

RESTAURANT WINE

The Full Service Guide to On Sale Beverage Profits



NOTEBOOK: Major Challenges Ahead *pg. 2*
for Restaurants in 2021 & Beyond

— **Catching Up with Master Sommelier Nick Davis** *pg. 5*

STAR LISTINGS (900 wines) *pg. 14*

— **USA: Exceptional White & Red Wines from
Russian River Valley** *pgs. 15, 29*

— **First Rate Cabernet Sauvignons & blends
from Napa Valley and Sonoma County** *pg. 23*

— **Outstanding Rhone-Style Blends, Syrahs, Zins** *pg. 39*

— **Focus on 2018 German Rieslings & Silvaners** *pg. 54*

— **Top German Pinot Noirs** *pg. 111*

— **Fine Piemonte Whites & Reds** *pg. 119*

— **Wonderful Values from Argentina, Chile,
France, Italy, Austria & Spain** *pg. 42*

Issues #190–#193

region enjoyed a fine 2018 vintage, which yielded ripe, high quality, intensely flavored wines, such as the wonderful Smaragds from **Domane Wachau**, which are among the best they have produced. Here, we single out Gruner Veltliners from Ried Kellerberg, Ried Axpoint, and Ried Achleiten, and the Rieslings from Ried Kellerberg, Ried Singeriedel, and Ried Achleiten—special wines, with several more years of development ahead . . . From **Chile**, the **Los Maquis** winery continues to produce outstanding wines at reasonable prices, including their latest Vina Maquis Gran Reservas (Cabernet Franc, Carmenere), and the higher priced blend, Maquis Lien.

FRANCE—From the Loire Valley, a series of outstanding wines by **J. de Villebois** are highly recommended in these reviews, including its Cremant de Loire sparkler, and its fine 2018 Sauvignon Val de Loire (IGP), Pouilly-Fume, Sancerre, and Pouilly-Fume ‘Marnes Kimmeridgiennes’. . . **Vincent Girardin’s** 2017 white Burgundies are outstanding wines, and values; we are especially keen on: Cuvee Saint-Vincent, and the three Vieilles Vignes (old vines) bottlings of Pouilly-Fuisse, Chassagne-Montrachet, and Puligny-Montrachet . . . From the Rhone Valley, the white blend from **La Croix des Pins**, ‘Les Trois Villages’, is exceptional, and moderately priced. . . Rhone Valley reds we single out are the 2017s from **Domaine Rouge Garance** (Rouge Garance, Cotes du Rhone); and two Crozes-Hermitage from **Domaine Combier**: ‘Laurent Combier’, and Clos de Grives—both exceptional wines. Further south, from Pays d’Oc, the inexpensive reds from **Sanssouci**—‘Le Rouge’ blend, Cabernet Sauvignon—are delicious, and remarkable values.

GERMANY—More than 400 German wines are recommended in our German Wine Report, including 5 sparkling wines, 192 dry Rieslings, 41 other dry white wines, 158 fruity and noble sweet Rieslings, 11 other fruity and noble sweet whites, 6 Roses, 20 Pinot Noirs, and 10 other red wines. Exactly 90% of the recommended white wines and roses are from the 2018 vintage. Too, more than 90% of all the wines reviewed derive from **VDP** estates (VDP is one of the world’s elite wine estate organizations—and the first, founded in Germany in 1905, and currently with 280 members.)

Among the sparklers, one classic method sparkling wine stood out: **von Buhl’s** Reserve Brut from the Pfalz.

In our 2018 Riesling report, we highlight many producers whose dry/trocken Rieslings are outstanding in their respective price categories; those who produced two or more 5 star wines reviewed here are noted with a (+):

A. Christmann (+)	Gunderloch (+)
Ansgar Clusserath	Hans Wirsching
Bassermann-Jordan (+)	Hermann Donnhoff (+)
Battenfeld Spanier (+)	Kloster Eberbach (+)
Burklin-Wolf (+)	Kuhling-Gillot (+)
Domdechant Werner (+)	Johannishof
Dr. Loosen	Juliusspital
Dr. Thanisch, Erben-Thanisch	Louis Guntrum
Emrich-Schonleber	Muller-Catoir (+)
Fritz Haag (+)	Pfeffingen
Fritz-Ritter	Prinz Salm
Grans-Fassian (+)	Prinz von Hessen

Rainer Sauer	von Hovel
Robert Weil (+)	von Kesselstatt (+)
S.A. Prum (+)	Wagner-Stempel (+)
Schloss Johannisberg	Wegeler (+)
Schloss Saarstein	Willi Schaefer
Schloss Vollrads (+)	Wittmann (+)
von Buhl (+)	

Those estates with the most 5 star 2018 vintage dry Rieslings were: **Bassermann-Jordan** (6), **Wittmann** (6), **Wegeler** (5), **A. Christmann** (4), **Grans-Fassian** (4), **Hermann Donnhoff** (4), **Kuhling-Gillot** (4), **Wagner-Stempel** (4), **Burklin-Wolf** (3), **S.A. Prum** (3), **Schloss Vollrads** (3), **von Kesselstatt** (3).

The fruity and noble sweet 2018 Rieslings that we rate as exceptional in their price categories include versions from: **Bassermann-Jordan**, **Burklin-Wolf**, **Domdechant Werner** (+), **Donnhoff** (+), **Dr. Loosen** (+), **Dr. Thanisch**, **Erben Thanisch** (+), **Fritz Allendorf**, **Fritz Haag** (+), **Louis Guntrum**, **Gunderloch**, **Hans Wirsching**, **J.J. Prum** (+), **Johannishof** (+), **Karl Haidle**, **Kloster Eberbach**, **Kuhling-Gillot**, **Muller-Catoir**, **Prinz Salm**, **S.A. Prum**, **Schloss Johannisberg** (+), **Schloss Saarstein** (+), **Schloss Vollrads**, **Schmitt Sohne**, **von Hovel** (+), **von Kesselstatt** (+), **Wegeler** (+), and **Willi Schaefer** (+).

Those estates with the most 5 star fruity/noble sweet Rieslings were: **Willi Schaefer** (9), **von Hovel** (7), **Wegeler** (6), **Schloss Johannisberg** (5), **Schloss Saarstein** (5), **Dr. Loosen** (4), **Fritz Haag** (4), **Johannishof** (4), and **von Kesselstatt** (4).

We also tasted more than a hundred other German wines—Silvaners, Rieslaners, Weissburgunders, Lembergers, and Pinot Noirs, from vintages 2016-2018. Top rated dry Silvaners include those from **Hans Wirsching** (+), **Juliusspital**, **Rainer Sauer** (+); 5-star Pinot Blancs were made by **Juliusspital**, **Muller-Catoir** (+), **Schloss Saarstein**, **Wagner-Stempel**, and **Wittmann** (+). Outstanding dry Scheurebes were made by **Hans Wirsching**, **Muller-Catoir**, and **Pfeffingen**; top Pinot Gris by **Dr. Heger**; and impressive Chardonnay by **von Buhl**. Special recognition is due Rainer Sauer, whose four 2018 Silvaners all were awarded 5-star ratings.

Splendid noble sweet wines include those from **Muller-Catoir** (Rieslaner TBA) and **Hans Wirsching** (Silvaner BA, Gewurztraminer TBA). Exceptional Lembergers were made by **Graf Neipperg** and **Karl Haidle** (+), while outstanding Pinot Noirs from either 2016 or 2017 were produced by **August Kessler**, **Battenfeld Spanier**, **Dr. Heger**, **Fritz Allendorf**, **Graf Neipperg** (+), **Juliusspital**, and **Kloster Eberbach**.

ITALY—Sartori 2018 ‘Ferdì’ (100% Garganega) is an excellent dry white wine. . . From 2019, the rare Nascetta (‘Anas-Cetta’) from **Elvio Cogno** is superb. . . When can a white wine also be a Rose? When it is a Pinot Grigio that undergoes brief skin contact, and emerges coppery-pink (‘ramato’) in color, as is **Corte Giacobbe’s** fine 2019 version. . .

Very impressive Nebbiolos are made by **Torraccia del Plan-tavigna**, whose Ghemmes and Gattinaras back to vintage 2007

GERMAN WINE REPORT – 2018 VINTAGE



The dry and warm 2018 growing season proffered fully ripe grapes, in abundance, resulting in outstanding dry and fruity wines, and some great noble sweet wines. Here, the harvest crew (including owners and friends) for Weingut Willi Schaefer treks to the winery's next small plot of Graacher Himmelreich, one of the world's great Riesling vineyards—because the vineyard parcels are not contiguous.

The 2018 vintage in Germany was an excellent one, producing both high quality wines and abundant quantities: yields were 37% higher than in 2017—which was a short crop, down 17% compared to 2015 and 2016—and well above the prior decade's average.

Importantly, the growing season was sunny and very dry. Flowering was early, and rain was scarce from June to September—so that mildew and bad rot rarely surfaced, and grapes generally reached optimal ripeness in excellent—if not pristine—condition, which, significantly, meant that high quality late harvest wines could be produced across the entire spectrum—from Spatlese to Trockenbeerenauslese—and with less risk than usual. However, noble rot (*botrytis cinerea*) was not widespread in 2018, so the quantity of noble sweet wines produced was moderate, not plentiful.

The warm—even hot—growing season brought on a very early harvest—mid-August—for many producers, the earliest on record. The Riesling harvest began in mid-September.

Not surprisingly, given the summer heat, the 2018s display a sense of full ripeness, even opulence, which allows the wines to be surprisingly approachable, even delicious, in their youth, a bonus for wine drinkers inclined to drink their wines young.



Übersicht/ Table 12

Weinerzeugung 2018 nach Anbaugebieten
Wine production 2018 by wine-growing region

Anbaugebiet / Wine-growing region	Deutscher Wein, Landwein / German wine, Landwein		Qualitätswein		Prädikatswein		Insgesamt/ Total	
	hl	%	hl	%	hl	%	hl	%
	Ahr	4.002	6,9	50.634	86,8	3.707	6,4	58.343
Baden	7.424	0,5	526.573	35,0	969.562	64,5	1.503.559	14,6
Franken	2.467	0,5	127.700	26,2	356.912	73,3	487.079	4,7
Hessische Bergstraße	284	0,7	25.598	60,5	16.456	38,9	42.338	0,4
Mittelrhein	1.478	3,9	22.943	60,1	13.776	36,1	38.197	0,4
Mosel	80.282	5,3	1.028.938	67,5	414.841	27,2	1.524.061	14,8
Nahe	3.755	1,3	128.617	45,4	151.009	53,3	283.381	2,8
Pfalz	95.165	4,8	1.404.629	71,5	466.093	23,7	1.965.887	19,1
Rheingau	1.238	0,4	106.783	38,2	171.201	61,3	279.222	2,7
Rheinhausen	249.940	8,7	1.816.054	63,5	794.349	27,8	2.860.343	27,9
Saale-Unstrut	30	0,1	30.145	64,4	16.653	35,6	46.828	0,5
Sachsen	861	3,3	8.079	31,1	17.047	65,6	25.987	0,3
Württemberg	2.979	0,3	740.667	64,4	405.700	35,3	1.149.346	11,2
andere	3.937	100,0	-	-	-	-	3.937	0,0
Deutschland	453.842	4,4	6.017.360	58,6	3.797.306	37,0	10.268.508	100,0

Indeed, the one of the key stylistic challenges in 2018 for producers was managing the balance between ripeness and acidity, in order to craft wines that would be consistent with those of previous vintages in character and vitality, albeit somewhat riper in flavor.

Based on our tasting here of more than 400 white wines from the 2018 vintage—most of them Riesling—it is clear to us that most estate producers succeeded admirably. At their best—the GGs, for example, from Bassemann-Jordan, Donnhoff, and Wittmann, or from A. Christmann, Grans-Fassian, Kuhling-Gillot, Muller-Catoir, S.A. Prum, and Wegeler, among many others—they are first rate wines, with good aging potential ahead.

Equally important, the 2018 dry wines in the medium price category—from Riesling, but also Silvaner, Scheurebe, Weissburgunder, Gewurztraminer—outperformed recent vintages in terms of both overall quality and value. We have never tasted so many outstanding moderately priced German dry white wines—as a percentage of the total—in our decades of tasting (producers: Battenfeld Spanier, Burklin-Wolf, Domdechant Werner, Fritz-Ritter, Dr. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch, Graf Neipperg, Grans-Fassian, Gunderloch, Hans Wirsching, JuliuSpital, Kloster Eberbach, Kuhling-Gillot, Muller-Catoir, Pfeffingen, Prinz von Hessen, Prinz Salm, Rainer Sauer, S.A. Prum, Schloss Vollrads, Schloss Saarstein, von Buhl, von Hovel, von Kesselstatt, Wagner-Stempel, Wegeler, Wittmann, and Willi Schaefer, among others).

Only 4.4% of Germany's 2018 wine production was categorized as 'Landwein' or 'German Wine', but fully 95.6% was either Qualitätswein or Prädikatswein, the two top categories. Note that 5 regions—Rheinhausen, Pfalz, Mosel, Baden, Wurttemberg—accounted for almost 88% of Germany's total 2018 wine production.

Much the same can be said about the 2018 fruity/fruchtig white wines: in the medium price category, the wines—from Riesling to Scheurebe—deliver excellent flavor and outstanding value (Bassemann-Jordan, Domdechant Werner, Dr. Thanisch-Erben Thanisch, Fritz Allendorf, Karl Haidle, Johannishof, Louis Guntrum, Schloss Saarstein, von Hovel, von Kesselstatt, S.A. Prum, Wegeler, and so on).

And the late harvest and noble sweet 2018s (Auslese to TBA)? Although some of them display a little less raciness (acidity) than in other recently vintages, like 2017, they are generally balanced wines, lacking neither acidity nor aging potential. Indeed, many are magnificent: with voluptuous richness and texture, a kaleidoscope of ripe to ultra-ripe flavors, and outstanding length—wines that will benefit from, or even require, several more years of bottle aging in order to blossom.

Top noble sweet wines were made by Bassemann-Jordan, Donnhoff, Dr. Loosen, Fritz Haag, Hans Wirsching, J.J. Prum, Kuhling-Gillot, Prinz Salm, S.A. Prum, Schloss Saarstein, Schloss Johannisberg, Willi Schaefer, and Weinguter Wegeler, whose Doctor BA and TBA are among the wines of the vintage. 🍷

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF

- 2018 'TONSCHIEFER', NAHE, \$232 (\$29) ★★★★★+
- 2018 KAHLBERG, KREUZNACHER KAHLBERG, \$328 (\$41) ★★★★★

These are very fine dry Rieslings, and excellent values. The Tonschiefer (screw cap) is medium bodied and crisp, with excellent flavor (pineapple, white peach, honeysuckle), good balance, and a long, vibrant finish. Warrants at least 2 more years of aging. From the Leistenberg vineyard. Fermented and aged in oak casks and stainless steel. AP #02. 13% ♦ The 2018 Kahlenberg Trocken is outstanding. It is a medium full bodied, supple, finely flavored wine, with great balance, some richness, and a very long, persistent finish, tasting of honey, white peach, pineapple, lime, and linden blossom). A young wine, in need of at least 3 more years of aging. Fine value. AP #11. VDP. Erste Lage. 12.5% [2023-2028] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT HEYMANN-LOWENSTEIN, 2018 'SCHIEFER TERRASSEN', MOSEL, \$140/6 (\$35) ★★★★★

Screw cap. Quite intense in flavor (apple, lime, peach, honey, jasmine), full bodied, and crisp, this is an excellent Mosel Trocken, with a very long palate evolution, and a vibrant, persistent finish. Excellent value; can be aged further. AP #04. 12% [2022-2026] www.hlweb.de

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF

- 2018 RUDESHEIMER RAMSTEIN, ★★★★★+ \$240 (\$30)
- 2018 'GG' BERG ROTTLAND, ★★★★★+ RUDESHEIM BERG ROTTLAND, \$200/6 (\$50)

Both wines have screw cap closures. And both are in a supple, ripe style. The Ramstein is a very fine dry Riesling: rich, round, and well balanced, with intense flavors (peach, pineapple, pear, apple blossom) and a smooth, long finish. Great value! Can be aged a bit. 0.59% R.S. AP #005. VDP. Erste Lage. 175 cases. 13% ♦ The GG Berg Rottland is exceptional; a medium full bodied, concentrated wine with smooth texture, excellent depth and flavor (peach, pineapple, pear, linden blossom), good balance, and a very long finish. Great value; warrants further aging. 0.59% R.S. AP #018. VDP. Grosse Lage. 191 cases. 12.5% [2022-2028] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT KARL HAIDLE, 2018 STETTENER HADER, \$296 (\$37) ★★★★★

Excellent: full bodied, crisp, and finely flavored (pear, white peach, lime, jasmine, roasted nut), it is long on the palate, and zesty on the finish. A complex, crisp wine with further development ahead. Native yeast fermented, and aged nearly a year in German oak barrels. Organic. AP #23. VDP. Erste Lage. 13.5% [2021-2024] Schatzi Wines, Milan, NY 845.266.0376

WEINGUT LIEBFRAUENTSTIFT, 2018 WORMSER LIEBFRAUENTSTIFT-KIRCHENSTUCK, \$280 (\$35) ★★★★★

Screw cap. Excellent Liebfrauentstift-Kirchenstück Riesling: finely flavored (peach, apple, lime, honeysuckle), medium full bodied, and nicely balanced, it has moderate richness and a long finish. Warrants modest aging. Great value. AP #05. 13% [2021-2024] Transcendent Wines, Napa, CA 707.265.1700

WEINGUT LOUIS GUNTRUM

- 2018 OPPENHEIM SACKTRAGER, ★★★★★ \$256 (\$32)
- 2018 NIERSTEIN OELBERG, \$256 (\$32) ★★★★★+

Both wines have screw cap closures. The 2018 Sacktrager Riesling is very floral and fruity in flavor (honeysuckle, clove, pear, white peach), full bodied, balanced, and long on the finish. A young wine with several years of aging potential ahead. Excellent good value. 0.35% R.S. AP #009. 13% ♦ The Oelberg is somewhat finer: full bodied, ripely flavored (honeysuckle, white peach, lemongrass, dried fig), well balanced, and long on the finish. Can be aged. Fine value. 0.35% R.S. AP #006. 13% [2022-2026] Broadbent Selections, Richmond, VA 804.353.1818

WEINGUT MULLER-CATOIR, 2018 BURGERGARTEN, HAARDTER BURGERGARTEN, \$256 (\$32) ★★★★★+

Full bodied and fairly rich in flavor (white peach, passionfruit, lime, apple), this is a well balanced, elegant Riesling, with a very long finish. Still quite young; warrants 5+ more years of aging. Great value! Unwooded. Organic. AP #13. VDP. Erste Lage. 13% [2024-2028] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT PFEFFINGEN, 2018 'TERRA ROSSA', UNGSTEIN, \$256 (\$32) ★★★★★

Screw cap. An excellent Ungstein Riesling: somewhat fleshy in texture and very floral and spicy in character (peach, honeysuckle, pineapple, lime, guava), it is full bodied, balanced, and long on the finish. Excellent value; can be aged further. AP #19. VDP. Ortswein. 12.5% [2022-2025] The German Wine Collection, Carlsbad, CA 760.585.2048

WEINGUT PRINZ SALM

- 2018 BINGEN, \$240 (\$30) ★★★★★
- 2016 DALBERGER RITTERHOLLE, ★★★★★+ \$320 (\$40)
- 2016 SOMMERLOCHER STEINROSSEL, ★★★★★+ \$304 (\$38)

A trio of wonderful dry Rieslings from Prinz Salm—the first from 2018, the second two from 2016. The Bingen dry Riesling is excellent: round and full bodied, with intense, ripe fruit character (white peach, honey, pineapple, lime), good balance, and a lingering finish. Great value; can be aged further. AP #14. VDP. Aus Ersten Lagen. 12.5% ♦ The 2016 Ritterholle is equally good: fragrant and very distinct in character (pear, lime, lemon grass, peach, yellow plum), this is a crisp, intensely flavored wine with a vibrant palate impression and a long finish. Excellent. Can be aged further. AP #17. VDP. Erste Lage. 12.5% ♦ The 2016 Steinrossel is refined and ripe in flavor (honey, peach, linden blossom, pineapple); a supple, full bodied, fairly rich Riesling with good depth and balance, and a very long finish. Excellent value. Drinks well now, but can be aged further. AP #17. VDP. Erste Lage. 13% [2021-2024] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT PRINZ VON HESSEN, 2018 'DACHSFILET', RHEINGAU, \$160/6 (\$40) ★★★★★

Screw cap. An excellent dry Riesling. It is round, medium full in body, and fairly rich; a wine with ripe fruit character (pineapple, white peach, apple), excellent depth and balance, and a lingering finish. Drinks well now, but can develop further.

(Continued next page)

Telephone numbers are main office numbers of producers, agents, and importers of wines and other beverages reviewed.

WEINGUT FRITZ-RITTER, 2018 FLAGGENTURM DURKHEIMER QUALITATSWEIN FEINHERB, \$160 (\$20) ★★★★★

Screw cap. A lightly sweet, round, ripely flavored Riesling with moderate richness, good balance, and a medium long finish, tasting of pear, honeysuckle, and white peach. Great value! 1.33% R.S. AP #01.VDP.Ortswein. 12% [2021-2022] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100

WEINGUT GEHEIMER RAT DR. VON BASSERMANN-JORDAN, 2018 PFALZ QUALITATSWEIN, \$162 (\$20.25) ★★★★★

Screw cap. Wonderful Riesling; light bodied, very ripe and fragrant in aroma and flavor (honeysuckle, white peach, pineapple, pear, lime), it is mildly sweet, well balanced, and a crisp and long on the finish. Will develop further. Great value. AP #03. 9.5% [2021-2023] Banville Wine Merchants, New York, NY 212.268.0906

WEINGUT GUNDERLOCH, 2018 'JEAN-BAPTISTE', RHEINHESSEN KABINETT FEINHERB, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★★

Screw cap. Fine Kabinett: fragrant, light medium bodied, and crisp, with modest sweetness, floral-fruity flavors (honeysuckle, pineapple, lime, apple), good balance, and a crisp finish. Great value; can be aged a bit. 2.2% R.S. AP #003. VDP.Gutswein. 4,000 cases. 10.5% [2021-2023] David Bowler Wine, New York, NY 212.807.1680

WEINGUT KARL HAIDLE, 2018 'PFEFFER', STETTEN KABINETT, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★★

Screw cap. An exceptional Kabinett: fruity, lightly sweet (Feinherb-like), and medium bodied, it is crisp, well balanced, and ripely flavored (apple, peach, honeysuckle). Warrants modest aging. Great value. 1.6% R.S. Unwooded. Named after one of Stetten's early inhabitants, Johan David Pfeffer. AP #08. VDP.Ortswein. 11.5% [2021-2023] Schatzi Wines, Milan, NY 845.266.0376

WEINGUT LOUIS GUNTRUM, 2018 NIERSTEIN BERGKIRCHE KABINETT, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★★

Screw cap. Great value Kabinett: round, medium bodied, mildly sweet, and well balanced; a Riesling with apple, pineapple, pear, lime, and honeysuckle flavors, and a medium long finish. Great value; can be aged a bit. 2.5% R.S. AP #007. 11% [2021-2024] Broadbent Selections, Richmond, VA 804.353.1818

WEINGUT PRINZ VON HESSEN, 2018 'CLASSIC', RHEINGAU QUALITATSWEIN, \$128 (\$16) ★★★★★

Screw cap. A medium bodied, lightly sweet Riesling that is ripe in flavor (peach, apple, lime, honeysuckle, pineapple), well balanced, and long on the finish. Can age a bit. Great value. 1.34% R.S. Unwooded. AP #019. VDP.Gutswein. 12% [2022-2023] Small Lot Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; Regal Wine Imports, Moorestown, NJ

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF



WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF

- **2018 JOHANNISBERG 'V' KABINETT, \$200 (\$25)** ★★★★★
- **2018 'CHARTA', RHEINGAU QUALITATSWEIN, \$200 (\$25)** ★★★★★

Both wines have screw cap closures, and both are outstanding values. The Kabinett, from the Vogelsang vineyard, is very aromatic and distinct in character (peach, honeysuckle, linden blossom, lime), light medium bodied, round, lightly sweet, and well balanced, with a long finish. Can be aged further. 3.99% R.S. AP #009. VDP.Ortswein. 291 cases. 9.5% ♦ The Charta is also very fine, if a bit fuller in body and drier. It is medium bodied, ripe in flavor (pear, honey, white peach, pineapple), and balanced, with a lingering finish. First rate; can be aged a bit. 1.09% R.S. AP #003. 1,100 cases. 11.5% [2022-2024] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

closure) is a crisp, light bodied wine that is complex in character (pineapple, white peach, lime, tobacco, honeysuckle), lightly sweet, nicely balanced, and long and vibrant on the finish. Will develop with further aging. AP #04. VDP.Grosse Lage. 9% ♦ The Klamm Kabinett is exceptional: light bodied, fragrant, and very finely flavored (peach, pineapple, lime, apple), with excellent balance, and a crisp, long finish. Great value. Warrants at least 2 more years of aging. AP #05. VDP. Grosse Lage. 9.5% ♦ The Brucke Spatlese is superb: supple, rich, and refined in flavor (honey, pear, white peach, grapefruit, honeysuckle, lime, toast), with fine balance, and a crisp, persistent finish. Needs aging. AP #13. VDP.Grosse Lage. 8% [Kabinetts: 2023-2027; Spatlese: 2025-2033] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

leading estate. The Himmelreich Kabinett is round, light bodied, and balanced, with good acidity, and a medium long finish, tasting of apple, lime, honey, dried fig, pineapple, and tobacco. Rich for a Kabinett. Can be aged. Excellent. AP #03. 9% ♦ The Badstube Spatlese is intensely flavored, light bodied, and crisp, with lime, linden blossom, pineapple, and honey flavors, fine balance, and a rich, long finish. Warrants modest aging. Excellent. AP #05. 9% ♦ The Wehlener Kabinett is better still: finely flavored (white peach, pineapple, lime, honeysuckle), well balanced, and very long on the finish. An impressive Kabinett, with good aging potential. AP #04. 9% ♦ The Sonnenuhr Spatlese is a concentrated wine that is very aromatic; a wine with refined character (green apple, lime, linden blossom, white peach, honeysuckle), light body, good balance, and a very persistent finish. Excellent; warrants aging. AP #08. 9% ♦ The Zeltinger Auslese is fairly intense yet refined in style; a medium rich, vibrant wine that is balanced, very long on the palate, and persistent on the finish, tasting of white peach, linden blossom, elderflower, apple, and lime. Great value; warrants several more years of aging. AP #10. 8% [Kabinetts: 2022-2026; Spatleses: 2024-2032; Auslese: 2025-2035] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

WEINGUT JOH. JOS. PRUM – all VDP.Grosse Lage

- **2018 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH KABINETT, \$280 (\$35)** ★★★★★
- **2018 BERNKASTELER BADSTUBE SPATLESE, \$296 (\$37)** ★★★★★
- **2018 WEHLENER SONNENUHR KABINETT, \$296 (\$37)** ★★★★★+
- **2018 WEHLENER SONNENUHR SPATLESE, \$360 (\$45)** ★★★★★+
- **2018 ZELTINGER SONNENUHR AUSLESE, \$400 (\$50)** ★★★★★+

An impressive range of excellent 2018 Rieslings from this

Editorial Policy: All editorial content in RESTAURANT WINE® – including articles, reviews, tasting notes, images/graphics, and photography – is professionally responsible and reliable, and is not supported by payment (including goods and services) of any kind.

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF



WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF

- **2018 JOHANNISBERGER KLAUS SPATLESE, \$288 (\$36)** ★★★★★
- **2018 RUDESHEIMER BERG ROTTLAND SPATLESE, \$288 (\$36)** ★★★★★

Both wines have screw cap closures; and both are supple and rich in style. The Klaus Spatlese is a luscious, ripely flavored wine with intense white peach, linden blossom, honeysuckle, honey, and pineapple flavors, good balance, and a very persistent finish. Outstanding value; can be aged. 6.65% R.S. AP #013. 95 cases. 8.5% ♦ The Berg Rottland is Auslese-like: supple and concentrated, with peach, honey, pineapple, peach skin, and linden blossom flavors, and a long finish. Warrants further aging. Great value. 7.03% R.S. AP #014. 100 cases. 8.5% [2023-2030] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610



WEINGUT GRANS-FASSIAN, ★★★★★+
2018 TRITTENHEIMBER APOTHEKE
AUSLESE, \$560 (\$70)
 Very fine Auslese, with light body, intense character (honey, peach, pineapple, linden blossom), good depth of flavor, and a very long finish. Quite young; merits further aging. Excellent. AP #10. VDP.Grosse Lage. 8.5% [2024-2032]
 www.grans-fassian.de

WEINGUT GUNDERLOCH, ★★★★★
2018 NACKENHEIM ROTHENBERG
AUSLESE, \$360/6 (\$90)
 Screw cap. Excellent Auslese: very floral and fruity in character, light bodied, and balanced, it is very long on the palate, and lingering in the the finish, tasting of honeysuckle, apple, lemon peel, pineapple, and peach skin. Warrants aging. Fine value. 9.5% R.S. AP #015. VDP.Grosse Lage. 100 cases. 7.5% [2028-2040] David Bowler Wine, New York, NY 212.807.1680

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF
 • **2018 NIEDERHAUSER ★★★★★+**
HERMANNSHOHLE SPATLESE,
\$260/6 (\$65)
 • **2018 NIEDERHAUSER ★★★★★★**
HERMANNSHOHLE AUSLESE, \$760 (\$95)
 Two first rate Rieslings from this top vineyard. The Spatlese is round, crisp, and light bodied; a wine that is elegantly flavored (pear, white peach, pineapple, lime, honeysuckle, peach skin), very well balanced, and crisp and persistent on the finish. Excellent; needs several more years of aging. Aged in stainless steel. AP #14. VDP.Grosse Lage. 8% [2025-2032] ♦ The Auslese is superb: fine and intense in flavor (linden blossom, lime, peach, honey, pineapple), it is supple, light bodied, crisp, and well balanced Riesling, with a very long and harmonious finish. Great value; warrants at least 5 more years of aging. AP #24. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7% [2027-2038] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT JOH. JOS. PRUM – both VDP.Grosse Lage
 • **2018 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH ★★★★★**
AUSLESE, \$240/6 (\$60)
 • **2018 WEHLENER SONNENUHR ★★★★★+**
AUSLESE, \$300/6 (\$75)
 Two very fine Ausleses from J.J. Prum. The Himmelreich is an elegant, well balanced wine that is light bodied, intensely flavored (white peach, pineapple, elderflower, lime), well balanced, and persistent on the finish. A very young wine; warrants at least 5 to 10 years of aging. Excellent value. AP #11.7.5% ♦ The Sonnenuhr is round, very concentrated, and finely flavored (peach, elderflower, honey, linden blossom), with fine balance, and very long finish. Excellent quality; warrants aging. AP #12. 8% [2025-2035] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF, ★★★★★+
2018 RUDESHEIMER KLOSTERLAY
AUSLESE, \$320/12 375 m.l. (\$40/375 m.l.)
 Screw cap. Wonderful Auslese, this 2018 Klosterlay is extremely aromatic, fairly rich on the palate, and balanced, with a very long finish, tasting of honey, white peach, honeysuckle, peach jam, and lime. Excellent value; needs several more years of aging. 15.77% R.S. AP #010. 29 cases. 7% [2025-2035] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT MULLER-CATOIR, ★★★★★+
2018 BURGERGARTEN, HAARDTER
BURGERGARTEN SPATLESE, \$428, \$53.50
 An exceptional Spatlese, this 2018 Burgergarten is round, light medium bodied, and fairly rich; a wine with refined character (pear, white peach, pineapple, lime, honeydew melon), good balance, and a very long, lingering finish. Delicious; warrants further aging. Aged in stainless steel. Organic. 6.12% R.S. AP #21. VDP.Erste Lage. 13.5%

WEINGUT PRINZ SALM – both VDP.Grosse Lage
 • **2018 FELSENECK AUSLESE, ★★★★★+**
WALLHAUSEN FELSENECK AUSLESE,
\$320/6 (\$80)
 • **2018 SCHLARLACHBERG AUSLESE, ★★★★★★**
BINGEN SCHARLACHBERG AUSLESE,
\$420 (\$55)
 Delicious 2018 Ausleses. The Felseneck is supple and medium rich; a refined, balanced, light bodied Auslese with good balance, excellent flavor (peach, honey, linden blossom, honeysuckle, pineapple), and a very persistent finish. Great value; can be aged. AP #08. 7% ♦ The Scharlachberg is exceptional: elegantly flavored (pear, honey, white peach, honeysuckle, pineapple), it is light bodied, crisp, balanced, and very long on the finish. 9.6% R.S. Impressive young Riesling; can be aged. Great value. AP #15. 7.5% [2025-2035] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

WEINGUT ROBERT WEIL, 2018 KIEDRICH ★★★★★+
GRAFENBERG SPATLESE, \$536 (\$67)
 An excellent wine, the 2018 Grafenberg Spatlese is very complex and finely flavored (white peach, pineapple, honey, lime, honeysuckle), with fine depth and balance, and a long finish. Fine quality; warrants further aging. Unwooded. 7.54% R.S., 0.94 acidity. AP #029. VDP.Grosse Lage. 650 cases. 9% [2025-2033] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT S.A. PRUM – both VDP.Grosse Lage
 • **2018 ‘FASS 28’, WEHLENER ★★★★★+**
SONNENUHR AUSLESE, \$140/6 375 m.l.
(\$35/375 m.l.)
 • **2018 ‘FASS 46’, GRAACH DOMPROPST ★★★★★★**
AUSLESE, \$140/6 375 m.l. (\$35/375 m.l.)
 Two wonderful 2018 Mosel Ausleses. The Fass 28 is very young: a wine with excellent aging potential, this Sonnenuhr is ripe and intense in style; a wine with light body, crisp acidity, rich flavors (peach, peach jam, honey, linden blossom, pineapple, oak), and a very long and persistent finish. Very fine quality. Needs aging. 11.2% R.S. AP #05. 8.5% ♦ The Fass 46 is an exceptional Dompropst Auslese: rich, light bodied, and refined in character (apple, linden blossom, peach, pineapple, honey), it crisp and long on the plate, well balanced, and persistent on the finish. A young wine; warrants at least 5 more years of aging. 11.01% % R.S. AP #02. 7.5% [2026-2038] Taub Family Selections, Port Washington, NY 561.893.9998

Editorial Policy: All editorial content in RESTAURANT WINE® – including articles, reviews, tasting notes, images/graphics, and photography – is professionally responsible and reliable, and is not supported by payment (including goods and services) of any kind.

WEINGUT FRITZ HAAG, ★★★★★
2018 BRAUNEBERGER JUFFER
SONNENUHR AUSLESE GOLDKAPSEL,
\$416/12 375 m.l. (\$52/375 m.l.)

Terrific Auslese: very refined in flavor (white peach, honeysuckle, lime, honey), light bodied, and beautifully balanced, it is rich and long on the finish, with a very persistent aftertaste. First rate. Needs aging. AP #09. VDP. Grosse Lage. 7.5% [2030-2040] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT HANS WIRSCHING, ★★★★★
2018 IPHOFER JULIUS-ECHTER-
BERG BEERENAUSLESE, \$300/6 375 m.l.
(\$125/375 m.l.)

Splendid Riesling BA from Julius-Echter-Berg; virtually a TBA. It has a complex, refined aromas/flavors (honey, baked pear, honeysuckle, white peach, linden blossom), light bodied, exceptional depth, fine balance, and a very long and persistent finish. First rate; warrants at least 10 more years of aging. Great value. 22.82% R.S. Bocksbeutel. AP #060. 7.5% [2030-2050] The German Wine Collection, Carlsbad, CA 760.815.3545

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF, ★★★★★
2018 OBERHAUSER BRUCKE
BEERENAUSLESE, \$350/3 375 m.l. (\$175/375 m.l.)

Exceptional 2018 Beerenauslese: refined in character (linden blossom, white peach, honey, honeydew melon, pineapple), rich, well balanced, and long and full on the finish. Still quite young; warrants at least 8 more years of aging, and should continue to develop for 20+ more years. AP #25. VDP. Grosse Lage. 7% [2027-2040] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF, ★★★★★
2018 JOHANNISBERG EISWEIN 'GOLD',
\$320/6 375 m.l. (\$80/375 m.l.)

Screw cap. An unusually complex Eiswein: light in body and very intense in flavor (apple, pineapple, honey, white peach, linden blossom, toast, oak), it is crisp and long on the finish, with excellent persistence. Warrants further aging. Fine value. 21.83% R.S. AP #020. 31 cases. 8% [2025-2038] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT ROBERT WEIL, 2018 KIEDRICH ★★★★★
GRAFENBERG AUSLESE, \$720/6 (\$180)

A rich Auslese of excellent quality: refined and intense in flavor (honeysuckle, linden blossom, pineapple, honey, peach skin), balanced, and extremely long on the finish. Warrants 10+ more years of aging. 14.25% R.S. AP #020. VDP. Grosse Lage. 9% [2030-2040] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT SCHLOSS SAARSTEIN, ★★★★★+
2018 SERRIG SCHLOSS SAARSTEINER
BEERENAUSLESE, \$760/12 375 m.l. (\$95/375 m.l.)

Excellent Beerenauslese, this 2018 Serriger Schloss Saarsteiner is rich and elegant in style; a wine with very intense and refined aroma/flavor (linden blossom, white peach, honey, pineapple), crisp acidity, a long flavor evolution on the palate, and a very persistent finish. Very fine quality and value. Needs aging. 7.5% [2025-2040] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT JOH. JOS. PRUM



WEINGUT JOH. JOS. PRUM

- **2018 WEHLENER SONNENUHR ★★★★★+ AUSLESE GOLDKAPSEL, \$560/6 (\$140)**
- **2018 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH ★★★★★ AUSLESE GOLDKAPSEL, \$880 (\$110)**

Prum produces Goldkapsel Ausleses only in the best vintages—and by their depth and intensity, they are Beerenauslese-like, as are these. The 2018 Sonnenuhr is extremely rich; a fleshy, complex Riesling that tastes of peach jam, honey, linden blossom, and honeysuckle. It is balanced, long, and very persistent in the finish. Impressive; can be aged. AP #15. 7.5% ♦ The Himmelreich is exceptional: very intense and refined in aroma and flavor (linden blossom, white peach, lime, pineapple, honeysuckle), quite rich, and light bodied; a wine with fine balance, and a full, persistent finish. Delicious. Great value; warrants 10+ more years of aging. AP #14. 7% [2030-2040] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER – Auction Lots

- **2018 GRAACHER DOMPROBST ★★★★★ SPATLESE, #13, \$500/6 (\$125)**
- **2018 GRAACHER DOMPROBST ★★★★★ AUSLESE, #15, \$600/6 (\$150)**

Willi Schaefer's auction lots are Domprobst bottlings of great individuality and finesse. This 2018 #13 Spatlese is a remarkable wine: quite rich but also crisp and well balanced, with intense, refined flavor (linden blossom, pineapple, honey, lime), and a very long and persistent finish. Stunning quality; warrants 8+ more years of aging. AP #13. VDP. Grosse Lage. 49 cases. 7.5% [2026-2036] ♦ Auslese #15 is a wine of great

(continued next page)