

GERMAN RIESLING

2012 & 2011 VINTAGE

Tasted June 2013 – New York

Assorted Rieslings from the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer
tasted at the Riesling & Co. event in New York City

J. J. Prüm Bernkasteler Riesling Kabinett 2011 *(*)**

Very pure nose, inflected, with ripe apple and soil reflections. Classy, notably delicate palate with complex highlights. Very persistent and scented finish. This wine is sourced largely in Badstube, which helps explain its dimension and class.

Zilliken Saarburg Riesling Kabinett 2011 *(*)**

Ultraclean, transparent aroma with delicate white fruit accents. The palate is classic – lovely, ethereal and enticing with a finely calibrated balance of fruit, alcohol and acidity.

Dr. H. Thanisch Riesling Spätlese Trocken 2011 *(+)**

The nose is shy and yet to show, with particularly subtle white fruit and stone hints. The taste is very clean and cool, lacking some dimension although it is still young.

Dr. Fischer Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese 2011 *(*)**

Very clean, withdrawn nose offering a faint apple note. The attack is similarly rather non-expressive, but the finish displays more intensity and expression. Young and undeveloped.

Bollig-Lehnert Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese 2012 **(+)**

Focused, youthful nose showing very good intensity and focus. The palate is finely tuned and offers excellent persistence, although the flavors are young and yet to show. The wine offers a pure, saline conclusion.

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Maximin Grünhaus, Mosel (Ruwer)

Riesling Trocken 2012 ***

Clean, cool, scented and youthful aroma with subtle nuances. The taste is clean, direct and dry, and there are delicate lifted fruit notes in the finish.

Riesling Halbtrocken 2012 *(+)**

Very pure nose offering hints of stone and white fruits. The palate similarly displays notable purity and has a transparent, weightless feel, with subtle expression. There is very faint sweetness at the end (11-13 g/l this year).

Abtsberg Riesling "Superior" 2012 *(*)**

Very pure, very fine nose displaying stone and apple flesh. The palate is clear and has very delicate apple notes, ending with a fine, elegant finish which seems dry but not sharp (11 g/l RS). The estate considers this their best off-dry style, but it contains less sugar in 2012.

Herrenberg Riesling Kabinett 2011 ****

The nose displays breed and concentration along with stony and apple notes and a creamy overlay. The wine is beautifully calibrated on the palate, finely nuanced and persistent with a precise sugar-acid equilibrium. The ending is very clean.

Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese 2011 ****

Very restrained and youthful in the aroma, showing lovely discreet nuances of ripe white fruits. The palate is mostly held back, still to reveal itself. This wine possesses exciting finesse and understated sweetness in a long reserved finish.

Dr. Loosen, Mosel

Riesling "Red Slate" Trocken 2011 *(*)**

Enticing nose showing delicate nuances of sweet ripe white and tropical fruit. There is excellent clarity and very fine aromatic lift in the mouth together with a precise acid backbone. Offers wonderful finesse.

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Grosses Gewächs "Alte Reben" 2011 **(+)**

Exquisite perfumed and flowery nose with touches of ripe apple and other white fruits. The palate is also characterized by its alluring nuanced personality. This

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grand cru possesses a weightless mouth-feel and finishes gently dry, with controlled intensity in the finale.

Riesling “Blue Slate” 2012 *(*)**

The aroma is still dominated by primary traits, notably the scent of a flowering vine and vivid white fruits. The palate, while particularly young, delivers impressive presence and expression along with pronounced length. A selection from the villages of Bernkastel, Graach and Wehlen.

Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett 2011 *(*)**

The overt nose shows overt, mature ripe white and tropical fruit notes. In the mouth, this seductive Kabinett possesses excellent class and breed as well as an inviting fruit scent and a finely calibrated structure.

Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese 2011 **(*)**

The aroma of this promising Spätlese seems held back and cool, suggesting white fruit notes. The taste is clearly very young and still muted, but the wine delivers great precision and a fine long line. The sugar is more visible at the end, balanced by superb ripe acidity.

Selbach-Oster, Mosel

Zeltinger Schlossberg Riesling Spätlese Trocken 2011 *(*)**

The aroma of this Trocken is totally transparent, cool and muted. The palate appears weightless and non-expressive at first, amplifying in volume and flavor through the long finish. There is a fine acid backbone at the end. Expresses a terroir-dominated profile.

Zeltinger Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett Halbtrocken 2011 *(*)**

This semi-dry Riesling expresses excellent intensity and focus aromatically with cool white fruit and stone accents. There is a sense of lightness on the palate with lovely clarity and precision. The aftertaste boasts impressive length and beautiful nuances. Graceful and fine.

Riesling Spätlese “Old Vines” Halbtrocken 2011 **(*)**

Understated nose, still undeveloped, cool and soil-inflected. The wine’s taste profile shows beautiful clarity and a mouth-coating quality. Largely reserved and

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youthful, with hints of white fruits, the wine possesses a promising long aftertaste. Real class!

Zeltinger Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett 2011 ****

Reserved to the nose, cool and clear with evident fruit purity. The palate reveals clarity, very fine nuances and an extremely delicate sweetness.

Zeltinger Schlossberg Riesling Spätlese 2011 **(+)**

This Riesling presents striking intensity in the aroma and marked concentration along with youthful restraint. In the mouth, the wine offers purity and breed as well as fine equilibrium. Young and promising.

Zeltinger Himmelreich Riesling Auslese 2011 **(*)**

Light yellow gold to the eye and notably viscous. There is fantastic concentration to the nose with pronounced dried apple and peach notes, far more than is common with a Mosel Auslese. The wine possesses heightened concentration and perfect equilibrium, with great intensity and ideal framing acidity. High class.

Zeltinger Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese 1990 **+**

Light gold, still youthful appearance. The developed, highly concentrated bouquet presents appealing aromas of spiced peach and apple. The taste is marked by spice and dried yellow fruits complemented by faint nutty accents. Now nearly dry in its impression, there is a long maturing aftertaste.

St. Urbans-Hof, Mosel

Riesling "Old Vines" 2012 ****

The nose is still primary but highly expressive, with accented white fruits. The taste is gorgeous with a fantastic youthful perfume and early complexity. The vines are from 40 to 100 years old situated on flatter ground.

Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett Grosse Lage 2012 **(*)**

The nose of this young Kabinett evokes terroir and is transparent and pure. The taste is beautifully clear, showing early nuance and remarkable length. Clearly a wine of top stature.

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Kabinett Grosse Lage 2012 **(*)**

Exquisitely delicate aromatic expression, very fine yet still quite reserved. In the mouth, this Piesporter shows superbly, delivering a layered sensation and tremendous sensual length. A noble example of a famous site.

Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage 2012 **(+)**

The aroma is backward, cool and undeveloped. There is noteworthy focus and restraint in the mouth, then the concentration becomes more evident in the youthful finish.

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage 2012 **(*)**

The wines presents fantastic concentration as well as breed in the aroma, yet it is very young. The palate appears weightless and boasts fabulous purity and finesse. The finale reveals a gorgeous flowery perfume and is very delicate.

Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Auslese Grosse Lage 2012 **(+)**

This Auslese is still in a very early phase of its life, and the aroma is narrowly focused, clean and pure, but shows little else. In the mouth, it delivers a polished feel and magnificent overall integration. Sensual, soft and caressing finale. The sweetness is concealed. Classy, promising wine.

Müller-Catoir, Pfalz

Bürgergarten Riesling Trocken 2012 *(*)**

The nose is ultraclean and transparent with a suggestion of stone fruits and a milky tone. The palate delivers fantastic purity and transparency. The very youthful white fruits qualities are gorgeous and perfumed. The wine is lasting and remarkably intense in the finale.

Haardt Riesling Trocken 2012 *+**

So beautifully clean aromatically with tremendous purity, revealing transparent white fruit notes. The taste is defined by its clarity and transparency, yet has surprising persistence and delicate final nuances.

Mussbach Riesling Kabinett 2012 **(+)**

Ultraclean to the nose and, as with the others, a transparent, pure profile. The palate possesses a classic Kabinett personality with a touch of sweetness and a

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beautiful primary perfume. The wine has a very fine spinal column in the conclusion. Beautiful finesse.

Von Winning, Pfalz

I have no past experience tasting the wines of this estate, the successor to Dr. Deinhard. The Von Winning label is reserved for their dry wines. Looking over remarks from other critics for earlier vintages, I see the word “idiosyncratic” and skeptical talk of the use of French oak (500-liter barrels) for the Grosses Gewächs, which would certainly put off a traditionalist. Perhaps winemaker Stefan Attman has found his stride at this stage? All I can say is that these current releases are among the most impressive young German Rieslings in the drier style I have ever tasted. I will be watching them as they develop in bottle.

Riesling 2012 *(*)**

Remarkable intensity of expression in the aroma of a supposed “basic” Riesling! Perfectly clean, ultrapure with notes of white fruit flesh and stone accents. The palate expresses equal purity along with clarity and precision. There are explosive aromatic inflections. This is a stunning value at less than \$20 retail which I will try to find for my own drinking!

Deidesheimer Paradiesgarten Riesling Trocken 2012 **(*)**

Brilliant and impressive aroma showing great purity and dimension. In the mouth, this dry Riesling has fabulous grace and expression. Gorgeous aromatic lift. Supremely elegant. An immensely pleasurable wine!

Dr. Deinhard Deidesheimer Herrgottsacker Riesling Spätlese Trocken 2012 **(*)**

Ultraclean nose, so pure and almost invisible with ethereal white fruit inflections. The palate is beautiful and pure, delivering incredible length, clarity and poise. Brilliant and seductive Riesling.

Ruppertsberger Reiterpfad Riesling Trocken 2012 **(*)**

Brilliant youthful aromatics, quite rich with depth and budding complexity. The palate seems so weightless yet possesses amazing aromatic highlights and white fruit qualities. There is a very beautiful and complex finish, if still so very young.

Kalkofen Riesling Grosses Gewächs 2012 **(*) !**

The nose is highly concentrated, nobly pure, with stunning fruit intensity and class. The taste reveals extraordinary innate concentration and is already showing its multidimensional qualities. This top-class Riesling, fermented in French oak, possesses notable strength and amazing early dimension. This has excellent aging potential.

Pechstein Riesling Grosses Gewächs 2012 **(*) !**

The nose displays amazing concentration and is highly complex if so very young, with mineral oil, apple and other white fruit accents. The taste is explosive as the wine enters the mouth and exhibits sensational aromatic dimension. This truly great Riesling, fermented in French oak like the one above, is clearly in a very early phase of a long life. There is a gripping intensity in the undeveloped finish and a superb embedded structure, though not at all austere.

Robert Weil, Rheingau

Riesling Trocken 2012 *+**

Attractive, clean nose, focused and youthful. The youthful taste is clean and finely calibrated with delicate lasting inflections of white fruits. Finishes dry. 12% ABV.

Riesling Tradition Halbtrocken 2012 *(*)**

Impressive purity and clarity to the nose, with subtle stone and white fruits. The taste as well is ultrapure, transparent and offers subdued sweet white fruit highlights. There is a noteworthy backbone of acidity. 10% ABV.

Kiedrich Turmberg Riesling Trocken 2012 *(*)**

Beautiful purity of fruit once more with considerable restraint. Delicate white fruits. Transparent sensation as the wine enters the mouth, falling off a bit. Regains intensity in the finish. Still very young.

Kiedrich Gräfenberg Riesling Erstes Gewächs 2012 *(*+)**

That wonderful Weil purity again along with inflected ripe white fruit with a sweet, flowery note. The taste exhibits extremely subtle youthful nuances and has terrific presence. This leaves a dry, not sharp, impression and is certainly young and undeveloped with an excellent mid-term future.

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Kiedrich Gräfenberg Riesling Spätlese 2011 *(*)**

Lovely apple- and flower-scented nose, still quite focused but high class. The palate is striking for its equilibrium of fruit, sweetness and acidity. There is marked finishing intensity. Very youthful and demands aging to reveal its full potential.

Kiedrich Gräfenberg Riesling Auslese 2007 ****

The color is clear bright gold. Aromatically, this 2007 is rich and offers dried apple and peach with positive bottle development. The attack is particularly fat, textured and intense. There is less evolution in the taste profile and the structure dominates for now. The aftertaste reveals masked sweetness and, finally, a salty note.