

RESTAURANT WINE

The Full Service Guide to On Sale Beverage Profits



— **Notebook: A Good Time to Revisit Wine Service**

STAR LISTINGS (875+ wines) *pg. 4*

— **USA: Outstanding Chardonnays,
2015 Sauvignon Blancs** *pg. 7*

— **Top 2013 Cabernet Sauvignons** *pg. 12*

— **Exceptional 2014 & 2015 Pinot Noirs** *pg. 13*

— **Focus on Russian River Valley** *pg. 20*

— **Argentina: Torrontes & Malbec** *pg. 30*

— **Australia: Great White & Red Values** *pg. 33*

— **Chile: Cabernet Sauvignons with Style** *pg. 35*

— **France: 2015 Whites & Reds** *pg. 37*

— **Germany: Exceptional Rieslings
from the 2015 vintage** *pg. 41*

— **Italy: A Range of Rare & Classic
Sparkling, White & Red Wines** *pg. 81*

— **South Africa: Exciting New Wines
(From Chenin Blanc to Syrah)** *pg. 88*



STAR LISTINGS



EVERY ISSUE, YOU CAN DEVELOP AN OUTSTANDING, WELL BALANCED WINE LIST AND WINE BY-THE-GLASS PROGRAM FROM THE WINES RECOMMENDED HERE.

RESTAURANT WINE®'S EVALUATION SYSTEM

QUALITY ratings are:

- ★★★★★ **EXCEPTIONAL** quality for its type and style; a superstar within its price category. Merits an extra special effort to purchase. Very highly recommended.
- ★★★★ **EXCELLENT** quality for its type, style, and price. Among the very best of its type for its price. Highly recommended.
- ★★★ **VERY GOOD** quality for its type, style, and price. Has distinctive character and positive attributes. Recommended.



Unusually smooth for the wine's type and age, and a good wine by-the-glass choice.

Alcohol content – as stated, by volume (i.e., 7.5% to 22%)

[2018-2021] Anticipated peak drinkability, not aging potential.

★★★★★★★★★★

USA

Sparkling wine, Chardonnay	pg. 4
Sauvignon Blanc	pg. 10
Riesling, Rose	pg. 10
Cabernet Sauvignon	pg. 12
Merlot	pg. 18
Pinot Noir	pg. 19
Focus on Russian River	pg. 20
Red Blends, Syrah	pg. 28
Zinfandel	pg. 28

Argentina – white & red wines	pg. 30
Australia – white & red wines	pg. 33
Austria – white & red wines	pg. 35
Chile – sparkling, white, rose & red wines	pg. 35
France – white, rose & red wines	pg. 37
Germany – sparkling, Riesling (dry to sweet)	pg. 41
Germany – other white wines, rose	pg. 72
Germany – Spatburgunder/Pinot Noir	pg. 76
Germany – other red wines	pg. 79
Italy – sparkling, white, rose & red wines	pg. 81
New Zealand – white & red wines	pg. 86
Portugal – red & fortified wines	pg. 87
South Africa – white & red wines	pg. 88

We taste approximately twice as many wines for each issue as appear in these pages. The top 880 are recommended here.

Wines & Wineries to Watch

USA—The Russian River Valley is becoming well-known for the quality of its classic method sparkling wines, and **Balletto's** Brut Rose is another feather in the region's sparkling cap... Impressive 2014 California Chardonnays on the market include those from **EnRoute**, **Grgich Hills** (Paris

Commemorative), **Ramey** (especially the single vineyard bottlings), and **Williams Selyem** (Lewis MacGregor)... The 2015 Chardonnays have now arrived, and the wines are—at their best—outstanding. Among those that have strongly impressed are those from **Cakebread**, **Clos Pegase**, **J. Lohr, Patz & Hall**, and **Trefethen**, among others... 2015 was also a terrific vintage for Sauvignon Blanc, as shown by the wonderful wines made by **Chalk Hill**, **Sidebar**, **Stag's Leap Wine Cellars**, and **Voss Vineyards**... Some terrific 2013 Cabernet Sauvignons to seek out include **Arrowood's** Knights Valley, **Beringer's** Private Reserve, **Charles Krug's** Generations, and **Robert Mondavi's** Reserve... Another 2013 Napa red not to miss is **St. Supery's** 2013 Rutherford Cabernet Franc... 2014 was an outstanding vintage for California and Washington state red wines. Here, we recommend Cabernet Sauvignons from **Amici**, **Beringer**, **J. Lohr**, **DeLille** (Four Flags), **Ramey**, and **Trefethen**, among others... 2014 was also a wonderful vintage for Pinot Noir; seek out those from **Balletto Estate**, **Bouchaine**, **Charles Krug**, **Freeman**, **EnRoute**, **Patz & Hall**, **Robert Mondavi**, **Square Peg**, and **Williams Selyem**... The 2015 vintage for California Pinot Noir is the fourth excellent vintage in a row; the wines have great aromatic intensity and depth, as reflected in the wines from **Dutton Estate**, **Kosta Browne**, **Talbott**, and **Williams Selyem**, among others... Syrah, anyone? Hard to find a better one than **DeLille's** 2014 Signature Syrah... Speaking of DeLille, its 2014 Cabernet-Syrah Doyenne is one of the best being produced in North America... Similarly, **J. Lohr's** 2014 Tower Road Petite Sirah is a benchmark for the varietal.

ARGENTINA—Torrontes is gaining traction in the US market, especially on-premise, where the varietal's aromatic intensity, drinkability, and affordability are spurring restaurateurs to drop it into their by the glass programs, at least during spring and summer months. Two of the best—and best value—Torrontes are those from **Colome** and **Amalaya**, the latter's is blended with 15% Riesling... **Pascual Toso** is an excellent Mendoza producer, whose wines deserve to be better known, as judged by the winery's excellent 2015 Estate Malbec and 2013 Alta Malbec (single vineyard)... Other Malbecs not to miss include those from **Amalaya** (2015 Salta) and **Colome** (2014 Estate)... **Santa Julia's** 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva is terrific, and a great value.

AUSTRALIA—**Pewsey Vale's** 2016 Eden Valley Dry Riesling is a winner... Hard to find a better medium priced Shiraz than **Earthworks'** 2015 (Barossa Valley), or a better medium priced Pinot Noir than **MacPherson's** 2015 (Victoria)... **Langmeil's** Three Gardens SMG is a splendid blend and an extraordinary value.

CHILE—Two top value Chilean Sauvignon Blancs to try are the 2016s from **Hacienda Araucano** (Reserva, Lolol Valley) and **William Cole** (Albamar, Casablanca Valley)... Chile is beginning to turn up the heat in terms of the quality and styling of its Cabernet Sauvignon-based wines—and they have never been better. Try, for example, the **Vina Maquis** 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Gran Reserva (Colchagua Valley), **Domus Aurea** 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Upper Maipo Valley), or the exceptional blend **Maquis Lien** from 2011 (**Los Maquis**, Colchagua Valley).

FRANCE—The Exem 2015 Bordeaux Blanc is a terrific Sauvignon-Semillon blend, at a great price... **Chateau de Beaucastel's** 2015 Vieilles Vignes Chateaneuf-du-Pape Blanc is one of the greatest dry white wines from France we have ever tasted... Of course, 2015 happened to be a great vintage in the Rhone Valley, and basic Rhone appellations produced high quality wines. A current standout: the 2015 Cote-du-Rhone-Villages from **La Renjardiere**... Beaujolais also enjoyed a superb 2015 vintage, and we were extremely impressed with the

offerings from **Georges Duboeuf**, both the Flower Label and Domaine bottlings, which are not only excellent wines but also wonderful values.

GERMANY—2015 was also a great vintage in Germany, and an extraordinary range of outstanding dry and sweet wines was produced. Some of the very best dry Rieslings we tasted (and awarded 5 star ratings to) include those from: **Baron Knyphausen, Bassermann-Jordan, Battenfeld Spanier, Bruder Dr. Becker, Burg Ravensburg, Burklin-Wolf, Castell, Domdechant Werner, Donnhoff, Grans-Fassian, Hans Wirsching, Heitlinger, Johannishof, Karl Haidle, Karthausenhof, Kloster Eberbach, Kuhling-Gillot, Juliusspital, Louis Guntrum, Muller-Catoir, Pffeffingen, Prinz zu Salm, Robert Weil, S.A. Prum, Schloss Johannisberg, Schloss Vollrads, von Kesselstatt, Wagner-Stempel, and Wittmann . . .**

Exceptional fruity and late harvest Rieslings (awarded 5 stars) included those from: **Baron Knyphausen, Bassermann-Jordan, Bruder Dr. Becker, Donnhoff, Dr. Thanisch/Erben Thanisch, Fritz Haag, Grans-Fassian, Johannishof, Karthausenhof, Kloster Eberbach, Kuhling-Gillot, Louis Guntrum, Muller-Catoir, Prinz zu Salm, Robert Weil, S.A. Prum, Schloss Johannisberg, Schloss Saarstein, Schloss Vollrads, Schmitt-Soehne, Toni Jost, von Kesselstatt, Wegeler, and Willi Schaefer . . .**

2015 was also a top vintage for Silvaner, and we strongly recommend those from Franconian producers **Castell, Hans Wirsching, and Juliusspital**. Other dry German whites to seek out include the Pinot Blancs from **Wagner-Stempel** (Rheinhessen), **Dr. Heger** and **Franz Keller** (Baden), **Castell** (Franconia); and the Pinot Gris from **Dr. Heger** and **Heitlinger** (Baden). Both **Hans Wirsching** (Franconia) and **Muller-Catoir** (Pfalz) also produced exceptional dry Scheurebes in 2015...

Germany is also a significant producer of Pinot Noir (Spatburgunder). Newly released 2015s from **Burg Ravensburg** and **Heitlinger**, both in Baden, are outstanding wines at very reasonable prices . . . The 2013 **Vorderer Winklerberg GG** Pinot Noir from **Dr. Heger** is an extremely impressive wine . . . As are the 2014 GG Lembergers from **Karl Haidle**, of Wurttemberg fame.

ITALY—Hard to find better medium priced classic method sparkling wines than **Rotari's** 2013 Brut and 2013 Rose Brut . . . **Carpene Malvolti** is a top Prosecco producer . . . Excellent Italian whites to seek out include **Sartori's** 2015 Ferdi and **Marotti Campi's** 2013 Salmariano Verdicchio Riserva . . . Piedmont's **Filipo Gallino** is producing wonderful Barbera d'Alba and Langhe Nebbiolo at very modest prices . . . **Carla Benini's** Sassotondo Ciliegolo from Maremma is an outstanding wine and a great value . . . **I Saltari's** 2012 Valpolicella Superiore is a remarkable wine . . . **Lungarotti's** 2010 Rubesco Riserva, Vigna Monticchio is one of Italy's best Sangiovese-based wines . . . Outstanding 2011 Chianti Classico Riservas include those from **Casaloste, Il Molino di Grace, Rietine, Setriolo, and Vignavecchia . . . Le Fonti di Panzano's** 2013 Chianti Classico is exceptional . . . As are the 2014 Chianti Classicos from **Poggio Scalette** and **Savignola Paolina**, both in Greve in Chianti.

SOUTH AFRICA—South Africa's fine wine boom has accelerated in recent years, as better and more interesting wines are regularly appearing, often from old vines. **Buiterverwachtig's** Beyond label, for example, produced an outstanding 2016 Sauvignon Blanc that is also a wonderful value . . . Similarly, **Man Family's** 2016 Free-Run Steen (Chenin Blanc) is an excellent wine at a very reasonable price . . . One of South Africa's best Chardonnays and one of its finest Syrahs are made by **Richard Kershaw Wines** (Kershaw is also a Master of Wine) . . . **Kanonkop's** 2011 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is its best yet . . . **De Toren's 'Z'** (2011, Stellenbosch) is an exceptional Merlot blend.



USA
(SPARKLING, WHITE, ROSE & RED WINES)
(from California, unless noted otherwise)

**CLASSIC METHOD SPARKLING WINES — High Priced:
\$201-\$400/case (\$25.10-\$50/btl. full retail)**



BALLETTO VINEYARDS, 2012 BRUT ROSE, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$360 (\$45) ★★★★★

Exceptional. Pale copper color. Fragrant in aroma, medium bodied, and crisp, this is a fine, youthful sparkling wine with complex baked bread, pineapple, candied lemon, cherry, walnut, and honey aromas/flavors. Very long finish. 70% Pinot Noir (tank fermented, no ML), 30% Chardonnay (barrel fermented, full ML). Aged 3 years on the yeast. 780 cases. 12.3% [2018-2020] 707.568.2455

MERRIAM VINEYARDS, 2014 BLANC DE NOIRS, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$280 (\$35) ★★★

Very pale copper-yellow; almost water white. Fine and delicate in character (plum, baked bread, pineapple, lemon peel), medium bodied, crisp, and very long on the finish. A vibrant Blanc de Noirs; excellent value. 100% Pinot Noir. Certified organic. Aged 10 months on the yeast. 128 cases. Disgorged July 28, 2015. 12% [2017-2019] 707.433.4032

**CLASSIC METHOD SPARKLING WINES — Expensive:
\$401-\$800/case (\$50.10-\$100/btl. full retail)**

GOLDENEYE, 2013 BRUT ROSE, ANDERSON VALLEY, \$228/6 (\$57) ★★★

Light copper color. A crisp, full bodied sparkling wine that is round, finely flavored (cherry, lemon peel, plum, grapefruit, toast, walnut), and crisp and vibrant on the finish. Excellent; warrants further aging. 67% Pinot Noir, 33% Chardonnay. Base wine aged 10 months: 90% in French oak barrels, 10% in stainless steel. Aged 20 months on the yeast. Disgorged April, 2016. 13% [2018-2020] 707.895.3202

**CHARDONNAY — Medium Priced:
\$73-\$160/case (\$9.10-\$20/btl. full retail)**

IRONSTONE VINEYARDS, 2015 LODI, \$120 (\$15) ★★★

Screw cap. Excellent: round, full bodied, and balanced, it is a Chardonnay with apple, toast, lemon peel, pineapple, and oak aromas/flavors, and a medium long finish. Fine value. Aged 5 months in French oak. 4,500 cases. 13.5% [2017-2018] 209.728.1251



WEINGUT FRITZ HAAG

- 2015 BRAUNEBERGER ‘J’, BRAUNEBERGER, ★★★+ \$280 (\$35)
- 2015 ‘GG’ JUFFER, BRAUNEBERG JUFFER, ★★★★★+ \$336 (\$42)

The Brauneberg J Trocken (screw cap closure) is of very good quality. It is medium bodied, intensely flavored, and crisp; a wine with green apple, lime, white peach, honeysuckle, and pineapple aromas/flavors, and a vibrant finish. AP #017. 1,200 cases. 12% ♦ The GG Juffer is a very fine wine: subtle but refined in flavor, medium full bodied, and crisp (yet well balanced), with a long, persistent finish, tasting of honeysuckle, white peach, lime, and green apple. AP #024. VDP.Grosse Lage. 400 cases. 12.5% Both wines warrant 3+ more years of bottle aging. [2020-2024] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT HANS WIRSCHING, 2015 IPHOFER JULIUS-ECHTER-BERG, \$256 (\$32) ★★★★★

The Wirsching family has been producing wine in Iphof since 1630, and today is one of Franconia’s most esteemed estates. The 2015 Julius-Echter-Berg (screw cap closure) is a terrific Riesling from this ‘grand cru’ site. It is full bodied, well balanced, and intensely flavored (white peach, lime, honeysuckle, lemon peel), with a very long aftertaste. Great value; warrants further aging. Bocksbeutel. AP #028. VDP.Erste Lage. 13% [2020-2025] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499

WEINGUT HEITLINGER, 2015 ‘GG’ SCHELLENBRUNNEN, TIEFENBACHER SCHELLENBRUNNEN, \$200/6 (\$50) ★★★★★

Screw cap. Exceptional: supple, full bodied, and concentrated, this GG is finely flavored (white peach, pineapple, lime, honeysuckle), crisp, well balanced, and very long and persistent on the finish. Warrants further aging. Organically grown grapes. AP #102. 13% [2020-2024] European Wine Imports, Cleveland, OH 216.426.0979

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF

- 2015 TONSCHIEFER, NAHE, \$232 (\$29) ★★★★★
- 2015 KREUZNACHER KAHLenberg, \$280 (\$35) ★★★★★+
- 2015 ROXHEIMER HOLLENPFAD, \$308 (\$38.50) ★★★★★

Donnhoff’s 2015 Rieslings are first rate. These three dry Rieslings are excellent, and terrific values. The Tonschiefer (screw cap closure) is round, medium bodied, and intensely flavored (peach, lime, honeysuckle), with excellent balance and a very long finish. AP #004. 12% ♦ The Kahlenberg is a finer, somewhat fuller wine. It is a medium full bodied wine with refined, subtle character (white peach, pear, passion fruit, pineapple, linden blossom), firm acidity, and a persistent finish. AP #013. VDP. Erste Lage. ♦ 12.5% The Hollenpfad is exceptional: intensely flavored and medium full bodied; a well balanced, fairly rich wine with crisp acidity and complex character (white peach, passion fruit, lime, dried fig, honey), and a very long finish. Great value. AP #014. VDP.Erste Lage. 12.5% All three wines warrant 3+ years of further aging. [2019-2023] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF

- 2015 JOHANNISBERGER AUF DER HOLL, ★★★★★+ \$280 (\$35)
- 2015 RUDESHEIMER RAMSTEIN, \$280 (\$35) ★★★★★

Both wines have screw cap closures. These are very fine dry, single vineyard Rieslings. The Auf der Holl is a luscious, medium bodied wine of excellent quality. It is smooth and long on the palate, with a crisp finish, tasting of pear, pineapple, white peach, lime, and jasmine. AP #006. VDP.Erste Lage. 250 cases. 11.5% ♦ The Ramstein is wonderful: rich, medium full bodied, and balanced; a Riesling with excellent depth and a very long aftertaste, reminiscent of peach, apple, honeysuckle, tobacco, and dried fig. AP #005. VDP.Erste Lage. 250 cases. 12.5% Both wines warrant 2+ more years of bottle aging. [2019-2023] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT KARTHAUSERHOF



WEINGUT KARTHAUSERHOF – Eitelsbacher Karthausenhofberg

- 2015 KABINETT TROCKEN, \$224 (\$28) ★★★★★
- 2015 SPATLESE TROCKEN, \$280 (\$35) ★★★★★

Karthausenhof is a leading Ruwer estate. Wine was likely made on the site in Roman times. But in 1335, the property was donated to a Trier order of Carthusian monks, who planted vineyards and cultivated the estate for several hundred years. The family of the current owner, Christof Tyrell, purchased the property at a Paris auction in 1811, the ‘year of the comet’. The estate’s vineyard covers 47 acres, and yields about 10,000 cases of wine a year. (In addition vineyards, there are also 209 acres—85 hectares—of cultivated land and forests.) Karthausenhof’s wines are generally subtle and restrained in character, with firm acidity and a distinctive spicy character. They develop impressive complexity with extended bottle aging (i.e., 15+ years). I have tasted them back to the 1953 vintage. ♦ The 2015s are very fine dry Rieslings. The Kabinett Trocken is medium bodied, finely flavored, and crisp; a wine with white peach, lime, and honeysuckle aromas/flavors, and a crisp, long finish. AP #014. 11.5% ♦ The Spatlese Trocken is exceptional—only slightly fuller in body, and a hint richer. It is crisp, complex in character (honeysuckle, pineapple, linden blossom), well balanced, and a very long and persistent on the finish. 0.79% R.S. AP #007. 12% Both wines warrant 3+ more years of bottle aging. [2020-2024] Massanois Imports, Scarsdale NY 888.242.1342



WEINGUT KUHLLING-GILLOT

- 2015 RIESLING 1er C., NIERSTEN, \$288 (\$36) ★★★★★
- 2015 RIESLING 1er C., OPPENHEIM, \$288 (\$36) ★★★★★

These are excellent dry Rieslings. The Nierstein is supple, medium bodied, and ripely flavored (lime, honeysuckle, white peach, pineapple), with very good balance and a medium long finish. Organic. AP #24. VDP. Ortswein. 12% ♦ The Oppenheim is outstanding: supple, medium full bodied, and elegantly flavored (pear, white peach, passion fruit, lime, honeysuckle), with excellent balance, and a very long finish. Organic. AP #25. VDP.Ortswein. 12% Both wines are excellent values, and age-worthy. [2019-2023] M.S. Walker, Somerville, MA 617.776.6700

WEINGUT LIEBFRAUENTSTIFT, 2015 WORMSER LIEBFRAUENTSTIFT-KIRCHENSTUCK, \$256 (\$32) ★★★★★

Screw cap. Very good quality, this is a full bodied, dry Riesling that is crisp, fairly intense in flavor (lime, honeysuckle, white peach), and medium long on the finish. Can be aged further. AP #07. 13% [2019-2022] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

**WEINGUT HANS WIRSCHING, 2014 ‘GG’,
IPHOFFER JULIUS-ECHTER-BERG, \$318/6 (\$79.50)** ★★★★★+

Very fine quality, this 2014 GG Riesling is full bodied, dry, crisp, long on the palate, and elegant and complex in flavor (apple, lime, candied lemon, honeysuckle, white peach). Well balanced, and very persistent in the finish. Warrants further aging. Bocksbeutel. AP #046. VDP.Grosse Lage. 13% [2020-2027] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF

- **2015 ‘GG’ FELSENBERG ‘FELSENTURMCHEN’, ★★★★★
SCHLOSSBOCKELHEIMER FELSENBERG,
\$260/6 (\$65)**
- **2015 ‘GG’ DELLCHEN, NORHEIMER
DELLCHEN, \$280/6 (\$70)** ★★★★★
- **2015 ‘GG’ HERMANNSHOHLE,
NIEDERHAUSER HERMANNSHOHLE, \$300/6 (\$75)** ★★★★★

Donnhoff is one of Germany’s most celebrated estate wineries. It owns 61.75 acres (25 hectares) in top Nahe vineyards, 80% planted to Riesling. Donnhoff’s style emphasizes vineyard character, intensity, mouthfeel, and balance. ♦ These 2015 GG’s are exceptional wines; among the best of the 2015 vintage in Germany. The Schlossbockelheimer derives from the steepest and rockiest part (‘Felsenturmchen’) of the great Felsenberg

vineyard. The wine is terrific: extremely fragrant and elegant in character (guava, white peach, pineapple, linden blossom), with full body, moderate richness, excellent balance, and a very long finish. AP #27. VDP.Grosse Lage 13% ♦ The Dellchen is a somewhat more concentrated wine: full bodied, beautifully balanced, finely flavored, and long and persistent on the finish, tasting of peach, lime, pineapple, and honey. AP #28. VDP. Grosse Lage 13% ♦ The Hermannshohle is truly remarkable: rich and ripely flavored, full bodied, well balanced, and very long on the palate, with a very long, lingering finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of guava, pear, pineapple, white peach, lime, and honeysuckle. A superb wine. AP #29. VDP.Grosse Lage 13% All three wines warrant at least 5 more years of bottle aging. [2020-2026] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF

- **2015 ‘GG’ HOLLE, JOHANNISBERG** ★★★★★+
- **HOLLE, \$280/6 (\$70)**
- **2015 ‘GG’ BERG ROTTLAND,
RUDESHEIM BERG ROTTLAND, \$280/6 (\$70)** ★★★★★

Both wines have screw cap closures. These are excellent GG Rieslings. The Holle is an elegant, very ripely flavored wine, with supple texture, medium richness, fine balance, and a very long finish, tasting (*cont’d*)

WEINGUT MULLER-CATOIR



**WEINGUT MULLER-CATOIR, ★★★★★
2015 ‘GG’ URGERGARTEN IM
BREUMEL, HAARDTER BURGERTGARTEN
IM BREUMEL, \$264/6 (\$65)**

This wine estate has been in the family since 1744, and is now run by ninth generation owner, Philip David Catoir (center-right, in photo). The estate has 52 acres (21 hectares) of Pfalz vineyards, planted mostly to Riesling. Burgertgarten was first planted early in the 14th Century. In 2014, the winery changed the name of its GG from Breumel in den Mauren to indicate that this wine comes from a parcel in the Burgertgarten ‘cru’. ♦ The 2015 is a superb wine: full bodied, dry, richly flavored, and refined in character (pear, lime, honeysuckle, pineapple, honey), it is well balanced, and very long and persistent on the finish. First rate. Needs aging. Organic. AP #16. VDP. Grosse Lage. 291 cases. 13% [2021-2030] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300



WEINGUT GEORG ALBRECHT SCHNEIDER, 2014 NIERSTEINER PATERBERG KABINETT, \$136 (\$17) ★★★★★



Screw cap. Great value: light bodied, crisp, and lightly sweet, this is an excellent wine. It tastes of peach, apple, lime, and honeysuckle, and has a very long finish. 5.12% R.S. AP #02. 9.5% [2017-2018] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100

WEINGUT KARTHAUSERHOF, 2015 SCHIEFERKRISTALL, EITELSBACHER KARTHAUSERHOFBERG QUALITATSWEIN FEINHERB, \$184 (\$23) ★★★★★+

An excellent QbA Feinherb. It is light medium bodied, delicately flavored, off dry, and balanced, with a medium length finish. In aroma/ flavor, it tastes of apple, lime, pineapple, and honeysuckle. Fine value. AP #013. 11% [2018-2020] Massanois Imports, Scarsdale NY 888.242.1342

WEINGUT GRANS-FASSIAN



WEINGUT GRANS-FASSIAN

- 2015 MOSEL QUALITATSWEIN, \$160 (\$20) ★★★★★
- 2015 TRITTENHEIMER KABINETT, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★

Both wines have screw cap closures. The Qualitatswein is a round, medium bodied Riesling that is lightly sweet, crisp, well balanced, and long on the finish, tasting of lime, apple, pineapple, and candied lemon. Fine value. AP #14. VDP.Gutswein. 11% ♦ The Kabinett (screw cap closure) is exceptional: a supple, intensely flavored wine that is crisp, well balanced, fairly rich, and very long on the finish, tasting of peach, honey, honeysuckle, pear, and pineapple. Great value. AP #8. VDP.Ortswein. 9.5% [2019-2021] HPS Epicurean, Ramona, CA 760.440.9229

WEINGUT KLOSTER EBERBACH



WEINGUT KLOSTER EBERBACH – Crescentia

- 2015 STEINBERGER QUALITATSWEIN FEINHERB, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★+
- 2015 STEINBERGER KABINETT, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★

Steinberg is one of the greatest Riesling vineyards in Germany. First planted to vines around 1170 by Cistercian monks from nearby Kloster Eberbach (founded 1136), the vineyard is protected by a 1.6 mile, massive stone wall (the longest vineyard wall in Germany), constructed in the 18th Century. Similarly, Cistercian monks enclosed the vineyard of Clos de Vougeot in the 15th Century. The 74-acre vineyard is planted solely to Riesling, and is owned entirely by the Hessische Staatsweinguter (state of Hesse; one of 16 German states). Among the great Rheingau Rieslings, those from Steinberg are known for their relative fullness of body and mid-palate richness (yet without being heavy), together with their underlying raciness (acidity, floral-peppery spiciness), and age-worthiness. ♦ Both these wines have screw cap closures. The Steinberg vineyard excelled in the 2015 vintage, yielding intensely flavored, beautifully balanced Rieslings—from dry to sweet. Here, the Qualitatswein Feinherb is a very fine wine: medium bodied, elegantly flavored (peach, honeysuckle, pear, apple), crisp, and medium long in the finish. AP #027. 11.5% ♦ The Kabinett is outstanding (quite probably, the Kabinett of the vintage): rich, light bodied, and crisp; a wine with refined character (white peach, pineapple, lemon candy, grapefruit, honeysuckle), excellent balance, and a very long, vibrant finish. First rate. 8.22% R.S. AP #028. 8% Both wines warrant 3+ more years of bottle aging. [2019-2022] David Bowler Wine, New York, NY 212.807.1680

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF, 2015 NAHE QUALITATSWEIN, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★★+
• 2015 KREUZNACHER KROTENPFUHL KABINETT, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★

Both wines have screw cap closures—and both are wonderful Rieslings, and excellent values. The Qualitatswein is a fairly rich wine. It is light medium bodied, balanced, and relatively complex for an estate Riesling, with peach, pineapple, honeysuckle, and lime aromas/flavors. Very long finish. AP #01. 10% ♦ The Kabinett is exceptional: a round, ripely flavored wine with excellent depth of flavor (linden blossom, white peach, pineapple), fine balance, and a very long, crisp finish. AP #11. 9% Both wines will develop with additional aging. [2019-2021] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF, 2015 CHARTA, RHEINGAU QUALITATSWEIN, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★

Screw cap. Exceptional quality and value. It is medium full bodied, supple in texture, lightly sweet, and well balanced; a wine with good depth of flavor (pear, lime, peach, honeysuckle, oak), and a very long finish. Needs modest aging. 1.01% R.S. AP #003. 1,000 cases. 12% [2020-2023] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT LIEBFRAUENTSTIFT, 2015 FEINFRUCHTIG, RHEINHESSEN QUALITATSWEIN, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★



Screw cap. Excellent: medium bodied, lightly sweet, and intensely flavored (honeysuckle, peach, pineapple, lime), well balanced, and lingering on the finish. Excellent value. AP #05. 11.5% [2017-2020] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT GRANS-FASSIAN



WEINGUT GRANS-FASSIAN, 2015 TRITTENHEIMER APOTHEKE SPATLESE, \$360 (\$45) ★★★★★
 Superb Spatlese: aromatic, finely flavored, and rich; a light bodied Spatlese with excellent character (honey, cherimoya, peach, honeysuckle, lime), very good balance, and an extremely long finish. Warrants moderate aging. 9.1% R.S. AP #9. VDP.Grosse Lage. 8% [2020-2027] HPS Epicurean, Ramona, CA 760.440.9229

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF

- 2015 OBERHAUSER LEISTENBERG KABINETT, ★★★★★+ \$224 (\$28)
- 2015 NORHEIMER KIRSCHHECK SPATLESE, ★★★★★ \$304 (\$38)
- 2015 OBERHAUSER BRUCKE SPATLESE, ★★★★★ \$304 (\$38)

A trio of classic Nahe Rieslings. The Leistenberg Kabinett (screw cap closure) is of very fine quality. It is an elegant Kabinett, with light body, excellent balance, a long flavor evolution (white peach, lime, pineapple), with a vibrant, lingering finish. AP #02. 9.5% ♦ The Kirschheck Spatlese is outstanding: light bodied and finely flavored (white peach, honey, pineapple, tobacco, lime), it is very long on the palate, with crisp acidity, and a harmonious, persistent finish. AP #15. 9% ♦ The Brucke Spatlese is exceptional: a very elegant, refined Riesling that is light bodied, round and crisp on the palate, with intense flavors (lime, white peach, honeysuckle, pear), fine balance, and a very long finish. AP #17. 8.5% All three wines warrant at least 3+ more years of bottle aging. [2020-2027] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT JOH. JOS. PRUM, 2015 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH SPATLESE, \$360 (\$45) ★★★★★

A very youthful, crisp Spatlese that is vibrant and long on the palate, with intense lime, white peach, pineapple, and apple aromas/flavors, and a vibrant finish. Needs aging. Excellent. AP #12. 8% [2021-2028] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

VDP—VDP, the world's oldest national association of quality wine estates including Germany's most prestigious estates from all 13 German winegrowing regions. Each estate must own at least 5 hectares of vines, planted 80% to varieties traditional in the region.

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF



- WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF**
- 2015 JOHANNISBERG 'V' KABINETT, \$216 (\$27) ★★★★★
 - 2015 JOHANNISBERGER KLAUS SPATLESE, \$352 (\$44) ★★★★★
 - 2015 RUDESHEIMER BERG ROTTLAND SPATLESE, \$352 (\$44) ★★★★★

Johannishof is a family owned estate, now in its 10th generation. The winery owns 49.4 acres of vineyards in Rudesheim, Johannisberg, and Winkel, planted 99% to Riesling. Its 'fruchtig' wines are generally luscious in style (ripe, intense, supple). ♦ All three 2015s have screw cap closures, and all three are excellent values. The Kabinett is round, ripely flavored, lightly sweet, crisp, and well balanced; a wine with pear, lime, honeysuckle, pineapple, and white peach aromas/flavors. Long finish. Delicious. 4.61% R.S. AP #009. 333 cases. 9% ♦ The Klaus Spatlese is outstanding: refined in character (apple, pear, pineapple, almond, white peach, grapefruit, linden blossom), light bodied, quite rich, well balanced, and crisp and long on the finish. 7.09% R.S. AP #013. 66 cases. 8% ♦ The Rottland Spatlese is also terrific: a concentrated, complex Riesling that is light bodied, well balanced, and persistent on the finish, tasting of peach, honey, apple, linden blossom, and almond 6.55% R.S. AP #014. 150 cases. 9.5% All three wines warrant at least 2 more years of bottle aging. [2020-2024] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610



aromas/flavors. Medium long finish. AP #45. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5%
 ◆ The Wurzgarten is excellent: ripe and complex in character (peach, honeysuckle, apple, pear, lime), it is light bodied, balanced, and long on the finish. AP #41. VDP.Grosse Lage. 8% ◆ The Sonnenuhr is also excellent: refined in character, light bodied, and crisp, this is an aromatic, somewhat lean wine with white peach, lime, honeysuckle, and pineapple aromas/flavors. Long finish. AP #40. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% ◆ The Pralat Goldkapsel is light bodied and moderately rich; a supple Auslese with peach, apple, honeysuckle, and pineapple aromas/flavors, and a very long finish. AP #45. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% All four wines warrant at least 3+ more years of bottle aging. [2020-2026] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT DR. VON BASSERMANN-JORDAN, ★★★★★
2015 DEIDESHEIMER HOHENMORGEN AUSLESE, \$144/ 6 375 m.l. (\$36 /375 m.l.)

Exceptional Auslese: refined in character (pear, honey, lime, peach, honeysuckle, pineapple), light bodied, and richly flavored, it is also crisp, well balanced, and very long on the finish, with excellent persistence. First rate. Can be aged. Organic. 17.58% R.S. AP #20. VDP.Grosse Lage. 33 cases. 7% [2022-2033] Total Wine & More, Potomac, MD 855.330.6673

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

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF, ★★★★★
2015 NIEDERHAUSER HERMANNSHOHLE AUSLESE GOLDKAPSEL, \$800 (\$100)
 Very fine Auslese. It is complex and refined in character (apple, white peach, honeysuckle, linden blossom, pineapple), richly flavored, quite crisp (but balanced), and very long on the finish. A very young wine, with years of positive development ahead. AP #20. 8% [2023-2033] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF
 • **2015 JOHANNISBERG HOLLE AUSLESE, ★★★★★+**
\$180 /6 375 m.l. (\$45/375 m.l.)
 • **2015 RUDESHEIMER BERG ROTTLAND ★★★★★**
AUSLESE, \$180 /6 375 m.l. (\$45 /375 m.l.)

Both wines have screw cap closures and both are wonderful 2015 Rheingau Ausleses. The Holle is very refined in character (pear, apple, white peach, honey, pineapple, lime), richly flavored, crisp, and well balanced, with a very long finish. A youthful wine with years of development ahead. 15.76% R.S. AP #010. 25 cases (of 12 375 m.l. bottles). 7% ◆ The Berg Rottland is exceptional: extremely ripe in flavor, light bodied, very rich, and very well balanced, with a long finish, tasting of pineapple, honey, peach, honeysuckle, and candied lemon. Virtually a Beerenauslese. Great value. 21.02% R.S. AP #012. 41 cases (of 12 375 m.l. bottles). 7.5% [2022-2032] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT FRITZ HAAG



WEINGUT FRITZ HAAG
 • **2015 BRAUNEBERGER JUFFER SONNENUHR ★★★★★**
AUSLESE, \$454 (\$56.75)
 • **2015 BRAUNEBERGER JUFFER AUSLESE ★★★★★**
GOLDKAPSEL, \$336/12 375 m.l. (\$42/375 m.l.)

Two excellent Ausleses from Fritz Haag. The Juffer Sonnenuhr is light bodied, refined in character (lime, white peach, honeysuckle), rich, well balanced, and long and crisp on the finish. Fine value. AP #06. VDP. Grosse Lage. 200 cases. 7.5% ◆ The Juffer Goldkapsel is an exceptional wine: a wine of great elegance and complexity, excellent concentration (Beerenauslese-like), great balance, and an extremely persistent finish, tasting of honey, honeysuckle, lime, linden blossom, and white peach. A wonderful wine. AP #09. VDP.Grosse Lage. 50 cases. 7.5% Both wines warrant at least 5 more years of bottle aging. [2022-2032] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041



DOMDECHANT WERNER – Hochheimer Domdechane

- 2015 BEERENAUSLESE, \$840/6 500 m.l. ★★★★★
(\$210/500 m.l.)
- 2015 TROCKENBEERENAUSLESE, ★★★★★+
\$1,200/6 375 m.l. (\$300/375 m.l.)

Domdechane is the great vineyard in Hochheim. The 2015 Beerenauslese is excellent: elegantly flavored (peach, honey, honeysuckle, raisin, candied lemon), light medium bodied, and concentrated; a wine with a long palate impression and a rich, crisp finish. AP #014. 10% ♦ The TBA is its equal, if richer. It is light bodied and very complex in character (honey, pineapple, peach jam, lime, orange blossom), with a very long flavor evolution, and an extremely persistent finish. AP #015. 7% Both wines warrant at least 5+ more years of bottle aging. [2022-2040] Slocum Imports, North Haven, CT, 203.239.3254, and others

WEINGUT DR. BURKLIN-WOLF, ★★★★★

2015 WACHENHEIMER AUSLESE, \$240/6 375 m.l. (\$60/375 m.l.)

Very fine Auslese: light medium bodied, intense and fine in flavor (honey, honeysuckle, pineapple, white peach), very well balanced, and crisp and persistent on the finish. Warrants aging. Organic & biodynamic. AP #19. VDP.Ortswein. 10% [2022-2032] Europvin USA, Van Nuys, CA 818.908.9509

WEINGUT DR. VON BASSERMANN-JORDAN



WEINGUT DR. VON BASSERMANN-JORDAN, ★★★★★
2015 FORSTER JESUITENGARTEN
TROCKENBEERENAUSLESE, \$1,500/6 375 m.l.
(\$375/375 m.l.)

Beyond extraordinary: a Riesling TBA of great intensity, refinement, and complexity—and one of the greatest wines of the 2015 vintage. It is extremely elegant in character (linden blossom, white peach, honey, cherimoya), light bodied, very concentrated and crisp on the palate, with an extremely powerful and persistent finish. Needs at least 15 more years of aging. Organic. 25.3% R.S. AP #34. VDP.Grosse Lage. 16 cases. 6.5% [2030-2050] Total Wine & More, Potomac, MD 855.330.6673

**WEINGUT FRITZ HAAG, 2015 BRAUNEBERGER ★★★★★+
JUFFER SONNENUHR AUSLESE GOLDKAPSEL,**

\$416/12 375 m.l. (\$52/375 m.l.)
Wonderful Auslese with the richness and complexity of a Beerenauslese. It is round, finely flavored (honeysuckle, white peach, jasmine, lime, honey), and concentrated, with excellent balance, and a persistent finish. Very fine quality. Needs aging. AP #022. VDP. Grosse Lage. 50 cases. 7.5% [2023-2033] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF – Rudesheimer Berg Rottland

- 2015 BEERENAUSLESE, \$640/6 375 m.l. ★★★★★
(\$160/375 m.l.)
- 2015 TROCKENBEERENAUSLESE, ★★★★★
\$960/6 375 m.l. (\$240/375 m.l.)

Both wines have screw cap closures. And both are outstanding. The BA is light bodied, richly flavored, and very complex; a wine with firm acidity, refined character (honey, peach, pineapple, peach jam, linden blossom), excellent balance, and a very persistent finish. Virtually a TBA. 26.13% R.S. AP #019. 25 cases (of 12 375 m.l. bottles). 6.5% ♦ The TBA is wonderful: extremely aromatic, elegant and fine in character (honeysuckle, honey, peach jam, lime), and concentrated; a TBA with firm acidity, and a powerful, long finish. 27.06% R.S. AP #020. 10 cases (of 12 375 m.l. bottles). 6.5% [2025-2040] Valckenberg International, Jenks, OK 918.299.2610

WEINGUT KLOSTER EBERBACH, ★★★★★

2015 RAUENTHALER BAIKEN AUSLESE,
\$480/12 375 m.l. (\$60/375 m.l.)

Screw cap. Splendid Auslese! It is light bodied, very rich and refined in character (apple, pear, peach, honey, honeysuckle), concentrated, and crisp; a wine that is fleshy but very well balanced, with a very long and persistent finish. Still very young; needs 10+ more years of bottle aging. Essentially a BA. 15.9% R.S. AP #063. 8.5% [2025-2040] David Bowler Wine, New York, NY 212.807.1680

WEINGUT KUHLLING-GILLOT, 2015 AUCTION ★★★★★

LOT, NACKENHEIM ROTHENBERG AUSLESE,
LANGE GOLDKAPSEL, \$400/6 375 m.l. (\$100/375 m.l.)

Wow! A stunning Auslese: very refined in character and concentrated, it is a light bodied, crisp wine, with luscious, rich aromas/flavors (honey, pineapple, peach, honeysuckle, peach jam, mango), and a very long finish. Remarkable quality. Can be aged. Organic. AP #53. 7% [2024-2035] M.S. Walker, Somerville, MA 617.776.6700

WEINGUT ROBERT WEIL – Kiedrich Grafenberg

- 2015 AUSLESE, \$728/6 (\$182) ★★★★★
- 2015 BEERENAUSLESE, \$1,460/6 375 m.l. ★★★★★
(\$365/375 m.l.)
- 2015 TROCKENBEERENAUSLESE, ★★★★★
\$1,550/3 375 m.l. (\$775/375 m.l.)

Weingut Robert Weil is a perfectionist, and a consistent over-achiever—over-achiever and these 2015s are absolutely extraordinary wines. The Grafenberg Auslese is amazing: extremely refined in character, rich, well balanced, and very youthful. It is sweet but crisp, very long on the palate, and very persistent on the finish, tasting of pineapple, lime, linden blossom, peach, honey, and peach jam. Remarkable quality. AP #018. 200 cases. 8.5% ♦ The Grafenberg Beerenauslese has great intensity and elegance. It is light bodied, very concentrated, and also quite crisp, with vibrant, refined character (peach, jasmine, honey, linden blossom, pineapple), and a powerful and extremely persistent finish. Exceptional; essentially a TBA. AP #020. 35 cases. 8.5% ♦ The Grafenberg TBA is the fantastic: ultra-rich, very finely flavored (pineapple, peach jam, honey, jasmine, tangerine, lime), and very crisp, with a very long flavor evolution, and a powerful, lingering finish. An amazing wine that will blossom with another decade or two of bottle aging. AP #021. 23 cases. 7.5% [2030-2045] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT S.A. PRUM, 2009 GRAACHER ★★★★★

HIMMELREICH EISWEIN, \$700/6 375 m.l.
(\$175/375 m.l.)

Superb Eiswein: light bodied, elegant and refined in character (linden blossom, honey, candied lime, pineapple), it is crisp and extremely long on the palate, with a minute-long finish. Still developing, this wine has years of development ahead. First rate. 18.63% R.S. AP #15/10. 600 375 m.l. bottles produced. (25 9-liter cases.) 7% [2020-2038] Palm Bay Int'l, Port Washington, NY 516.802.4700