

RESTAURANT WINE

The Full Service Guide to On Sale Beverage Profits



— Notebook: Red Bordeaux Rising?

STAR LISTINGS (940+ wines) *pg. 4*

— USA: Outstanding Chardonnays *pg. 5*

Exceptional 2015 & 2016 Pinot Noirs, *pg. 29*

Extraordinary 2014 & 2015 Cabernet Sauvignons *pg. 14*

Merlots, Malbecs, Syrahs, Zinfandels *pg. 27*

— France: 2015 Red Bordeaux *pg. 52*

— Germany: Best 2016 Rieslings *pg. 68*

Other Top German White Varietals *pg. 99*

German Pinot Noirs & Lembergers *pg. 105*

— Outstanding Values: Argentina, Australia, *pg. 42*

Chile, France & South Africa

WEINGUT GEHEIMBER RAT DR. VON BASSERMANN-JORDAN, 2016 FORST, \$224 (\$28) ★★★★★

Screw cap. A subtle, finely flavored, moderately rich Riesling, it is medium full bodied, dry, long on the palate, and lingering in the finish, tasting of honeysuckle, white peach, pineapple, and lime. Well balanced; needs modest aging. Excellent value. Organic. AP #090. VDP.Ortswein. 12.5% [2020-2023] Banville Wine Merchants, New York, NY 212.268.0906

WEINGUT GRANS-FASSIAN, 2016 ALTE REBEN, LEIWENER, \$304 (\$38.00) ★★★★★

Excellent: supple, medium full bodied, and generously flavored (apple, white peach, lime, honeysuckle), it is balanced and long on the palate, with a lingering finish. Warrants modest aging. Great value. 0.88% R.S. AP #11. VDP.Gutswein. 12.5% [2020-2023] Curious Cork Imports, Napa, CA 707.337.0551

WEINGUT HANS WIRSCHING

• **2016 ALTE REBEN, IPHOFER KRONSBURG, \$246 (\$30.75)** ★★★★★+

Two very fine Rieslings from Franconia's esteemed Wirsching estate. The Alte Reben (screw cap closure) is an intensely flavored, crisp single vineyard Riesling of excellent quality. It is full bodied, quite rich and elegant in flavor (honeysuckle, white peach, lime, candied lemon), well balanced, and very long and persistent on the finish. Great value. Can be aged. Bocksbeutel. AP #051. VDP.Erste Lage. 13.5% ♦ Sister Act is from Wirsching sisters, Lena and Andrea. It is an old vine bottling from the great Iphofer Julius-Echter-Berg vineyard. And the wine is exceptional: full bodied and very ripe in character (peach, honeysuckle, pear, apple, lime), with smooth texture, good balance, and a very long finish. Warrants further aging. Great value. AP #061. 14% [2020-2024] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499

WEINGUT HEITLINGER, 2016 'GG' SCHELLENBRUNNEN, TIEFENBACHER SCHELLENBRUNNEN, \$200/6 (\$50) ★★★★★+

Screw cap. Excellent Schellenbrunnen GG. It is supple in texture, medium full bodied, and both fine and intense in flavor (peach, lime, honeysuckle, pineapple), with excellent balance and a long finish. Great value. Can be aged further. Organically grown grapes. AP #102. 12.5% [2020-2024] European Wine Imports, Cleveland, OH 216.426.0979

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF

- **2016 TONSCHIEFER, NAHE, \$232 (\$29)** ★★★★★
- **2016 KAHLENBERG, KREUZNACHER KAHLENBERG, \$280 (\$35)** ★★★★★+
- **2016 HOLLENPFAD, ROXHEIMER HOLLENPFAD, \$308 (\$38.50)** ★★★★★

Donnhoff excelled again in 2016—and these three dry Rieslings are ample proof. The Tonschiefer (screw cap closure) is a rich version of this wine: round, medium bodied, dry, and intensely flavored; a wine with white peach, lime, honeysuckle, and pink grapefruit aromas/flavors, and a very long finish. Great value. Needs aging.

AP #05. 12% ♦ The Kahlenberg is finer still: an elegant, medium full bodied dry Riesling that is round, fairly rich in flavor (lime, honey, pear, honeysuckle, white peach), well balanced, and long on the finish. Can be aged. AP #08. VDP. Erste Lage. 12.5% ♦ The Hollenpfad is exceptional: a supple, medium full bodied wine with excellent depth of fruit (white peach, pineapple, lime, honeysuckle), fine balance, and a very long and persistent finish. Has a hint of tannin; needs aging. Great value. AP #09. VDP.Erste Lage. 12.5% [2021-2024] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF, 2016 RUESHEIMER RAMMSTEIN, \$280 (\$35) ★★★★★+

Screw cap. Very good quality, this is a softly textured, medium bodied dry Riesling of very good quality. It is ripe in character (peach, honeysuckle, pineapple), balanced, and medium long on the finish. Can be aged a bit. Good value. 0.53% R.S. AP #005. VDP.Erste Lage. 166 cases. 11.5% [2020-2023] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT K. WECHSLER

- **2016 RHEINHESSEN, \$248 (\$31)** ★★★★★
- **2016 WESTHOFENER BENN, \$200/6 (\$50)** ★★★★★+

Katharina Wechsler is an excellent producer from the Rheinhessen, whose wines are crisp and finely flavored. The Rheinhessen Riesling—from the outstanding Benn, Kirchspiel, and Aulerde vineyards in Westhofen—is a stylish wine that is medium bodied, crisp, and intensely flavored (lime, white peach, pineapple, honeysuckle), with a very long, vibrant finish. Fine value. Screw cap closure. 0.49% R.S. AP #23. 12% ♦ The Benn bottling is finer still: a ripe, elegant dry Riesling that is crisp, finely flavored (peach, honeysuckle, lime, pineapple), balanced, and medium long on the finish. Youthful; needs modest aging. 12.5% [2020-2023] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT KARL HAIDLE, 2016 STETTENER HADER, \$280 (\$35) ★★★★★

An exceptional dry Riesling from the Hader vineyard. It is round, full bodied, richly flavored (peach, honeysuckle, pear, lime, litchi nut, passion fruit, white pepper), and well balanced, with a long, smooth finish. Great value. Can be aged further. AP #22. 13% [2020-2024] Schatzi Wines, Milan, NY 845.266.0376

WEINGUT KARTHAUSERHOF

- **2016 KARTHAUSERHOF KABINETT TROCKEN, \$224 (\$28)** ★★★★★+
- **2016 ALTE REBEN, KARTHAUSERHOF SPATLESE TROCKEN, \$320 (\$40)** ★★★★★

These are classic dry Ruwer Rieslings. The Kabinett is an elegant, medium bodied dry wine with delicate pineapple, lime, and honeysuckle aromas/flavors, good balance, and a medium long finish. Can be aged a bit. Very good value. AP #005. 11% ♦ The Spatlese Trocken is outstanding: medium bodied, intensely flavored (pineapple, white peach, lime, honeysuckle), well balanced, and very long and persistent on the finish. Outstanding quality. Needs modest aging. AP #006. 12% [2020-2024] Massanois Imports, Scarsdale NY 888.242.1342

WEINGUT GRANS-FASSIAN



WEINGUT GRANS-FASSIAN

- 2016 ‘GG’ LAURENTIUSLAY, ★★★★★
LEIWENER LAURENTIUSLAY, \$240/6 (\$60)
- 2016 ‘GG’ HOFBERG, DHRONER ★★★★★
HOFBERG, \$240/6 (\$60)

Grans-Fassian produced terrific 2016 single vineyard, dry Rieslings. The Laurentiuslay GG is full bodied, supple yet crisp, elegantly flavored (apple, pineapple, lime, honeysuckle), and well balanced, with a very long, lingering finish. Warrants further aging. Great value. 0.74% R.S. AP #3. VDP.Grosse Lage. 13% ♦ The Dhroner Hofberg is exceptional: very ripe in style, with full body, supple texture, excellent depth of flavor (peach, pineapple, honey, lime), and a very long, persistent finish. Very fine quality and value. 0.69% R.S. AP #2. VDP.Grosse Lage. 13% [2021-2026] Curious Cork Imports, Napa, CA 707.337.0551

**WEINGUT HANS WIRSCHING, 2015 ‘GG’, ★★★★★
I PHOFER JULIUS-ECHTER-BERG, \$268/6 (\$67)**

Exceptional GG Riesling: full bodied, supple in texture, and both refined and rich in flavor (lime, honeysuckle, honeydew melon, grapefruit, candied lemon, pineapple, white pepper); it is very well balanced, and very long and lingering on the finish. First rate; needs further aging. Bocksbeutel. AP #032. VDP.Erste Lage. 13% [2021-2027] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF

- 2016 ‘GG’ FELSENBERG, ★★★★★+
SCHLOSSBOCKELHEIMER FELSENBERG,
\$260/6 (\$65)
- 2016 ‘GG’ DELLCHEN, NORHEIMER ★★★★★
DELLCHEN, \$280/6 (\$70)
- 2016 ‘GG’ HERMANNSHOHLE, ★★★★★
NIEDERHAUSER HERMANNSHOHLE,
\$300/6 (\$75)

Donnhoff produces some of the very greatest dry Rieslings in Germany—or the world, for that matter. At their best—in the GGs—they have tremendous depth, focus, and aging potential. Here, the Felsenberg is intensely flavored, full bodied, and crisp; a wine that is well balanced, refined in character (white peach, pineapple, honeysuckle, guava), very long on the palate, and persistent in the finish. Very fine quality. AP #24. VDP.Grosse Lage 13% ♦ The Dellechen 2016 is remarkable: richly flavored and complex in character (pineapple, lime, white peach, honeysuckle, cherimoya, tobacco), with excellent balance, and a very long, persistent finish. First rate. Needs aging. AP #25. VDP.Grosse Lage 13% ♦ Equally good is the Hermannshohle, which is very refined in character (pear, honey, pineapple, white peach, guava, honeysuckle), intensely flavored, well balanced, and very persistent on the finish. Warrants further aging. All three wines are among the best dry Rieslings of the 2016 vintage in Germany. AP #26. VDP.Grosse Lage 13% [2021-2028] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

**WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF, ★★★★★+
2016 ‘GG’ BERG ROTTLAND,
RUDESHEIM BERG ROTTLAND, \$280/6 (\$70)**

Screw cap. An elegant Berg Rottland. It is light medium bodied, supple, and moderately intense in flavor (peach, apple, pineapple, honeysuckle), with good balance, and a medium long finish. Can be aged further. 0.91% R.S. AP #018. VDP.Grosse Lage. 166 cases. 11% [2020-2024] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

**WEINGUT KARL HADLE, 2016 ‘GG’ ★★★★★+
PULVERMACHER, STETTENER
PULVERMACHER, \$244/6 (\$61)**

A supple, complex GG Riesling of excellent quality. It is very ripely flavored (honey, lime, peach, pineapple, honeysuckle), lightly oaked (toast, cedar), and well balanced, with a persistent finish. Warrants aging. Excellent value. AP #35. 13% [2020-2026] Schatzi Wines, Milan, NY 845.266.0376

Wholesale case price (9 liter case) is listed first: \$128. Retail per bottle price is listed in parentheses: (\$16).

WEINGUT DR. H. THANISCH-ERBEN ★★★★★
MULLER BURGGRAEF, 2016 MOSEL
QUALITATSWEIN FEINHERB, \$136 (\$17)

Screw cap. A crisp, medium bodied Riesling that has distinct character (apple, lime, honey), good balance, and a crisp finish. Fine value. 2.31% R.S. AP #04. 11% [2018-2020] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100

WEINGUT DR. HEYDEN, 2016 DRY STYLE, ★★★★★+
OPPENHEIMER KABINETT, \$128 (\$16)

Screw cap. A very good wine and a fine value. It is floral and fruity in character (honeysuckle, white peach, ripe grapes, lime), nearly dry, and well balanced, with a crisp, medium long finish. 1.5% R.S. AP #027. 11.5% [2018-2019] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100

WEINGUT DR. LOOSEN, 2016 BLUE SLATE, ★★★★★+
MOSEL KABINETT, \$184 (\$23)

Screw cap. An excellent Kabinett in a crisp, light bodied style. It is fragrant, elegantly flavored (pineapple, apple, honeysuckle), well balanced, and long and vibrant on the finish. Great value. AP #20. 7.5% [2019-2021] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.30411

WEINGUT GEHEIMBER RAT DR. VON ★★★★★★
BASSERMANN-JORDAN, 2016 PFALZ
QUALITATSWEIN, \$162 (\$20.25)

Screw cap. Wonderful QbA Riesling. It is aromatic and very distinct in character (honeysuckle, lime, peach, pineapple), light bodied, round, and lightly sweet, with very good balance, and very long finish. Has good depth. Can be aged a bit. Great value. 3.71% R.S. Organic. AP #026. VDP.Gutswein. 10% [2019-2021] Banville Wine Merchants, New York, NY 212.268.0906

WEINGUT GRANS-FASSIAN

- **2016 MOSEL QUALITATSWEIN, \$160 (\$20)** ★★★★★
- **2016 TRITTENHEIMER KABINETT,** ★★★★★★
\$200 (\$25)

Both wines have screw cap closures—and both are excellent wines. The QbA is a softly textured yet crisp Riesling that is fruity in character (apple, lime, pineapple), balanced, and lingering on the finish. 2.31% R.S. AP #14. VDP.Gutswein. 11.5% ♦ The Kabinett is exceptional: richly flavored, light bodied, lightly sweet, and well balanced, with intense lime, honeysuckle, pineapple, and white peach aromas/flavors, and a very long finish. Terrific value. 3.68% R.S. AP #8. VDP.Ortswein. 10% [2020-2023] Curious Cork Imports, Napa, CA 707.337.0551

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF

- **2016 NAHE QUALITATSWEIN, \$184 (\$23)** ★★★★★★
- **2016 KREUZNACHER KROTENPFUHL** ★★★★★★
KABINETT, \$200 (\$25)

Both wines have screw cap closures—and both are exceptional values. The QbA is light bodied and lightly sweet, with intense aromas/flavors (linden blossom, pineapple, white peach, pear), excellent balance, and a long finish. Will develop with modest aging. AP #02. 10% ♦ The Kabinett is a wonderful wine: supple, medium rich, crisp, and complex in character (apple, honeysuckle,

pineapple, white peach, lime), with a very long finish. Warrants modest aging. AP #01. 8.5% [2020-2023] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF

- **2016 RUDESHEIM ‘K’ KABINETT** ★★★★★
FEINHERB, \$200 (\$25)
- **2016 JOHANNISBERG ‘V’ KABINETT,** ★★★★★
\$192 (\$24)
- **2016 JOHANNISBERG ‘S’ KABINETT** ★★★★★+
FEINHERB, \$192 (\$24)
- **2016 CHARTA RIESLING, RHEINGAU** ★★★★★+
QUALITATSWEIN, \$200 (\$25)

All four wines have screw cap closures—and all four are relatively opulent wines. Three of the wines sport a single letter after the village name, which indicates the vineyard the wine comes from: K = Klosterlay; V = Vogelsang; S = Schwarzenstein. ♦ The 2016 Rudesheim K is excellent: a luscious, ripely flavored Kabinett that is supple, medium bodied, balanced, and medium long on the finish, tasting of peach, apple, pineapple, honey, and toast. Fine value. 1.67% R.S. AP #008. 11% ♦ The Johannisberg V is a supple, medium rich, light bodied style wine that is ripely flavored, balanced, and long on the finish, tasting of apple, peach, pineapple, and honeysuckle. Excellent. 4.4% R.S. AP #009. 250 cases. 9% ♦ The 2016 S Kabinett Feinherb is fragrant and very distinct in character (white peach, lime, honeysuckle), crisp, well balanced, and long on the finish. Fine value; can be aged a bit. 1.71% R.S. AP #007. 250 cases. 10.5% ♦ The Charta Riesling is also excellent: round, nearly dry, medium bodied, and fruity and lightly floral in character. It is well balanced, and long and vibrant on the finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of pear, pineapple, white peach, and honeysuckle. Great value. 0.88% R.S. AP #013. 1,000 cases. 11% [2020-2023] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT KARL HAIDLE, 2016 PFEFFER ★★★★★+
STETTEN KABINETT, \$176 (\$22)

Screw cap. A fairly dry Kabinett (1.2% R.S.) of excellent quality. It is ripely flavored (peach, lime, pineapple, with floral overtones), medium bodied, and well balanced, with a crisp finish. Great value. AP #08. VDP.Ortswein. 11% [2020-2022] Schatzi Wines, Milan, NY 845.266.0376

WEINGUT LOUIS GUNTRUM, ★★★★★★
2016 NIERSTEIN BERGKIRCHE KABINETT, ★★★★★★
\$168 (\$21)



Screw cap. A rich, supple Kabinett of exceptional quality and value. It is light-medium bodied, crisp and well balanced, and intensely flavored (pineapple, white peach, honeysuckle), with a very long, vibrant finish. Can be aged further. 4.2% R.S. AP #06. 10.5% [2020-2023] Broadbent Selections, Richmond, VA 804.353.1818

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GRANS-FASSIAN



WEINGUT GRANS-FASSIAN

- **2016 APOTHEKE GL, TRITTENHEIMBER APOTHEKE QUALITATSWEIN FEINHERB, \$360 (\$45)** ★★★★★
- **2016 TRITTENHEIMBER APOTHEKE SPATLESE, \$360 (\$45)** ★★★★★+
- **2016 PIESPORTER GOLDTROPFCHEN SPATLESE, \$320 (\$40)** ★★★★★

Three fine 2016 Rieslings. The Apotheke Feinherb is supple, off dry, medium full bodied, and moderately rich in flavor (pear, peach, pineapple, honeysuckle, honey), with good balance, and a medium long finish. 1.59% R.S. AP #13. VDP. Grosse Lage. 12.5% ♦ The Apotheke Spatlese is intensely flavored (peach, pineapple, honeysuckle, honey) and light bodied; a wine with fine character and balance, and a long finish. Great value. 8.25% R.S. AP #9. VDP. Grosse Lage. 8.5% ♦ The Goldtropfchen Spatlese is exceptional: very finely flavored, medium rich, crisp, and well balanced, with a lingering aftertaste, reminiscent of honeysuckle, yellow plum, pineapple, and white peach. Great value; can be aged. 8.72% R.S. AP #12. VDP. Grosse Lage. 7.5% [2020-2026] Curious Cork Imports, Napa, CA 707.337.0551

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF

- **2016 OBERHAUSER LEISTENBERG KABINETT, \$224 (\$28)** ★★★★★
- **2016 NORHEIMER KIRSCHHECK SPATLESE, \$304 (\$38.00)** ★★★★★+
- **2016 OBERHAUSER BRUCKE SPATLESE, \$304 (\$38.00)** ★★★★★

Donnhoff's fruity 2016s are well balanced wines with very fine character. The Kabinett (screw cap closure) is a luscious, light bodied, fairly rich wine of very fine quality. It is refined in character (white peach, honeysuckle, pineapple, lime), long on the palate, and crisp and persistent on the finish. AP #03. 9% ♦ The Kirchenstück Spatlese is light bodied and crisp; a delicately flavored (apple, lime, pineapple, tobacco), lightly sweet wine that is well balanced, and quite long on the finish. Still quite youthful. AP #10. 8% ♦ The Brucke Spatlese is exceptional: rich, refined in flavor, and light bodied; a crisp, balanced wine with a very long, lightly tannic finish,

tasting of white peach, honeysuckle, lime, and guava. Needs aging. Great value. AP #11. 8.5% [2021-2027] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF, ★★★★★
2016 JOHANNISBERGER KLAUS SPATLESE, \$320 (\$40)

Screw cap. An excellent 2016 Rheingau Spatlese. It is fragrant, light bodied, and intensely flavored, with pear, white peach, honeysuckle, pineapple, and almond aromas/flavors. It is well balanced, and long on the finish. Great value. Warrants further aging. 6.6% R.S. AP #013. 58 cases. 8% [2020-2024] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

The wines included here are the highest rated of all those we taste—and account for only 30% to 40% of all wines tasted, percentages in line with 'award wines' at leading international wine competitions.