high and lend the wines great density and presence. However, it is the acidity that gives our wines the liveliness and lightness we seek. The wines were all bottled on April 13 and 14. We consider this vintage to be particularly successful in the Spätlese category, but we are actually very pleased with the vintage as a whole."

The Estate produced its entire wine collection in 2025, with a focus on Kabinett (3 bottlings, including one intended for Auction) and Spätlese (4 different and all regular bottlings), which represent the heart of the vintage. The collection is highlighted by two Auslese wines: the Graacher Himmelreich #11 and the Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese GK, the latter will be sold at the upcoming VDP Mosel Auction.

The Schaefer family produced a fabulous collection in 2025, featuring wines that sparkle with freshness, purity, and energy. Right from the very first wines, the dry and Feinherb *Village*, the quality is surprisingly high. The Kabinett wines are, once again, superb examples of this category, combining lightness with complexity. The Spätlese wines are all magnificent, and it will be hard to choose between the breathtaking Wehlener Sonnenuhr and Domprobst #05, even though the former will likely be harder to find. Finally, the Domprobst Auslese #11 is a little jewel in the making, best left to age in the cellar. You will be spoiled for choice with the 2025 vintage at Willi Schaefer, the challenge is getting your hands on a few of these highly prized and stellar bottles.

NB: The 2025 auction wines will be reviewed in a future Issue released ahead of the Auction.

2025er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese #11	11 26	98+
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The 2025er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese #11 (the reference to #11 is written in small on the bottom right of the label) is a noble-sweet wine made. Gerdgrub. It displays a quite breathtaking nose of whipped almond cream, honeyed yellow peach, mango, guava, acacia, plum, Victoria pineapple, and cassis. The wine is gorgeously complex and playful on the palate, where beautiful deep creamy and juicy elements are wrapped in candied zesty fruits and spices. The finish has more density and intensity and leaves a great earthy and fresh side. The aftertaste is full of spices and zesty elements. This rich Domprobst Auslese is still hugely primary and will need many years to reveal its full potential and could well turn out even better than anticipated. 2040-2075

2025er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese #05	05 26	98
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The 2025er 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 and Lay sectors of the vineyard. Initially very slightly reductive and still marked by residues from its spontaneous fermentation, it quickly shows a most beautiful and super complex nose of fine spices, dark herbs, thyme, rosemary, smoke, and blackberry. The wine shows incredible finesse and gorgeous creaminess on the airy and juicy palate and leaves a splendidly fresh finish. 2037-2060

2025er	Willi Schaefer	Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese	17 26	97
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The 2025er Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese is a sweet wine displays an absolutely remarkable nose, which proves incredibly present and aromatic as notes of tangerine, fresh apricot, jasmine, lime tree, lavender, thyme, cinnamon, almond, and melon. The wine has great concentration on the palate, with plenty of fresh yet ripe yellow fruits, as well as light creamy elements. The finish is pure and vibrating, with a mouth-watering freshness and huge length. This is a splendid, aromatic Spätlese. 2035-2055

2025er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett #03	03 26	96
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The 2025er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Kabinett #03 (the reference to #03 is written in small on the bottom right of the label) is a fruity-styled wine delivers a gorgeously fresh, complex, and herbal nose of wet slate, smoke, dried white flowers, lime tree, thyme, and lime tree. The wine has great impact on the palate and develops a great sense of intensity and finesse as fine creamy elements join the party. The finish is very pure and energetic and leaves a mouth-watering side of candied zesty fruits. This is an intense and playful Kabinett. 2033-2050



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2025er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese #10	10 26	96
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The 2025er Graacher Domprobst Riesling Spätlese #10 (the reference to #10 is written in small on the bottom right of the label) is a sweet wine made from fruit harvested mainly in the Gerdsgrub. It delivers a superbly complex and herbal nose of plums, blackberry, rosemary, laurel, smoke, and toast. The wine proves still compact and dense on the palate, where some juicy and riper elements come through and add some weight. The finish already reveals hints of candied acidity and freshness, which will only emerge in a decade or more. 2035-2055

2025er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese	08 26	96
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The 2025er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese is a fruity-styled wine delivers a great smoky nose of anise, yellow peach, stone fruits, acacia, cinnamon, and fresh almond. The wine has great presence and gorgeous ripe, juicy yellow fruits. It develops a very fine, creamy touch and leaves a superbly long finish with mouth-watering candied zesty fruits. The aftertaste is beautifully clean and vibrant. What a superb Spätlese! 2035-2055

2025er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett	02 26	94
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The 2025er Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett is a fruity-styled wine has a beautifully fresh and finely reductive nose of wild herbs and cassis as well as blackberry, vineyard peach, Conference pear, tangerine, and raspberry. It is superbly light-footed and juicy on the palate and leaves a mouth-watering tartness and fresh fruits in the nicely long finish. This has great aromatic presence and fine fruity interplay. What a superb drinking Kabinett. 2032-2045

2025er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Riesling Feinherb	07 26	93
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The 2025er Graacher Riesling Feinherb is an off-dry wine made from fruit picked in the Grand Cru vineyard Himmelreich. It initially proves smoky and quite herbal with plenty of minty scents and wild herbs, before opening up to deliver white peach, grapefruit, bergamot, herbal tea, fine spices, and ginger. The wine starts off on the fine juicy and round side yet quickly shows great refreshing acidity. This is superb to enjoy. Now-2040

2025er	Willi Schaefer	Graacher Riesling Trocken	06 26	91
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The 2025er Graacher Riesling Trocken is a dry wine made from fruit picked in the Grand Cru vineyards Domprobst and Himmelreich. It offers a beautifully delicate and finely floral white orchard fruit, white flowers, herbal tea, minty and green herbs, and bergamot. The wine is elegantly light, smoky, and pure. The finish is intensely zesty and mineral, with a gorgeously light side. 2027-2033

[Return to Table of Contents \(Alphabetic List of Estates\)](#)