



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Loersch

(Leiwen – Middle Mosel)

Alex Loersch finds much to love in his 2019 vintage, except its low yields: "We had an early bud break in 2019, and were only marginally affected by the spell of frost which hit the region in May: We saw a little bit of it in some vines above 300 meters and in the lower and flatter part of Trittenheim, but was minimal (no more than one ha). We then had a warm and sunny summer with not much rain, not unlike the one we experienced in 2018. Luckily, the few thunderstorms always arrived at the right point, so that we did not experience any issue with hydric stress. Overall, it would have been a great vintage in our vineyards was it not for the sunburn resulting from extreme temperatures (around 40°C / 104°F). This costed us 40% of our harvest. The weather conditions proved ideal during autumn. I decided to start picking grapes early as the grapes were already perfectly ripe and of superb quality. I was also mainly looking at acidity levels to keep freshness and tension in my wines. We started on September 25 with the non-Riesling grapes and on September 30 with Riesling. The first Riesling grapes I brought in were for the Apotheke Kabinett, while I also selected some grapes for my Auslese wines at this early stage. I observed how the acidity levels went down during harvest, but thankfully, I was to complete the harvest by mid-October, i.e. before the acidity levels were too low to my liking. Early on in the harvest, we were also able to select some botrytized fruit for a TBA. All wines fermented spontaneously without any issue, and I started to bottle the first ones in March. I really love the vintage as it combines ripeness with intense zest and precision."

Despite the lower yields, the Estate was able to produce its full collection of wines, right up to a TBA from the Dhroner Hofberg. It also includes a full range of dry wines, including the Vogelsang, Devon-Terrassen, and Jungheld. In addition, it recently released its 2018er Sängerei Feinherb which saw a long fermentation.

Alex Loersch really leveraged the vintage to dish up an amazing collection in 2019. The sweet spot clearly lies at the sweet end of the spectrum. In particular, the TBA is a modern-day legendary wine in the making. But also, the Estate's fruity-styled wines offer great character and playfulness. Savvy readers should also have a close look at the remarkable entry level wines: Both the Blauschiefer and the Glimmerschiefer are outstanding in their own right. Also, the off-dry 2018er Hofberg Sängerei, which saw extensive aging on its lees, is remarkably and full of potential. What a brilliant collection from this up-and-coming grower!

NB: The Vogelsang Trocken, Devon-Terrassen Trocken, Jungheld Trocken, Hofberg Kabinett, Rosengärtchen Kabinett, and Fels-Terrassen Apotheke were not yet ready for tasting.

2019er	Loersch	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese	06 20	99
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The 2019er Hofberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, was made from 100% botrytized fruit harvested early (on two days) at 175° Oechsle in different prime sectors of the vineyard and was fermented down to fully noble-sweet levels of residual sugar. It offers a hugely deep and remarkably subtle nose of passion fruit, raisin, smoke, juicy date, dried apricot, candied pineapple, baked spices, and marzipan, all lifted up by a whiff of volatile acidity. The wine unleashes gorgeously juicy flavors of exotic fruits and honey on the hugely smooth and admirably unctuous and viscous palate, and leaves a stunning feeling of zest that provides the right balance to the sweetness in the outstandingly long and multi-layered finish. This dessert wine may well need more than a decade to integrate its sweetness but it will then prove one the greatest TBA classics of all times. It is that impressive! 2034-2079

2019er	Loersch	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese Alte Reben	07 20	96
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The 2019er Alte Reben Trittenheimer Apotheke, as it is referred to on the front part of the label (the reference to Auslese is only written in small on the right part of the label), was made from early harvested and botrytized (50%) fruit at a full 112° Oechsle on 60-100-year-old vines in the Jungheld and Kaulsbohr parts of the vineyard and was fermented to noble-sweet levels of residual sugar (123 g/l). It offers a magnificently ripe and honeyed nose of apricot, mango, spices, pineapple juice, almond, apple jelly, rhubarb, baked spices, and honey. The wine delivers some juicy, exotic, honeyed, slightly unctuous, and hugely creamy flavors with some BA weight and presence on the palate, and leaves a gorgeously focused, zesty, and graceful feel in the hugely long and refreshing finish. This beautiful noble-sweet wine now only needs a little patience in order to fully shine! 2029-2059

2019er	Loersch	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese	04 20	94
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The 2019er Apotheke Riesling Auslese, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, was made from early harvested and partially botrytized (10-20%) fruit at 100° Oechsle in the Laurentiusberg part of the vineyard and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (86 g/l). It shows a beautifully elegant and refined nose of vineyard peach, white flowers, anise, herbs, pear, smoke, and candied lemon. It still proves on the sweet side on the palate, but already shows some its future greatness as the hugely long and spicy finish hints at great depth and freshness. This sweet wine only needs a decade or so to fully show its goods. 2029-2059



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2019er	Loersch	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben	09 20	93
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The 2019er Alte Reben Trittenheimer Apotheke, as it is referred to on the front part of the label (the reference to Spätlese is only written in small on the right part of the label), was made from fruit harvested at 93° Oechsle on 60-70 year-old vines in the steep Mockenlay and Kaulsbohr part of the vineyard and was fermented down to sweet levels of residual sugar (73 g/l). The wine immediately captures one's attention with its great aromatics and ripeness as notes of pineapple juice, smoke, honey, mirabelle, herbs, pear, passion fruit, and melon emerge from the glass. The wine develops the rich and honeyed Schmelz of an Auslese on the juicy and rich palate, and leaves a smooth and very long feel in the finish. While hugely impressive now, this gorgeous dessert wine will only reveal its full potential in a decade or so. 2029-2049

2018er	Loersch	Dhroner Hofberg Riesling Spätlese Feinherb Sängerei	12 20	92+
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The 2018er Sängerei Dhroner Hofberg, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, is an off-dry wine (with 17 g/l) which was left on its lees for 15 months before being bottled in February 2020, hence the late AP number. It proves quite muted at first and only gradually reveals some timid scents of mirabelle, honeyed peach, white peach, herbs, and smoke. With further airing, some aniseed herbs and pineapple join the party. The wine proves quite tight and intense at first on the slightly sweet palate, before some ripe fruits kick in and add to the sense of sweetness. However, it remains focused and straight, right into the long and energetic finish. It could almost appear as a ripe and broad off-dry Riesling, but the way it manages to retain a certain freshness and depth is quite remarkable. This off-dry Riesling will need quite a few years to develop aromatically, but the potential is very promising. 2026-2039

2019er	Loersch	Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Kabinett	10 20	92+
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The 2019er Goldtröpfchen Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, was made from early harvested fruit at 83° Oechsle in the south-west facing Alz sector (next to the Gärtchen) of the vineyard and was fermented to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (60 g/l). It proves quite restrained and still slightly marked by some SO₂ and residual scents from its spontaneous fermentation at first. These gradually quickly give way to subtle scents of earthy spices, smoke, cherry, blueberry, violet, and white peach. The wine develops the depth and presence of a Spätlese rather than a light Kabinett on the delicately smooth and juicy palate but retains great focus and zest in the superbly long and even slightly forceful finish (despite the label indicating only 8% of alcohol). This superb fruity-styled Riesling has quite some upside potential as it develops its full potential with age. 2029-2044

2019er	Loersch	Trittenheimer Altärchen Riesling Kabinett Trocken	15 20	92
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The 2019er Altärchen Riesling Kabinett Trocken, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, comes from vines planted in 1964 from the hilly south-east facing Falkenberg sector of the vineyard. It proves quite restrained yet elegant and refined as delicate scents of anise, grapefruit, yellow flowers, lemon, vineyard peach, and smoke emerge from the glass. The wine rewards one with light flavors of citrusy fruits and fine spices on the superbly zesty, airy, and linear palate. The finish is beautifully dry, sappy, and focused, but also energetic and layered. This dry wine is a great example of airy and refined light expression of Mosel Riesling. 2022-2034

2019er	Loersch	Trittenheimer Apotheke Riesling Kabinett	11 20	92
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The 2019er Apotheke Riesling Kabinett, as it is referred to on the front part of the label, was made from early harvested fruit at 86° Oechsle in the Neuberg part of the vineyard situated high up the hill, and was fermented to fruity-styled levels of residual sugar (50 g/l). It offers a light, floral, and delicately aromatic nose of white peach, candied lemon, pear, yellow apple, almond cream, and smoke, as well as some yellow flowers in the background. The wine proves quite juicy yet still on the sweet side on the palate where plenty of ripe yellow fruits with a dash of honey add to a feeling of roundness and smoothness. The finish is however beautifully tight and focused, and already shows great length. 2027-2039

2019er	Loersch	Riesling Feinherb Glimmerschiefer	13 20	90
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The 2019er Riesling Feinherb Glimmerschiefer is an off-dry wine (with 28 g/l of residual sugar) from young vines in the hilly south-east facing Falkenberg sector of the Trittenheimer Altärchen. It shows a nicely lactic and ripe nose of coconut milk, pineapple, ripe yellow peach, a hint of toffee, apple juice, and dried herbs. The wine coats the palate with quite some juicy and ripe fruits, ranging from yellow peach to more exotic flavors of mango and pineapple. The finish is delicately juicy and smooth as some tickly acidity adds focus in the background. This aromatic and slightly riper version of off-dry Riesling however proves superbly balanced and refined (the label indicates only 10% of alcohol). It needs a couple of years to integrate its sweetness and offer even more playfulness. 2024-2034



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2019er	Loersch	Riesling Trocken Blauschiefer	05 20	90
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The 2019er Riesling Trocken Blauschiefer comes from the hilly part of the Leiwener Kloostergarten situated on blue slate soil. It offers a beautifully attractive and fine nose of yellow peach, violet, blueberry, pear, smoke, herbs, and a touch of melon. The wine proves nicely focused and juicy on the palate, and leaves a beautiful feel of richness and yellow fruits in the long and assertive finish. Some tartness emerges in the after-taste which still needs to melt away. This proves a remarkably successful dry Riesling which proves quite intense despite its low 11% of alcohol. 2022-2027

About Mosel Fine Wines

[Independent publication](#) on Mosel Riesling (and beyond!) with reports on vintages, Estates, and wines at maturity.

Covering every year up to [1,500 wines from the current vintage](#) from all leading Estates of the region, of which the best make it into the Issues.

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