



Wines of Germany
Top 50



THE PANEL

Journalist, author and broadcaster, Jane writes for a whole host of UK publications (including Restaurant magazine and Stylist) and is a wine expert on BBC1 Saturday Kitchen Live. She also writes for Wine & Food, was awarded International Wine & Spirit Competition Communicator of the Year 2014 and is a member of The Wine Gang.
Jane Parkinson, journalist and broadcaster

Starting her wine career at Hardys' Canberra winery, Kamberra, and then moving to Europe to work for Syndicat de Bordeaux, Beth is now a buyer for Direct Wines and a respected wine judge.
Beth Willard, wine buyer at Direct Wines

With 17 years experience in the hospitality industry, including Michelin-starred restaurants, top international hotels and working with leading tequila brands, Christina is now bar and wine manager at Som Saa restaurant in London.
Christina Schneider, sommelier at Som Saa

Owner and Michelin-starred chef at The Harrow at Little Bedwyn, with 40 years' experience in the hospitality business, Roger is a wine writer, a respected judge and award-winning restaurant personality.
Roger Jones, owner of The Harrow at Little Bedwyn

Ex-head sommelier at top restaurants Pied à Terre and Rockpool in Sydney, Australia, James is now trade director at Howard Ripley and is founder of The Vault Tastings.
James Comyn, trade director, Howard Ripley

A journey through the 50 best wines available in Germany right now

Now in its fourth year, the Wines of Germany Top 50 competition is back – a journey around Germany in 50 wines presenting you with some of the best examples from some of the world's best winegrowing regions. In March, five key members of the UK wine trade met at The Sampler in South Kensington to seek out this year's Top 50 wines, whittling down hundreds of entries.

The expert panel of judges included: Roger Jones, chef and owner of The Harrow at Little Bedwyn; Beth Willard, wine buyer at Direct Wines; Jane Parkinson, journalist and broadcaster; Christina Schneider, sommelier at restaurant Som Saa; and James Comyn, trade director at Howard Ripley.

GERMANY'S TOP 50

IMPORTED RIESLING £5-£10

Kendermanns Special Edition Riesling 2016 Pfalz

100% Riesling
WINERY: Reh Kendermann
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Waitrose
STOCKIST: Waitrose
RRP: £7.49
A fresh, attractive nose with a floral, salty palate. A good balance of fruit and a luscious, full flavour.



I Heart Riesling 2015 Rheinhessen

100% Riesling
WINERY: Henkell Weinvertrieb
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Copestick Murray
STOCKIST: Ocado
RRP: £7
Pretty floral aromas, with great racy acidity and minerality. A great-value wine.



Devil's Rock Riesling 2016 Pfalz

100% Riesling
WINERY: Binderer St Ursula
STYLE: Medium dry
IMPORTER: Off Piste Wines
STOCKIST: Co-op
RRP: £5.99
Clean and fresh, with notes of juicy peach on the palate and a fruity finish.



Riesling Grey Slate 2015 Mosel

100% Riesling
WINERY: Dr Loosen
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Awin Barratt Siegel Wine Agencies
STOCKIST: Waitrose
RRP: £9.99
A luscious, full-flavoured wine with bright and clean fruit. Notes of sea air.



The Society's Saar Riesling 2014 Mosel

100% Riesling
WINERY: Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt
STYLE: Medium dry
IMPORTER: The Wine Society
STOCKIST: The Wine Society
RRP: £9.50
Off-dry, with exotic, lychee and pretty citrus flavours. Textured, with fresh acidity on the finish.



IMPORTED RIESLING £11-£20

Steinwiege Riesling 2015 Württemberg

100% Riesling
WINERY: Schnaitmann
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Awin Barratt Siegel Wine Agencies
STOCKIST: Alexander Wines, Duncan Murray Wines, Field & Fawcett, George Hill, Honest Grapes, Lant Street, Old Butchers Wine Cellar, Villeneuve Wines
RRP: £15.99
Intense grapefruit, crunchy green apple and lime. Well-balanced, with slate, mineral and wet riverstone notes.



Neu-Bamberger Riesling 2015 Rheinhessen

100% Riesling
WINERY: Christian Steitz
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: The Wine Parlour
STOCKIST: The Wine Parlour
RRP: £18.33
Lychee on the nose with a well-balanced palate of pleasant lime and fleshy stone fruit.



Riesling 2016 Mosel

100% Riesling
WINERY: Winter
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: SWIG
STOCKIST: SWIG, Oxford Wine Company, Good Wine Shop
RRP: £14.50
Full-flavoured, balanced and vibrant with clean citrus fruit. Flavours of peach and lemon curd.



Peter & Ulrich Griebeler Riesling 2016 Mosel

100% Riesling
WINERY: Heinrichshof
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Majestic/Flint
STOCKIST: Majestic
RRP: £11.99
Grapefruit, passion fruit and soft citrus fruit. A zesty finish and a very approachable style.



Mittelheimer Edelmann Riesling 2016 Rheingau

100% Riesling
WINERY: Bernhard Mehrlein
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Indigo Wine
STOCKIST: Indigo Wine
RRP: £11.00
Lovely tropical and smokey nose, juicy on the palate. A good value wine.



“We had a really diverse and high-quality line-up this year, with some fantastic modern labels and interesting new producers. This year, we're continuing our focus on wines that are already available in the market, but we are also giving an additional push to Pinot Noir wines seeking UK representation. The tasting demonstrated just how diverse and exciting German wine is at the moment and we're very excited to be able to unveil the Top 50 Wines of Germany to the UK wine trade at our trade tasting G String on May 9”.
Nicky Forrest, managing director, Wines of Germany UK

50 degrees Riesling 2015 Rheingau

100% Riesling
WINERY: JWG Johannisberger Weinvertrieb
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Copestick Murray
STOCKIST: Butcher & Grill, Latitude Wine, Wine Cellar IoM
RRP: £11.00
Pink grapefruit and a touch of tropical fruit. Stony, flinty and pleasant savoury notes.



Riesling Spätlese 2014 Mosel

100% Riesling
WINERY: Ulrich Langguth
STYLE: Medium dry
IMPORTER: Virgin Wines
STOCKIST: Virgin Wines
RRP: £14.99
Tropical, fruity nose with apricot and mango on the palate. Full-flavoured, with a juicy finish.



Beetle Riesling 2015 Mosel

100% Riesling
WINERY: Weingut Zur Römerkeller
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Vintage Roots
STOCKIST: Vintage Roots
RRP: £11.50
Bright, fresh, spritzy and vibrant. Very drinkable and good value.



Devon Riesling 2015 Mosel

100% Riesling
WINERY: Richard Böcking
STYLE: Dry/medium dry
IMPORTER: SWIG
STOCKIST: SWIG
RRP: £18.50
Deep flavour and texture, with a flinty and smoky character. Soft, evolving fruit with notes of pink grapefruit, lychee and orange.



Asia de Cuba 2015 Rheinhessen

100% Riesling
WINERY: Hiestand
STYLE: Medium dry
IMPORTER: Virgin Wines
STOCKIST: Virgin Wines
RRP: £11.99
Well-balanced, full-flavoured and off-dry with luscious stone fruit on the palate. A lively, fresh and zingy wine.



Mülheimer Sonnenlay Riesling Zeppelin 2016 Mosel

100% Riesling
WINERY: Max Ferdinand Richter
STYLE: Medium dry
IMPORTER: Charles Taylor Wines
STOCKIST: Lathwaite's, Drinkmonger, Latitude Wine, City Wine Collection, Prohibition, Park and Bridge, Martinez, Whalley Wine Shop, Davis, Bell & McCraith, Dulwich Vintners, Exmoor Wines
RRP: £13-£15
Stone and flint on the nose, with a juicy palate of passion fruit and mango. Luscious, clean and precise with a long finish.



Oberhäuser Leistenberg Riesling Kabinett 2015 Nahe

100% Riesling
WINERY: Dönnhoff
STYLE: Off dry
IMPORTER: Awin Barratt Siegel Wine Agencies
STOCKIST: Alexander Wines, Averys, Bancroft, Bottle Apostle, Clarion, Cru London, D Byrne, Four Walls Wine, Goedhuis, H2Vin, Howard Ripley, The Wine Society, Justerini & Brooks, Les Caves de Pyrene, Tanners Wine, Taylors Fine Wine, The Halifax Wine Co, Uncorked
RRP: £18.50
Pretty nose, a very seductive palate and lovely sweetness. Off-dry but well-balanced with delicate tropical flavours.



G String – Wines of Germany Trade Tasting
Tuesday May 9, 2017
Time: 11am–5pm
Venue: The Hospital Club, 24 Endell St, London WC2H 9HQ
Following 2015's G Major and more recently 2016's G Sharp, this year's tasting, G String, will continue with the musical theme to bring to life an immersive tasting for the UK wine trade. Expect quirky focus areas, sommelier competitions, expert-led seminars and the first chance to taste the Wines of Germany Top 50 2017. Don't miss out on the opportunity to sample a concise collection of wines from some of Germany's most outstanding producers.

“ I think campaigns like the Top 50 help to promote wines that might otherwise not be the focus in major retailers. It helps provide some external endorsement for the wines so that customers have more faith in the final products, and also provides an avenue for wines not currently imported in the UK by highlighting their quality. I think we've all focused so much on newer, bone-dry, zippy Rieslings that are coming out of Germany – which are great – that there is less focus in the broader UK trade on sweeter styles. But some of the wines we tasted were simply outstanding. Perfectly harmonious and more-ish.
Beth Willard

Oppenheim Herrenberg Riesling Auslese 2015
Rheinhessen

100% Riesling
WINERY: Louis Guntrum
STYLE: Sweet
IMPORTER: Awin Barratt Siegel Wine Agencies
STOCKIST: Alexander Wines, Brothers Wines, Rannoch Scott Wines, Simply Wines Direct, The General Wine Co, Weavers of Nottingham
RRP: £14.99
Lime, delicate honey and caramelised pineapple. Textured with a nice spritz and a luscious finish. A good value wine.



Johannisberger Klaus Riesling Spätlese 2015
Rheingau

100% Riesling
WINERY: Johannishof, Johannes Eser
STYLE: Sweet
IMPORTER: The Wine Society
STOCKIST: The Wine Society
RRP: £17
Rich and deeply concentrated fruit. Controlled, textured and well-balanced.



IMPORTED RIESLING
£20+

Hargardun Riesling 2015
Rheingau

100% Riesling
WINERY: Bibo Runge
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Delibo
STOCKIST: Delibo
RRP: £22.50
Very steely, with gentle stone fruit. Textured, creamy and evolves beautifully.



Hassel Riesling GG 2014
Rheingau

100% Riesling
WINERY: Barth
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: The Winery
STOCKIST: The Winery
RRP: £35.99
Textured, stony, white-pepper flavours. Delicate then precise purity and long finish.



Rabenturm Riesling 2015
Rheinhessen

100% Riesling
WINERY: Huff
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: The Winery
STOCKIST: The Winery
RRP: £34.99
Layers of textured flavour. Well-balanced, with notes of grapefruit, mango, pineapple and lychee.



Schellenbrunnen Riesling GG 2014
Baden

100% Riesling
WINERY: Heitlinger
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Virgin Wines
STOCKIST: Virgin Wines
RRP: £20.99
A savoury, herbaceous nose with a touch of petrol, flint and smoke. Apricot, white peach and tropical fruit flavours.



Hendelberg Riesling 2015
Rheingau

100% Riesling
WINERY: Prinz
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: The Winery
STOCKIST: The Winery
RRP: £25.99
Bright, fresh and clean with a steely character. Lovely acidity, nice stone fruit and peppery notes.



Wehler Sonnenuhr Devon Riesling GG 2010
Mosel

100% Riesling
WINERY: SA Prüm
STYLE: Medium dry
IMPORTER: Delibo
STOCKIST: Delibo
RRP: £36.50
Attractive, grapey nose with a luscious, rich and textured palate. Off-dry, with dried mango and lychee flavours.



Rüdesheimer Berg Kaisersteinfels Riesling Terrassen 2013
Rheingau

100% Riesling
WINERY: Leitz
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Awin Barratt Siegel Wine Agencies
STOCKIST: Alexander Wines, Ex-Cellar
RRP: £33.49
Precise and well-balanced with attractive fruit and a smokey, long finish. Will get even better with age.



Riesling Gimmeldingen Mandelgarten Spätlese 2015
Pfalz

100% Riesling
WINERY: Müller-Catoir
STYLE: Medium sweet
IMPORTER: The Wine Society
STOCKIST: The Wine Society
RRP: £20
Pear on the nose, with a luscious full flavour. A fabulous, rich Riesling with good balance and a juicy finish.



Riesling Spätlese Grünlack 2015
Rheingau

100% Riesling
WINERY: Schloss Johannisberg
STYLE: Sweet
IMPORTER: Hallgarten Druitt & Novum Wines
STOCKIST: Hallgarten Druitt & Novum Wines
RRP: £38.49
A richly textured, rounded wine with a lovely layer of rich fruit. Notes of citrus, sultanas, spiced apple and honey.



Riesling Spätlese Goldtröpfchen 2015
Mosel

100% Riesling
WINERY: Nik Weis
STYLE: Sweet
IMPORTER: The WineBarn
STOCKIST: The WineBarn
RRP: £20.75
Savoury nose, ripe but balanced. Flavours of peaches and cream, meringue and ice cream.



OTHER WHITE

Grauburgunder 2016
Pfalz

100% Grauburgunder
WINERY: Petri
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Lea & Sandeman
STOCKIST: Lea & Sandeman
RRP: £13.50
Crisp fruit, zesty energy and lovely acidity. Flavours of apple blossom, with good length.



Scheu... aber Geil 2016
Pfalz

100% Scheurebe
WINERY: Emil Bauer und Söhne
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Red Squirrel Wine
STOCKIST: Last Drop Wines, Red Squirrel Wine
RRP: £16.99
Peach, elderflower and passion fruit. Fresh, with crisp acidity and zesty flavour.



The Society's Ruppertsberg 2015
Pfalz

60% Silvaner, 40% Riesling
WINERY: Ruppertsberger Winzerverein
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: The Wine Society
STOCKIST: The Wine Society
RRP: £6.75
A charming, well-balanced wine with pretty floral notes. A great value wine.



Pinot Blanc Taste the Difference 2015
Mosel

100% Weissburgunder
WINERY: Weinkellerei Kloster
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Sainsbury's
STOCKIST: Sainsbury's
RRP: £7
A really interesting, light and creamy wine. Very drinkable and good value.



IMPORTED SPÄTBURGUNDER

Spätburgunder Rosé 2016
Rheingau

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Flick
STYLE: Medium dry
IMPORTER: The Winery
STOCKIST: The Winery
RRP: £14.99
Perky, bright strawberries. Clean, lively and very drinkable wine with lots of lovely fruit.



Grohsmaul Spätburgunder 2013
Rheinhessen

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Groh
STYLE: Dry
IMPORTER: Yorkshire Vintners
STOCKIST: Yorkshire Vintners
RRP: £25
Oak spice, strawberries and ripe plum flavours. Juicy, with an attractive, rich texture.



Seeking UK representation

Graf von Kanitz Spätburgunder Blanc de Noirs 2015
Rheingau

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Graf von Kanitz
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €5.29
Good acidity with notes of lemon and pepper. Medium round body – a very drinkable wine.



Spätburgunder 2015
Württemberg

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Sonnenhof
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €3.20
Bright strawberries and slightly smokey. Delicious fruit, very drinkable and good value.



Spätburgunder, 2015
Pfalz

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Thorsten Krieger
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €4.50
Bright, dark fruit. Fresh, fruity character and great texture.



Spätburgunder 2015
Nahe

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Albert Gaelweiler
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €4.54
Rich, spicy tones with a touch of oak. A well-balanced, complex wine with smokiness and juicy fruit.



Spätburgunder Edition Philipp Bassler 2015
Pfalz

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Winzergenossenschaft Weinbiet eG
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: € 6.30
Oak on the nose with flavours of strawberry and attractive tannins.



Spätburgunder Spätlese Alte Reben 2015
Baden

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Alde Gott Winzer Schwarzwald
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €9
Lovely fruit and a touch of oak. Well-balanced and fruity – a friendly wine.



Spätburgunder Alte Reben 2015
Baden

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Schloss Ortenberg
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €12.50
Lots of attractive black fruit on the palate. Plenty of richness and well-balanced.



Spätburgunder 2014
Rheinhessen

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Reis & Luff
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €3.50
Pretty, herbal, spicy nose. Light, fresh and attractive - a good value wine.



Spätburgunder, Premiumlinie 2014
Baden

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Kaiserstühler Winzergenossenschaft Ihringen
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €5.10
Earthy, spicy character with notes of mushroom. An interesting clove spice note and a juicy palate.



Spätburgunder unfiltered 2014
Rheinhessen

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Peth-Wetz
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €8.50
Light body with good concentration. Clove spice and a pretty, light palate.



Klingenberg Spätburgunder 2014
Franken

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Klingenberg
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €12.29
Vibrant fruit, structure and oak spice, with umami and savoury notes coming through.



Leistadter Kalkofen Spätburgunder, 2013
Pfalz

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Hanewald-Schwerdt
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €12.10
Lively fruit with notes of sour cherry. A chocolate and savoury dark-olive finish.



Spätburgunder Eselskreisch 2012
Rheinhessen

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Gunter & Ute Weinmann
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €10.51
Flavours of sweeter fruit, glacé cherry, chocolate and raspberry. Complex flavour and texture – a classic wine.



Niersteiner Hölle Pinot Noir
Rheinhessen

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Groehl
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €26.50
Classic evolution and balanced oak. Red fruits, spicy notes and plenty of juicy fruit on the palate.



Spätburgunder Réserve 2012
Baden

100% Spätburgunder
WINERY: Weinhaus Bimmerle
STYLE: Dry
EX CELLAR: €33.42
Rich fruit, fleshy and nice use of oak. Hints of spice and a good middle palate.



“ To say I was pleasantly surprised by the Spätburgunders we tasted at Top 50 this year is an understatement. Not in terms of quality, because I'm confident that Germany already makes excellent Pinot Noir, but the surprise came with the number of (as yet non-imported) wines we tasted that had a much better quality-to-price ratio than people typically expect of Spätburgunder.
Jane Parkinson