

HOWARD RIPLEY

Specialist in Domaine-bottled Burgundy and German Wines

2008 German Wines

German growers love climate change. Thirty years ago, there were perhaps three really good vintages per decade; in the last twenty, there has not been a single bad one. The primary concern used to be ripening the grapes sufficiently; now growers are worried about over-maturity. This has changed the style: wines are now sweeter and richer, the dry ones more alcoholic and less marked by acidity.

However, after an unusually cool summer, 2008 is a vintage that recalls the great pure vintages of past times. The wines have less weight than the last three vintages, and the best, which have had the benefit of very long hangtime, are beautifully focussed and clean with apple, citrus and peach flavours and a pronounced ripe minerality: they unmistakably reflect the place where the grapes were grown. These are very refreshing, almost ethereal wines, with lower alcohol (in the Mosel 7-8%): it is a joy to drink a real *Kabinett*, rather than a *Spätlese* declared as one. Comparisons are hard to make, but there are parallels with 1975, hailed as a great vintage in its time and whose wines now are now poised, elegant and refined. 2008 is more complex, a touch riper and more mineral-driven, but will develop similarly; it will give much pleasure in its youth, but will age delightfully.

The growing season was unpromising, with uneven, but mainly cool temperatures, and sporadic bursts of rain and even hail. This allowed a long slow ripening, and resulted in a later harvest than usual. There was not much opportunity for botrytis under these conditions, and thus the wines are very clean and pointed. Very little *Auslese* and higher was made – but what there is is spectacular – and the focus is more on *Kabinett* and *Spätlese*.

Right at the end of the year conditions were perfect for some remarkable *Eisweins* to be harvested; as *Eiswein*-lovers will be aware, climate change has made this an increasingly rare occurrence.

We are delighted to take on an exciting new Middle Mosel grower, Phillip Vesper, who does not have his own vineyards yet, but is making superb wines from short-term leases while he looks for land to buy – See page 12.

The wines of J.J. Prüm will be released later in the year. Please contact us if you are interested.

The continuing strength of the Euro has meant an increase in pricing over last year. The growers themselves have left their prices unchanged or posted a very modest increase. **We have tried to absorb these increases where we can.**

**PRICES ARE IN BOND LONDON.
UNLESS OTHERWISE MARKED, WINES ARE PACKED
IN**

**6-BOTTLE CASES (750ml)
12-BOTTLE CASES (375ml)
6-BOTTLE CASES (1500ml)**

WINES ARE OFFERED BY THE CASE ONLY.

Contents

Hermann Dönnhoff Oberhausen (Nahe) 3
Fritz Haag Brauneberg (Mosel) 4
Heymann-Löwenstein Winingen (Mosel) 4-5
Johannishof Johannisberg (Rheingau) 5
Karthäuserhof Eitelsbach (Ruwer) 5-6
Keller Flörsheim-Dalsheim (Rheinhessen) 6-7
Schloss Lieser Lieser (Mosel) 7-8
Dr. Loosen Bernkastel (Mosel) 8
Georg Mosbacher Forst (Pfalz) 9
Willi Schaefer Graach (Mosel) 9
Schäfer-Fröhlich Bockenu (Nahe) 10
C. von Schubert'sche Gutsverwaltung –
Maximin Grünhaus Mertesdorf (Ruwer) 11
Selbach-Oster Zeltingen (Mosel) 12
Phillip Vesper (Mosel) 12
Van Volxem Wiltingen (Saar) 13
Vollenweider Traben-Trarbach (Mosel) 13
Robert Weil Kiedrich (Rheingau) 14
Weiser-Künstler Traben-Trarbach (Mosel) 15
Forstmeister Gertz Zilliken Saarburg (Saar) 15
Terms of Business 16

THE WINES

Hermann Dönnhoff Oberhausen (Nahe)

Another great year for the master of the Spätlese. Hermann Dönnhoff has produced a perfect range of wines that are ripe, mineral and transparent. There is also a superb very late harvested *Eiswein*.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Grosses Gewächs - DRY

2008	Powerful ripe fruit with great depth and intensity, long mineral-driven finish.		£151
------	---	--	------

Oberhäuser Leistenberg Kabinett

2008	Ripe lemony fruit, with pithy grapefruit mineral flavours. Playful and long.		£60
------	--	--	-----

Schlossböckelheimer Kupfergrube Spätlese

2008	The volcanic soil gives a soft juiciness to the broad mineral flavours. Zingy, dense and long.		£116
------	--	--	------

Oberhäuser Brücke Spätlese

2008	Very smooth, ripe rich fruit flavours, underpinned by broad mineral strokes. Seamlessly polished with a hint exotic fruit on the long finish. Extremely fine.		£125
		Magnums	£285

Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Spätlese

2008	Very dense and very fine. Complex interplay of stone and citrus fruit with a fine salty minerality. An effortless elegance with some reserve - there was talk around the table of a buttoned up aristocratic blonde, for what it's worth. Once gain, simultaneously powerful and delicate. Very fine indeed.		£138
		Magnums	£311

Oberhäuser Brücke Eiswein

2008	Harvested on 30 December. The long hangtime and cool growing season makes for a wine with extraordinary complexity and density. Ripe and elegant, bursting with fruit and a hint of botrytis, with a very long finish. A very impressive <i>Eiswein</i> indeed.	Halves (6-bottle case)	£520
------	---	------------------------	------

Fritz Haag Brauneberg (Mosel)

Oliver Haag now has his feet firmly under the table. Although Wilhelm Haag stills acts as an advisor, the transition from father to son is now complete and seamless. He also benefits from an extensive replanting programme undertaken by his father in the late eighties and early nineties. The quality of fruit from his best vineyards is now superb. One of the very best estates in Germany.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Brauneberger Juffer Kabinett

2008	Vibrant apple and citrus flavours with hints of peach. Very pure mineral current running through from start to the very long finish. Absolutely delicious and moreish – a real <i>Kabinett</i> .		£49
------	--	--	-----

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Spätlese No. 5

2008	Zingy lemon and lime with peach and a tangy minerality. Bursting with energy and flavour and very forward. Wilhem Haag used to say that he wanted to make wines that make the tastebuds jump to their feet and cry for more: bullseye on that here. Not to be missed.		£69
		Magnums	£182

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese No. 6

2008	A hint of botrytis adds a dash of complexity to a mix where there is already a huge amount going on: apple, lime, peach and grapefruit flavours intermingle seamlessly with a filigree minerality but the trademark purity remains.		£97
		Magnums each	£39

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese Goldkapsel No. 9

2008	One of two <i>Goldkapsels</i> made this year, and the one with less botrytis, which keeps it pure and light. Delicious mineral intensity alongside ripe sweet fruit and tangy citrus notes. Beautifully poised and very fine.		£170
		Halves	£176
		Magnums each	£62

Heymann-Löwenstein Winingen (Mosel)

Although he made no sweet wines this year, the dry wines from this estate are magnificent, and amongst the finest in Germany. Produced entirely biodynamically, they are exciting, rich and very *terroir*-driven.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Von Blauen Schiefer - DRY

2008	Powerful intense flavours with a zingy acidity that keeps it light on its feet. Lovely balance and a delicious mineral finish.		£65
------	--	--	-----

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Kirchberg 1. Lage - DRY

2008	Deep red soil gives a typical smooth, spicy, smoky note to the yellow stone fruit. Lovely intensity and ripeness, backed by a vibrant zesty finish.		£78
------	---	--	-----

Heymann-Löwenstein (continued)

Uhlen 'Laubach' 1. Lage - DRY

2008	Blue slate soil gives the most angular wine in the stable. Fine, pure mineral flavours overlaid with a lively floral character that carries a hint of spice.		£117
------	--	--	------

Uhlen 'Roth Lay' 1. Lage – DRY

2008	The most powerful of all the estate's wines. Very broad and rich, packed full of a juicy minerality that perfectly frames the yellow stone fruit. Hint of smoky spice on the finish. Very complex and long. This is bottled very late, and thus will only ship next year. Shipment Autumn 2011		£117
------	---	--	------

Johannishof Johannisberg (Rheingau)

Never one to make heavy blockbusters like some of his neighbours, Johannes Eser has profited from the beneficial growing season to refine his trademark elegance into wines of crystalline purity. Once again they are a delight this year. For the first time, we have purchased a dry wine that particularly impressed us.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Rüdesheimer Berg Roseneck Kabinett trocken - DRY

2008	Red slate reduces the impression of acidity and gives softer, more stone-fruit driven wines. Juicy ripe peach with vibrant spicy mineral tones.		£45
------	---	--	-----

Johannisberger 'G' Kabinett

2008	Juicy, vibrant and ripe, with fresh gooseberry, apple and white peach flavours. A hint of creamy minerality on the finish.		£43
------	--	--	-----

Johannisberg Klaus Spätlese

2008	Pure peachy ripeness on a firm mineral foundation. Very ripe elegant acidity rounds it out perfectly. Long zingy finish.		£57
------	--	--	-----

Karthäuserhof Eitelsbach (Ruwer)

Another superb year here. Astonishing clarity and finesse as ever. Christoph Tyrell considers his Eiswein to be the finest in the estate's history, which is saying something, since there are some legendary wines in this category.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Spätlese trocken - DRY

2008	Elegant, dense and long, with perfectly balanced mineral and citrus fruits with a hint of herbaceousness on the finish. Very lovely.		£67
------	--	--	-----

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Kabinett

2008	Bright floral notes intermingled with apple and peach flavours, lots of juicy lemony acidity and a fine mineral kick. Very complex for a <i>Kabinett</i> .		£50
------	--	--	-----

Karthäuserhof (continued)

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Spätlese

2008	Tightly woven wine which needs time to show its paces: steely, with cool dill and gooseberry fruit, a hint of blackcurrants, and very dense juicy middle. Long peachy finish.		£67
------	---	--	-----

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Auslese

2008	Very dense, with a tongue-coating minerality, but there is massive ripe peach fruit to balance it. Fresh herbs and brisk ripe lemon notes on the finish.		£94
------	--	--	-----

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Eiswein

2008	Regarded by Christoph Tyrell as the finest in the estate's history, this late harvest <i>Eiswein</i> is powerful and complex, with woolly mineral notes, and flavours of hay, lemon and honey. Very ripe juicy acidity, and a powerful long finish. Fantastic.	3-bottle case	£476
		Halves (6-bottle case)	£480

Keller Flörsheim-Dalsheim (Rheinhessen)

Patience was the most important quality need during the harvest in 2008, said Klaus-Peter Keller during our visit. The important thing was not to lose one's nerve and wait for physiological ripeness. Fortunately for him, the rain never really took hold, so he was able to make wines at all ripeness levels. It is another superb vintage for him, showing great purity and the seductive quality which makes the 2008s such a pleasure to taste. **There are no firm allocations for dry wines – we will confirm all orders in August.**

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Riesling von der Fels - DRY

2008	Made from young vines in the top sites of Kirchspiel and Hubacker. Focussed bright yellow peach, apple and greengauges with lovely grapefruit pith notes. Very pure and long with a lovely balanced ripeness.		£65
------	---	--	-----

Westhofen Kirchspiel Grosses Gewächs - DRY

2008	Red limestone soil with a high iron content gives a firm but elegant minerality, but also generous ripe fruit flavours of apple and peach. Persistent creamy finish with a trace of mineral saltiness.		£121
------	--	--	------

Dalsheimer Hubacker Grosses Gewächs - DRY

2008	Yellow limestone gives more exotic broad fruit flavours, almost baroque in style: peach, but also mirabelles. Rich and ripe, with a deep creamy seam of minerality, balanced by vibrant lemony acidity. Beautifully poised, fantastically elegant and very long.		£141
------	--	--	------

Westhofen Absterde Grosses Gewächs - DRY

2008	Growing in very stony and chalky soils, this has a rich hit of mineral flavours, but these are balanced by the intensity of the ripe fruit. Exotic notes of cherry and raspberry complement the more standard peach and citrus flavours. At once very dense and very fine. The best dry wine tasted this year.		£206
------	--	--	------

Keller (continued)

Westhofen Kirchspiel Spätlese Goldkapsel

2008	Rich intense apple and peach flavours, with a hint of mirabelles and very fresh apricot. Gentle fine minerality running through, balanced by ripe very juicy lemony flavours. A extraordinarily balanced and elegant package.		£90
------	---	--	-----

Westhofen Kirchspiel Auslese

2008	Piercingly intense, with considerable weight and great purity. At present citrus flavours predominate, but in time the very fine minerality and ripe stone fruit flavours will come through. An excellent <i>Auslese</i> .		£116
------	--	--	------

Westhofen Morstein Auslese***

2008	Made from grapes from very old ungrafted vines. Yellow fruit typical of the vineyard, as well as notes of flint and herbs. Very pure, rich and long. At least a BA in ripeness, which it makes it very reasonably priced!	Halves (6-bottle case)	£176
------	---	---------------------------	------

Westhofen Kirchspiel Trockenbeerenauslese Goldkapsel

2008	Very rich, almost oily in its intensity, but astonishingly vibrant and with smoky spice, fresh apricot and citrus flavours predominating at the moment. Very long indeed.	Halves (6-bottle case)	£759
------	---	---------------------------	------

Dalheimer Morstein Trockenbeerenauslese Goldkapsel

2008	Only twenty litres of this was made, and we are not sure how much we will be getting, if any, but it was a winner! Very, very intense and focussed.	Halves (6-bottle case)	£819
------	---	---------------------------	------

Schloss Lieser Lieser (Mosel)

Thomas Haag produced the best 2008s that we tasted: an extraordinary collection, each crystalline wine bursting with energy. 'I don't do anything different to anyone else, but you have to get your timing right' was his only comment. But there is a pride in his achievement that reminds one of Helmut Dönnhoff's modest appraisal of his own efforts.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Schloss Lieser Kabinett

2008	Vibrant, with apple, peach and citrus flavours, backed up by a vivacious minerality. Very delicious and extremely complex at this level.		£40
------	--	--	-----

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Kabinett

2008	More playful and peachy than the Schloss Lieser <i>Kabinett</i> , and with more obvious polish and finesse. Lovely gentle minerality, and a long zingy finish.		£42
------	--	--	-----

Lieser Niederberg Helden Spätlese

2008	Fantastically vibrant, with delicate floral notes, powerful peach and citrus flavours and a perky minerality. It leaves an impression of great finesse and elegance on the finish. One of the best <i>Spätlesen</i> tasted this year.		£54
		Magnums	£142

Schloss Lieser (continued)

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Spätlese

2008	Typically finer than the Helden <i>Spätlese</i> . It makes up for less power with more charm. But there is enormous strength underneath: dense layers of peach and apple fruit packed on top of ripe juicy mineral. Vibrant, pure, elegant and long.		£55
		Magnums	£148

Lieser Niederberg Helden Auslese

2008	Almost painful intensity, with very fresh zingy fruit and fantastic elegance and ripeness. Vibrant apple and creamy mineral flavours on a very long finish.		£70
		Halves	£84

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese

2008	Perfectly poised ripe apple, apricot, peach and other stone fruits, balanced by fine mineral notes. Almost ethereal in its purity.		£77
		Halves	£89

Lieser Niederberg Helden Auslese Goldkapsel

2008	Great power allied to lightness. Creamier and richer than the Juffer-Sonnenuhr GK, this bursts with apricot and lemon flavours, backed by powerful but fine minerality.		£115
		Halves	£129

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese Goldkapsel

2008	A dash more intensity than the regular <i>Auslese</i> , and with a creamy softness from the apricot botrytis flavours. It remains fantastically pure and bright, with great balance and length.		£122
		Halves	£136

Dr. Loosen Bernkastel (Mosel)

One of Mosel's great estates, with extensive vineyard holdings in some of the best vineyards, including an almost monopolistic holding of one of the greatest, the Erdener Prälät.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Erdener Treppchen Kabinett

2008	Clear zingy fruit, with typical strawberry and peach notes, this year framed by bright citrus notes and a long flinty finish.		£44
------	---	--	-----

Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese

2008	Powerful, rich and long, with bright citrus and mineral notes.		£78
------	--	--	-----

Erdener Prälät Auslese

2008	Pure rich and round, with fruit flavours that broaden across the palate. Fresh citrus and mineral interplay on the long finish.		£172
------	---	--	------

Erdener Prälät Auslese Goldkapsel

2008	A very gentle and clean botrytis makes its mark here. Great depth and complexity.		£218
		Halves	£234

Georg Mosbacher Forst (Pfalz)

In the heart of the most famous village in the Pfalz, this estate remains little known outside Germany. And yet the wines here are at least as good as those from more famous neighbours, and cost much less. The best (and most expensive) wines from this estate are dry. They impress not with power, but with elegance and finesse and as a result performed particularly well in 2008, a year when good estates could bring these characteristics to the fore.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Riesling Kabinett trocken - DRY

2008	Lively, pure and ripe, with juicy lemony acidity and a very clean finish.		£35
------	---	--	-----

Forster Musenhang Kabinett trocken - DRY

2008	Bursting with citrus and mineral flavours, this shows lovely intensity and elegance.		£56
------	--	--	-----

Ungeheuer Grosses Gewächs - DRY

2008	Very big, rich and ripe with generous peach and mineral fruit. Enormous density and balance promises a long life. One of the finest dry wines tasted this year.		£106
------	---	--	------

Willi Schaefer Graach (Mosel)

Consistently fine wines here, marked by their individuality and close reflection of the place the grapes are grown. Noone understands the soils of Graach better than this father and son team.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Willi Schaefer Riesling

2008	Lively yellow fruit, a delicious minerality and vibrant citrus flavours. Delicious.		£35
------	---	--	-----

Graacher Himmelreich Kabinett

2008	Very racy and polished, with crystalline citrus fruit and a lovely mouth-filling finish.		£49
------	--	--	-----

Graacher Domprobst Kabinett

2008	A little bit finer than the Himmelreich <i>Kabinett</i> , and a little more focussed, but more restrained at this point. Very long rich mineral finish. A fantastic <i>Kabinett</i> .		£49
------	---	--	-----

Graacher Domprobst Spätlese No. 10

2008	Very forward apple and peach fruit, vigorous citrus and salty mineral flavours. Exuberant and long. A delight.		£72
------	--	--	-----

Graacher Domprobst Spätlese No. 5

2008	A super-charged version of the No. 10 <i>Spätlese</i> . Very juicy and ripe, with great finesse. Needs some years to open out fully.		£92
------	--	--	-----

Graacher Domprobst Auslese No. 8

2008	Made from very ripe yellow golden berries practically untouched by botrytis. Intense perfectly ripe peach and Mirabelle fruit, with hints of apple, spice and greengauges. A very fine minerality emerges on the finish. One of the best <i>Auslesen</i> tasted this year. Vanishingly small quantities available.		£220
		Halves	£226

Schäfer-Fröhlich Bockenau (Nahe)

This recent arrival into the top tier is making exciting wines in both the *trocken* and the sweet style. We have chosen three exciting dry wines to complement the superb range that we already carry. A marvellous year from Tim Fröhlich.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Bockenauer trocken - DRY

2008	A mixture of volcanic and blue slate soils gives vibrant rounded crunchy apple and grapefruit flavours with a long rich finish.		£44
------	---	--	-----

Bockenauer Felseneck trocken - DRY

2008	Pure Devonian slate gives a more peachy delicate wine which nonetheless has tensile strength and great persistence. Precise and fine.		£64
------	---	--	-----

Felseneck Grosses Gewächs - DRY

2008	The estate's top dry wine. Powerful, pure and focussed, with fine citrus, peach and green apple flavours, shot through with a delicious filigree minerality. Beautifully delineated long vibrant finish.		£133
------	--	--	------

Bockenauer Kabinett

2008	Vibrant, elegant and balanced, with delicious fresh apple fruit with a hint of peach. Tangy citrus finish.		£44
------	--	--	-----

Bockenauer Felseneck Spätlese

2008	Very poised. An explosion of crystal-clear apple and lemon fruit with strong peach notes, but in a perfectly elegant package. Delicate mineral tones creep in on the long finish.		£64
------	---	--	-----

Bockenauer Felseneck Spätlese Goldkapsel

2008	Very ripe and pure, made from healthy golden berries, and showing beautifully defined peach and mirabelle fruit, with lashings of tangy citrus and a creamy mineral finish. Very fine.		£91
------	--	--	-----

C. von Schubert'sche Gutsverwaltung - Maximin Grünhaus Mertesdorf (Ruwer)

The wines from this famous estate are once again some of the most exciting in Germany and like those of J.J. Prüm, they require some time in bottle before revealing their true complexities. They inspire with their elegance and purity of expression; indeed they are the benchmark against which all Ruwer wines are measured. In the gifted hands of winemaker Stefan Kraml, a return to fermentation exclusively with natural yeast has resulted in wines full of character and individuality.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Herrenberg trocken 'Alte Reben' - DRY

2008	Made from grapes of <i>Spätlese</i> ripeness, this is elegant, ripe and very long, with herbaceous grapefruit flavours typical of the Ruwer. Very bright and pithy, with a long juicy finish.		£60
------	---	--	-----

Abstberg 'Superior' – DRY

2008	An uncompromising return to old-style winemaking. Grapes, from old vines only, are crushed, put in a vat and left to ferment naturally until they stop. That's it: completely non-interventionist. A classic Ruwer: enormous density, with notes of fresh herbs (primarily dill), gooseberry, peach and a beautifully balancing fine minerality. Very seductive and long.		£85
------	---	--	-----

Abstberg Kabinett

2008	Deceptively slim, the vibrant ripe gooseberry and herb notes cloak a finely coiled spring. Delicious mineral flavours on a very bright juicy finish.		£52
------	--	--	-----

Abstberg Spätlese

2008	Clear peach, gooseberry and creamy mineral flavours. Very dense. Succulent and balanced, and has a great future.		£66
		Magnums	£148
		Double-Magnum each WOODEN CASE	£62

Abstberg Auslese

2008	A trace of botrytis does not detract from the superb clarity and focus. Pure peach, dill and gooseberry fruit, with fine grapefruit and pithy citrus flavours. Very vibrant and long.		£98
		Halves	£104

Herrenberg Eiswein

2008	Harvested on 29 December. A superbly elegant <i>Eiswein</i> , which astonishes by being neither piercingly acidic nor one-dimensional. Enormous density, but a hint of botrytis softens the honey, hay and smoke flavours. One of the finest <i>Eisweins</i> tasted this year, or indeed any year here. Only 280 litres made.	3-bottle case	£440
		Halves (6-bottle-case)	£443

Selbach-Oster Zeltingen (Mosel)

Another stellar year at this estate. Johannes Selbach has transformed the quality of his wines in recent years, and they are now unquestionably near the top of the Mosel league table.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Zeltinger Schlossberg Spätlese trocken - DRY

2008	The first time we have chosen a dry wine from this estate, but the quality was so high we could not resist. Vibrant rich apple and citrus fruit, with broad mineral flavours and a spicy finish.		£56
------	--	--	-----

Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Kabinett

2008	Very fine peach flavours to complement the mineral richness. Playful, long and simply delicious.		£49
------	--	--	-----

Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese

2008	A considerable step up in intensity from the <i>Kabinett</i> . Very forward peach and lemon fruit, with notes of apple and orange peel, even some pear flavours. Lovely salty minerality.		£61
------	---	--	-----

Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Auslese

2008	A hint of botrytis, but pure clean lemony peach flavours predominate, backed by slatey mineral notes and a long grapefruit finish.		£74
------	--	--	-----

Zeltinger Sonnenuhr 'Rotlay'

2008	'Rotlay' refers to the red tinge of soil in the best part of the vineyard. Picked in a single block with the aim of remaining true to the <i>terroir</i> , it is delicate and intense, with ripe soft fruit and pleasing mineral edge. Very charming.		£88
------	---	--	-----

Zeltinger Schlossberg 'Schmitt'

2008	Broader, earthier and more intense, with powerful mineral peach and grapefruit flavours, intense citrus notes and a long broad finish.		£84
------	--	--	-----

Bernkasteler Badstube Eiswein

2008	Ticks all the boxes for great <i>Eiswein</i> : powerful, zingy with smoky citrus flavours, fresh hay, honey and some spice. Lovely.	Halves (6-bottle-case)	£205
------	---	------------------------	------

Philipp Vesper (Mosel)

A sensational discovery for us. Philipp Vesper is a geologist turned winemaker, who is currently vineyard manager at Schloss Lieser. In his spare moments, he looks for promising vineyards. In 2006, he found a small parcel of Graacher Himmelreich, which was purchased by J.J. Prüm in 2008. Since then he has focussed on a vineyard in Mühlheim. His wines are beautifully pure and perfectly poised. **Please note that these are available duty paid only.**

PER CASE OF 6 DP

Mühlheimer Sonnenlay

2008	<i>Spätlese</i> ripeness. Zingy citrus and apple fruit, with smoothly integrated pithy mineral notes. Very fine and long.		£64
------	---	--	-----

Graacher Himmelreich

2007	<i>Auslese</i> ripeness. Sweet ripe peach and lemon fruit with tangerine notes; delicious vibrant minerality, long smooth finish.		£99
------	---	--	-----

Van Volxem Wiltingen (Saar)

A very successful year for Roman Niewodniczanski, whose vaulting ambition and seemingly endless quests for top vineyards has earned him the sobriquet 'King of the Saar'. Close attention to the ripeness of the grapes from his very old vines, results in powerful, rich wines that reflect their soils perfectly.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Saar Riesling - DRY

2008	Muscular, rich and ripe, with peach and citrus fruit to balance the salty mineral flavours. A lot of wine for the money.		£40
------	--	--	-----

Scharzhofberger - DRY

2008	Clearly defined ripe peach and mineral flavours, very poised and rich, with a long smooth finish.		£68
------	---	--	-----

Goldberg - DRY

2008	From the best vineyard in Wawern, once famous, but now almost forgotten. More power than the Scharzhofberg, with astonishing, almost painful density that will take time to integrate. Spritzy and ripe, with lots of racy mineral acidity.		£68
------	---	--	-----

Scharzhofberger Pergentskopp - DRY

2008	Still fermenting during our visit and not tasted.		£119
------	---	--	------

Wiltinger Gottesfuss Alte Reben - DRY

2008	From ungrafted vines now over 120 years old, planted in steep red slate soil. Still fermenting during our visit and not tasted.		£119
------	---	--	------

Altenberg Alte Reben - DRY

2008	From the best part of the best vineyard in Kanzem, a dizzyingly steep slate slope. Still fermenting during our visit and not tasted.		£119
------	--	--	------

Vollenweider Traben-Trarbach (Mosel)

Daniel Vollenweider's wines are amongst the richest in the middle Mosel. This cooler vintage gives them considerable lift, which highlights the purity of his winemaking.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Wolfger Goldgrube Kabinett

2008	Some richness, but dominated at present by delicious racy lemon and peach flavours. Lashings of mineral on the fresh finish.		£47
------	--	--	-----

Wolfger Goldgrube Spätlese

2008	Fine, pure and clear lemon fruit, very vibrant clean peach flavours, backed by a refreshing slaty minerality. Very delicious.		£64
------	---	--	-----

Wolfger Goldgrube Spätlese Goldkapsel

2008	Made from very old vines in a particularly steep part of the vineyard. Tight and dense, with great elegance and focus. Beautiful acid structure, and very fine indeed.		£90
		Magnums	£220

Robert Weil Kiedrich (Rheingau)

We are delighted to import the wines of this famous estate, one of the few in the Rheingau realising its full potential. With 70 hectares under vine, this is big business by the standards of most German quality estates, and its opulent old villa and large visitor centre give the impression of a first-growth Bordeaux château. Despite this size, the enormous efforts to ensure the best possible quality is repaid with superb wines.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Robert Weil Kabinett

2008	Pure, elegant, and fine, with delicious broad grapefruit and mineral flavours.		£67
------	--	--	-----

Kiedrich Gräfenberg Spätlese

2008	Peach and apple fruit with hints of apricot. Beautifully clear mineral flavours and a tangy lemony finish. Excellent balance and intensity.		£156
------	---	--	------

Kiedrich Gräfenberg Auslese

2008	A declassified BA, with lots of very pure botrytis in the form of fresh clean apricot flavours. Delicious interplay of lemon and pithy mineral notes. Pure, balanced and long.		£302
		Halves	£309

Kiedrich Gräfenberg Beerenauslese

2008	A fantastically clean, pure and delicate botrytis, with notes of lemon, and some smoky notes. Very polished and fine, with a powerful mineral presence on a beautifully elegant finish.	Halves (6-bottle-case)	£614
------	---	------------------------	------

Kiedrich Gräfenberg Trockenbeerenauslese

2008	A quite stunning wine of enormous concentration and elegance. Seamless creamy mineral notes complement the rich apricot and citrus fruit. Fantastic length and purity. Very, very lovely.	Single bottle	£430
		Single half	£216

Kiedrich Gräfenberg Eiswein

2008	Some fresh young botrytis gives a slightly medicinal nose, but this will clear by the time it has been in bottle for a year or so. Fantastically concentrated, but with no aggressive acidity. Rather this is powerful, elegant and fine.	Single bottle	£268
		Single half	£135

Weiser-Künstler Traben-Trarbach (Mosel)

The remarkable story of Konstantin Weiser and Alexandra Künstler continues. Like their friend Daniel Vollenweider, they continue to produce fantastic wines from vineyards that are so hard to work that they have been given up by others as economically unviable. The quality continues to dazzle.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Enkircher Ellergrub Kabinett

2008	Soft, elegant ripe peach, lime and apple fruit. Soft minerality on the long finish. Very lovely.		£40
------	--	--	-----

Enkircher Ellergrub Spätlese

2008	Very pure and fine, with real elegance and length. Long intense finish.		£57
------	---	--	-----

Enkircher Zeppwingert Auslese

2008	100% botrytis, but manages the feat of being light on its feet and very elegant, due to the vibrant lemony acidity and powerful mineral backbone. Very good indeed.		£110
		Halves (6-bottle-case)	£60

Enkircher Ellergrub Auslese

2008	Smoother and more seamless than the exuberant Zeppwingert, with fresh apricot, peach and apple flavours. Very long fresh finish.		£127
		Halves (6-bottle-case)	£66

Forstmeister Geltz Zilliken Saarburg (Saar)

The wines here are the epitome of Saar Riesling: graceful, vibrant and mineral-driven.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Saarburger Rausch Kabinett

2008	Vibrant, clearly defined apple and citrus fruit, with a great whack of juicy mineral on the finish. A lovely Saar <i>Kabinett</i> .		£40
------	---	--	-----

Saarburger Rausch Spätlese

2008	Very clean apple fruit with bright citrus flavours and a creamy minerality. A hint of apricot on the long finish.		£69
------	---	--	-----

Saarburger Rausch Spätlese

1993	Astonishingly, this great Saar year is still available at <i>Spätlese</i> level direct from Hanno Zilliken's cellar. Not a bad price for a wine that is drinking perfectly now and has over 15 years of bottle age in perfect conditions!		£67
------	---	--	-----

Terms of Business

1. All wines are offered subject to remaining unsold.
2. Prices for 2008s are under bond.
3. Minimum quantity one dozen bottles (9L case). Unless otherwise indicated, wines may be purchased by the case only.
4. Free delivery in mainland UK on orders over £600 excluding VAT, otherwise at cost. Minimum charge £10.50 plus VAT. Customers outside mainland UK are responsible for their own shipping arrangements.
5. All wines are sold in good faith but we shall not be liable if a grower fails to supply a wine or if it is lost or damaged in transit. In such very rare cases, another wine or a cash refund will be offered.
6. Please note well that no claims for breakages or shortages can be entertained unless this has been noted on the carrier's delivery note and we are informed within 24 hours of receipt by telephone or in writing within three days.
7. The wines of certain estates may not be exported from the UK. Please contact us for details.
8. Approved trade accounts: payment 30 days after date of invoice. Private customers: cheque with order or payment by credit card, please.
9. Force majeure: we shall not be liable for any failure to meet our obligations occasioned by circumstances beyond our control.
10. Goods remain the property of Howard Ripley Limited until paid for in full.
11. Unless otherwise indicated, shipment of 2008s will be by Spring 2010. Customers will be informed of the arrival of their wines in the UK.
12. This list cancels all previous lists. This list and its contents are © Howard Ripley Limited. E. & O.E. June 2009

Howard Ripley Ltd.

Specialists in domaine-bottled Burgundy & German Wines.

25 Dingwall Road
London SW18 3AZ
Fax: 020 8877 0029

sebastian.thomas@howardripley.com; polly.oconnor@howardripley.com
www.howardripley.com

HOWARD RIPLEY

Specialist in Domaine-bottled Burgundy and German Wines

2008 German Wines

German growers love climate change. Thirty years ago, there were perhaps three really good vintages per decade; in the last twenty, there has not been a single bad one. The primary concern used to be ripening the grapes sufficiently; now growers are worried about over-maturity. This has changed the style: wines are now sweeter and richer, the dry ones more alcoholic and less marked by acidity.

However, after an unusually cool summer, 2008 is a vintage that recalls the great pure vintages of past times. The wines have less weight than the last three vintages, and the best, which have had the benefit of very long hangtime, are beautifully focussed and clean with apple, citrus and peach flavours and a pronounced ripe minerality: they unmistakably reflect the place where the grapes were grown. These are very refreshing, almost ethereal wines, with lower alcohol (in the Mosel 7-8%): it is a joy to drink a real *Kabinett*, rather than a *Spätlese* declared as one. Comparisons are hard to make, but there are parallels with 1975, hailed as a great vintage in its time and whose wines now are now poised, elegant and refined. 2008 is more complex, a touch riper and more mineral-driven, but will develop similarly; it will give much pleasure in its youth, but will age delightfully.

The growing season was unpromising, with uneven, but mainly cool temperatures, and sporadic bursts of rain and even hail. This allowed a long slow ripening, and resulted in a later harvest than usual. There was not much opportunity for botrytis under these conditions, and thus the wines are very clean and pointed. Very little *Auslese* and higher was made – but what there is is spectacular – and the focus is more on *Kabinett* and *Spätlese*.

Right at the end of the year conditions were perfect for some remarkable *Eisweins* to be harvested; as *Eiswein*-lovers will be aware, climate change has made this an increasingly rare occurrence.

We are delighted to take on an exciting new Middle Mosel grower, Phillip Vesper, who does not have his own vineyards yet, but is making superb wines from short-term leases while he looks for land to buy – See page 12.

The wines of J.J. Prüm will be released later in the year. Please contact us if you are interested.

The continuing strength of the Euro has meant an increase in pricing over last year. The growers themselves have left their prices unchanged or posted a very modest increase. **We have tried to absorb these increases where we can.**

**PRICES ARE IN BOND LONDON.
UNLESS OTHERWISE MARKED, WINES ARE PACKED
IN**

**6-BOTTLE CASES (750ml)
12-BOTTLE CASES (375ml)
6-BOTTLE CASES (1500ml)**

WINES ARE OFFERED BY THE CASE ONLY.

Contents

Hermann Dönnhoff Oberhausen (Nahe) 3
Fritz Haag Brauneberg (Mosel) 4
Heymann-Löwenstein Winingen (Mosel) 4-5
Johannishof Johannisberg (Rheingau) 5
Karthäuserhof Eitelsbach (Ruwer) 5-6
Keller Flörsheim-Dalsheim (Rheinhessen) 6-7
Schloss Lieser Lieser (Mosel) 7-8
Dr. Loosen Bernkastel (Mosel) 8
Georg Mosbacher Forst (Pfalz) 9
Willi Schaefer Graach (Mosel) 9
Schäfer-Fröhlich Bockenu (Nahe) 10
C. von Schubert'sche Gutsverwaltung –
Maximin Grünhaus Mertesdorf (Ruwer) 11
Selbach-Oster Zeltingen (Mosel) 12
Phillip Vesper (Mosel) 12
Van Volxem Wiltingen (Saar) 13
Vollenweider Traben-Trarbach (Mosel) 13
Robert Weil Kiedrich (Rheingau) 14
Weiser-Künstler Traben-Trarbach (Mosel) 15
Forstmeister Gertz Zilliken Saarburg (Saar) 15
Terms of Business 16

THE WINES

Hermann Dönnhoff Oberhausen (Nahe)

Another great year for the master of the Spätlese. Hermann Dönnhoff has produced a perfect range of wines that are ripe, mineral and transparent. There is also a superb very late harvested *Eiswein*.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Grosses Gewächs - DRY

2008	Powerful ripe fruit with great depth and intensity, long mineral-driven finish.		£151
------	---	--	------

Oberhäuser Leistenberg Kabinett

2008	Ripe lemony fruit, with pithy grapefruit mineral flavours. Playful and long.		£60
------	--	--	-----

Schlossböckelheimer Kupfergrube Spätlese

2008	The volcanic soil gives a soft juiciness to the broad mineral flavours. Zingy, dense and long.		£116
------	--	--	------

Oberhäuser Brücke Spätlese

2008	Very smooth, ripe rich fruit flavours, underpinned by broad mineral strokes. Seamlessly polished with a hint exotic fruit on the long finish. Extremely fine.		£125
		Magnums	£285

Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Spätlese

2008	Very dense and very fine. Complex interplay of stone and citrus fruit with a fine salty minerality. An effortless elegance with some reserve - there was talk around the table of a buttoned up aristocratic blonde, for what it's worth. Once gain, simultaneously powerful and delicate. Very fine indeed.		£138
		Magnums	£311

Oberhäuser Brücke Eiswein

2008	Harvested on 30 December. The long hangtime and cool growing season makes for a wine with extraordinary complexity and density. Ripe and elegant, bursting with fruit and a hint of botrytis, with a very long finish. A very impressive <i>Eiswein</i> indeed.	Halves (6-bottle case)	£520
------	---	------------------------	------

Fritz Haag Brauneberg (Mosel)

Oliver Haag now has his feet firmly under the table. Although Wilhelm Haag stills acts as an advisor, the transition from father to son is now complete and seamless. He also benefits from an extensive replanting programme undertaken by his father in the late eighties and early nineties. The quality of fruit from his best vineyards is now superb. One of the very best estates in Germany.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Brauneberger Juffer Kabinett

2008	Vibrant apple and citrus flavours with hints of peach. Very pure mineral current running through from start to the very long finish. Absolutely delicious and moreish – a real <i>Kabinett</i> .		£49
------	--	--	-----

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Spätlese No. 5

2008	Zingy lemon and lime with peach and a tangy minerality. Bursting with energy and flavour and very forward. Wilhem Haag used to say that he wanted to make wines that make the tastebuds jump to their feet and cry for more: bullseye on that here. Not to be missed.		£69
		Magnums	£182

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese No. 6

2008	A hint of botrytis adds a dash of complexity to a mix where there is already a huge amount going on: apple, lime, peach and grapefruit flavours intermingle seamlessly with a filigree minerality but the trademark purity remains.		£97
		Magnums each	£39

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese Goldkapsel No. 9

2008	One of two <i>Goldkapsels</i> made this year, and the one with less botrytis, which keeps it pure and light. Delicious mineral intensity alongside ripe sweet fruit and tangy citrus notes. Beautifully poised and very fine.		£170
		Halves	£176
		Magnums each	£62

Heymann-Löwenstein Winingen (Mosel)

Although he made no sweet wines this year, the dry wines from this estate are magnificent, and amongst the finest in Germany. Produced entirely biodynamically, they are exciting, rich and very *terroir*-driven.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Von Blauen Schiefer - DRY

2008	Powerful intense flavours with a zingy acidity that keeps it light on its feet. Lovely balance and a delicious mineral finish.		£65
------	--	--	-----

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Kirchberg 1. Lage - DRY

2008	Deep red soil gives a typical smooth, spicy, smoky note to the yellow stone fruit. Lovely intensity and ripeness, backed by a vibrant zesty finish.		£78
------	---	--	-----

Heymann-Löwenstein (continued)

Uhlen 'Laubach' 1. Lage - DRY

2008	Blue slate soil gives the most angular wine in the stable. Fine, pure mineral flavours overlaid with a lively floral character that carries a hint of spice.		£117
------	--	--	------

Uhlen 'Roth Lay' 1. Lage – DRY

2008	The most powerful of all the estate's wines. Very broad and rich, packed full of a juicy minerality that perfectly frames the yellow stone fruit. Hint of smoky spice on the finish. Very complex and long. This is bottled very late, and thus will only ship next year. Shipment Autumn 2011		£117
------	---	--	------

Johannishof Johannisberg (Rheingau)

Never one to make heavy blockbusters like some of his neighbours, Johannes Eser has profited from the beneficial growing season to refine his trademark elegance into wines of crystalline purity. Once again they are a delight this year. For the first time, we have purchased a dry wine that particularly impressed us.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Rüdesheimer Berg Roseneck Kabinett trocken - DRY

2008	Red slate reduces the impression of acidity and gives softer, more stone-fruit driven wines. Juicy ripe peach with vibrant spicy mineral tones.		£45
------	---	--	-----

Johannisberger 'G' Kabinett

2008	Juicy, vibrant and ripe, with fresh gooseberry, apple and white peach flavours. A hint of creamy minerality on the finish.		£43
------	--	--	-----

Johannisberg Klaus Spätlese

2008	Pure peachy ripeness on a firm mineral foundation. Very ripe elegant acidity rounds it out perfectly. Long zingy finish.		£57
------	--	--	-----

Karthäuserhof Eitelsbach (Ruwer)

Another superb year here. Astonishing clarity and finesse as ever. Christoph Tyrell considers his Eiswein to be the finest in the estate's history, which is saying something, since there are some legendary wines in this category.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Spätlese trocken - DRY

2008	Elegant, dense and long, with perfectly balanced mineral and citrus fruits with a hint of herbaceousness on the finish. Very lovely.		£67
------	--	--	-----

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Kabinett

2008	Bright floral notes intermingled with apple and peach flavours, lots of juicy lemony acidity and a fine mineral kick. Very complex for a <i>Kabinett</i> .		£50
------	--	--	-----

Karthäuserhof (continued)

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Spätlese

2008	Tightly woven wine which needs time to show its paces: steely, with cool dill and gooseberry fruit, a hint of blackcurrants, and very dense juicy middle. Long peachy finish.		£67
------	---	--	-----

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Auslese

2008	Very dense, with a tongue-coating minerality, but there is massive ripe peach fruit to balance it. Fresh herbs and brisk ripe lemon notes on the finish.		£94
------	--	--	-----

Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Eiswein

2008	Regarded by Christoph Tyrell as the finest in the estate's history, this late harvest <i>Eiswein</i> is powerful and complex, with woolly mineral notes, and flavours of hay, lemon and honey. Very ripe juicy acidity, and a powerful long finish. Fantastic.	3-bottle case	£476
		Halves (6-bottle case)	£480

Keller Flörsheim-Dalsheim (Rheinhessen)

Patience was the most important quality need during the harvest in 2008, said Klaus-Peter Keller during our visit. The important thing was not to lose one's nerve and wait for physiological ripeness. Fortunately for him, the rain never really took hold, so he was able to make wines at all ripeness levels. It is another superb vintage for him, showing great purity and the seductive quality which makes the 2008s such a pleasure to taste. **There are no firm allocations for dry wines – we will confirm all orders in August.**

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Riesling von der Fels - DRY

2008	Made from young vines in the top sites of Kirchspiel and Hubacker. Focussed bright yellow peach, apple and greengauges with lovely grapefruit pith notes. Very pure and long with a lovely balanced ripeness.		£65
------	---	--	-----

Westhofen Kirchspiel Grosses Gewächs - DRY

2008	Red limestone soil with a high iron content gives a firm but elegant minerality, but also generous ripe fruit flavours of apple and peach. Persistent creamy finish with a trace of mineral saltiness.		£121
------	--	--	------

Dalsheimer Hubacker Grosses Gewächs - DRY

2008	Yellow limestone gives more exotic broad fruit flavours, almost baroque in style: peach, but also mirabelles. Rich and ripe, with a deep creamy seam of minerality, balanced by vibrant lemony acidity. Beautifully poised, fantastically elegant and very long.		£141
------	--	--	------

Westhofen Absterde Grosses Gewächs - DRY

2008	Growing in very stony and chalky soils, this has a rich hit of mineral flavours, but these are balanced by the intensity of the ripe fruit. Exotic notes of cherry and raspberry complement the more standard peach and citrus flavours. At once very dense and very fine. The best dry wine tasted this year.		£206
------	--	--	------

Keller (continued)

Westhofen Kirchspiel Spätlese Goldkapsel

2008	Rich intense apple and peach flavours, with a hint of mirabelles and very fresh apricot. Gentle fine minerality running through, balanced by ripe very juicy lemony flavours. A extraordinarily balanced and elegant package.		£90
------	---	--	-----

Westhofen Kirchspiel Auslese

2008	Piercingly intense, with considerable weight and great purity. At present citrus flavours predominate, but in time the very fine minerality and ripe stone fruit flavours will come through. An excellent <i>Auslese</i> .		£116
------	--	--	------

Westhofen Morstein Auslese***

2008	Made from grapes from very old ungrafted vines. Yellow fruit typical of the vineyard, as well as notes of flint and herbs. Very pure, rich and long. At least a BA in ripeness, which it makes it very reasonably priced!	Halves (6-bottle case)	£176
------	---	---------------------------	------

Westhofen Kirchspiel Trockenbeerenauslese Goldkapsel

2008	Very rich, almost oily in its intensity, but astonishingly vibrant and with smoky spice, fresh apricot and citrus flavours predominating at the moment. Very long indeed.	Halves (6-bottle case)	£759
------	---	---------------------------	------

Dalheimer Morstein Trockenbeerenauslese Goldkapsel

2008	Only twenty litres of this was made, and we are not sure how much we will be getting, if any, but it was a winner! Very, very intense and focussed.	Halves (6-bottle case)	£819
------	---	---------------------------	------

Schloss Lieser Lieser (Mosel)

Thomas Haag produced the best 2008s that we tasted: an extraordinary collection, each crystalline wine bursting with energy. 'I don't do anything different to anyone else, but you have to get your timing right' was his only comment. But there is a pride in his achievement that reminds one of Helmut Dönnhoff's modest appraisal of his own efforts.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Schloss Lieser Kabinett

2008	Vibrant, with apple, peach and citrus flavours, backed up by a vivacious minerality. Very delicious and extremely complex at this level.		£40
------	--	--	-----

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Kabinett

2008	More playful and peachy than the Schloss Lieser <i>Kabinett</i> , and with more obvious polish and finesse. Lovely gentle minerality, and a long zingy finish.		£42
------	--	--	-----

Lieser Niederberg Helden Spätlese

2008	Fantastically vibrant, with delicate floral notes, powerful peach and citrus flavours and a perky minerality. It leaves an impression of great finesse and elegance on the finish. One of the best <i>Spätlesen</i> tasted this year.		£54
		Magnums	£142

Schloss Lieser (continued)

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Spätlese

2008	Typically finer than the Helden <i>Spätlese</i> . It makes up for less power with more charm. But there is enormous strength underneath: dense layers of peach and apple fruit packed on top of ripe juicy mineral. Vibrant, pure, elegant and long.		£55
		Magnums	£148

Lieser Niederberg Helden Auslese

2008	Almost painful intensity, with very fresh zingy fruit and fantastic elegance and ripeness. Vibrant apple and creamy mineral flavours on a very long finish.		£70
		Halves	£84

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese

2008	Perfectly poised ripe apple, apricot, peach and other stone fruits, balanced by fine mineral notes. Almost ethereal in its purity.		£77
		Halves	£89

Lieser Niederberg Helden Auslese Goldkapsel

2008	Great power allied to lightness. Creamier and richer than the Juffer-Sonnenuhr GK, this bursts with apricot and lemon flavours, backed by powerful but fine minerality.		£115
		Halves	£129

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese Goldkapsel

2008	A dash more intensity than the regular <i>Auslese</i> , and with a creamy softness from the apricot botrytis flavours. It remains fantastically pure and bright, with great balance and length.		£122
		Halves	£136

Dr. Loosen Bernkastel (Mosel)

One of Mosel's great estates, with extensive vineyard holdings in some of the best vineyards, including an almost monopolistic holding of one of the greatest, the Erdener Prälät.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Erdener Treppchen Kabinett

2008	Clear zingy fruit, with typical strawberry and peach notes, this year framed by bright citrus notes and a long flinty finish.		£44
------	---	--	-----

Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese

2008	Powerful, rich and long, with bright citrus and mineral notes.		£78
------	--	--	-----

Erdener Prälät Auslese

2008	Pure rich and round, with fruit flavours that broaden across the palate. Fresh citrus and mineral interplay on the long finish.		£172
------	---	--	------

Erdener Prälät Auslese Goldkapsel

2008	A very gentle and clean botrytis makes its mark here. Great depth and complexity.		£218
		Halves	£234

Georg Mosbacher Forst (Pfalz)

In the heart of the most famous village in the Pfalz, this estate remains little known outside Germany. And yet the wines here are at least as good as those from more famous neighbours, and cost much less. The best (and most expensive) wines from this estate are dry. They impress not with power, but with elegance and finesse and as a result performed particularly well in 2008, a year when good estates could bring these characteristics to the fore.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Riesling Kabinett trocken - DRY

2008	Lively, pure and ripe, with juicy lemony acidity and a very clean finish.		£35
------	---	--	-----

Forster Musenhang Kabinett trocken - DRY

2008	Bursting with citrus and mineral flavours, this shows lovely intensity and elegance.		£56
------	--	--	-----

Ungeheuer Grosses Gewächs - DRY

2008	Very big, rich and ripe with generous peach and mineral fruit. Enormous density and balance promises a long life. One of the finest dry wines tasted this year.		£106
------	---	--	------

Willi Schaefer Graach (Mosel)

Consistently fine wines here, marked by their individuality and close reflection of the place the grapes are grown. Noone understands the soils of Graach better than this father and son team.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Willi Schaefer Riesling

2008	Lively yellow fruit, a delicious minerality and vibrant citrus flavours. Delicious.		£35
------	---	--	-----

Graacher Himmelreich Kabinett

2008	Very racy and polished, with crystalline citrus fruit and a lovely mouth-filling finish.		£49
------	--	--	-----

Graacher Domprobst Kabinett

2008	A little bit finer than the Himmelreich <i>Kabinett</i> , and a little more focussed, but more restrained at this point. Very long rich mineral finish. A fantastic <i>Kabinett</i> .		£49
------	---	--	-----

Graacher Domprobst Spätlese No. 10

2008	Very forward apple and peach fruit, vigorous citrus and salty mineral flavours. Exuberant and long. A delight.		£72
------	--	--	-----

Graacher Domprobst Spätlese No. 5

2008	A super-charged version of the No. 10 <i>Spätlese</i> . Very juicy and ripe, with great finesse. Needs some years to open out fully.		£92
------	--	--	-----

Graacher Domprobst Auslese No. 8

2008	Made from very ripe yellow golden berries practically untouched by botrytis. Intense perfectly ripe peach and Mirabelle fruit, with hints of apple, spice and greengauges. A very fine minerality emerges on the finish. One of the best <i>Auslesen</i> tasted this year. Vanishingly small quantities available.		£220
		Halves	£226

Schäfer-Fröhlich Bockenau (Nahe)

This recent arrival into the top tier is making exciting wines in both the *trocken* and the sweet style. We have chosen three exciting dry wines to complement the superb range that we already carry. A marvellous year from Tim Fröhlich.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Bockenauer trocken - DRY

2008	A mixture of volcanic and blue slate soils gives vibrant rounded crunchy apple and grapefruit flavours with a long rich finish.		£44
------	---	--	-----

Bockenauer Felseneck trocken - DRY

2008	Pure Devonian slate gives a more peachy delicate wine which nonetheless has tensile strength and great persistence. Precise and fine.		£64
------	---	--	-----

Felseneck Grosses Gewächs - DRY

2008	The estate's top dry wine. Powerful, pure and focussed, with fine citrus, peach and green apple flavours, shot through with a delicious filigree minerality. Beautifully delineated long vibrant finish.		£133
------	--	--	------

Bockenauer Kabinett

2008	Vibrant, elegant and balanced, with delicious fresh apple fruit with a hint of peach. Tangy citrus finish.		£44
------	--	--	-----

Bockenauer Felseneck Spätlese

2008	Very poised. An explosion of crystal-clear apple and lemon fruit with strong peach notes, but in a perfectly elegant package. Delicate mineral tones creep in on the long finish.		£64
------	---	--	-----

Bockenauer Felseneck Spätlese Goldkapsel

2008	Very ripe and pure, made from healthy golden berries, and showing beautifully defined peach and mirabelle fruit, with lashings of tangy citrus and a creamy mineral finish. Very fine.		£91
------	--	--	-----

C. von Schubert'sche Gutsverwaltung - Maximin Grünhaus Mertesdorf (Ruwer)

The wines from this famous estate are once again some of the most exciting in Germany and like those of J.J. Prüm, they require some time in bottle before revealing their true complexities. They inspire with their elegance and purity of expression; indeed they are the benchmark against which all Ruwer wines are measured. In the gifted hands of winemaker Stefan Kraml, a return to fermentation exclusively with natural yeast has resulted in wines full of character and individuality.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Herrenberg trocken 'Alte Reben' - DRY

2008	Made from grapes of <i>Spätlese</i> ripeness, this is elegant, ripe and very long, with herbaceous grapefruit flavours typical of the Ruwer. Very bright and pithy, with a long juicy finish.		£60
------	---	--	-----

Abstberg 'Superior' – DRY

2008	An uncompromising return to old-style winemaking. Grapes, from old vines only, are crushed, put in a vat and left to ferment naturally until they stop. That's it: completely non-interventionist. A classic Ruwer: enormous density, with notes of fresh herbs (primarily dill), gooseberry, peach and a beautifully balancing fine minerality. Very seductive and long.		£85
------	---	--	-----

Abstberg Kabinett

2008	Deceptively slim, the vibrant ripe gooseberry and herb notes cloak a finely coiled spring. Delicious mineral flavours on a very bright juicy finish.		£52
------	--	--	-----

Abstberg Spätlese

2008	Clear peach, gooseberry and creamy mineral flavours. Very dense. Succulent and balanced, and has a great future.		£66
		Magnums	£148
		Double-Magnum each WOODEN CASE	£62

Abstberg Auslese

2008	A trace of botrytis does not detract from the superb clarity and focus. Pure peach, dill and gooseberry fruit, with fine grapefruit and pithy citrus flavours. Very vibrant and long.		£98
		Halves	£104

Herrenberg Eiswein

2008	Harvested on 29 December. A superbly elegant <i>Eiswein</i> , which astonishes by being neither piercingly acidic nor one-dimensional. Enormous density, but a hint of botrytis softens the honey, hay and smoke flavours. One of the finest <i>Eisweins</i> tasted this year, or indeed any year here. Only 280 litres made.	3-bottle case	£440
		Halves (6-bottle-case)	£443

Selbach-Oster Zeltingen (Mosel)

Another stellar year at this estate. Johannes Selbach has transformed the quality of his wines in recent years, and they are now unquestionably near the top of the Mosel league table.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Zeltinger Schlossberg Spätlese trocken - DRY

2008	The first time we have chosen a dry wine from this estate, but the quality was so high we could not resist. Vibrant rich apple and citrus fruit, with broad mineral flavours and a spicy finish.		£56
------	--	--	-----

Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Kabinett

2008	Very fine peach flavours to complement the mineral richness. Playful, long and simply delicious.		£49
------	--	--	-----

Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese

2008	A considerable step up in intensity from the <i>Kabinett</i> . Very forward peach and lemon fruit, with notes of apple and orange peel, even some pear flavours. Lovely salty minerality.		£61
------	---	--	-----

Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Auslese

2008	A hint of botrytis, but pure clean lemony peach flavours predominate, backed by slatey mineral notes and a long grapefruit finish.		£74
------	--	--	-----

Zeltinger Sonnenuhr 'Rotlay'

2008	'Rotlay' refers to the red tinge of soil in the best part of the vineyard. Picked in a single block with the aim of remaining true to the <i>terroir</i> , it is delicate and intense, with ripe soft fruit and pleasing mineral edge. Very charming.		£88
------	---	--	-----

Zeltinger Schlossberg 'Schmitt'

2008	Broader, earthier and more intense, with powerful mineral peach and grapefruit flavours, intense citrus notes and a long broad finish.		£84
------	--	--	-----

Bernkasteler Badstube Eiswein

2008	Ticks all the boxes for great <i>Eiswein</i> : powerful, zingy with smoky citrus flavours, fresh hay, honey and some spice. Lovely.	Halves (6-bottle-case)	£205
------	---	------------------------	------

Philipp Vesper (Mosel)

A sensational discovery for us. Philipp Vesper is a geologist turned winemaker, who is currently vineyard manager at Schloss Lieser. In his spare moments, he looks for promising vineyards. In 2006, he found a small parcel of Graacher Himmelreich, which was purchased by J.J. Prüm in 2008. Since then he has focussed on a vineyard in Mühlheim. His wines are beautifully pure and perfectly poised. **Please note that these are available duty paid only.**

PER CASE OF 6 DP

Mühlheimer Sonnenlay

2008	<i>Spätlese</i> ripeness. Zingy citrus and apple fruit, with smoothly integrated pithy mineral notes. Very fine and long.		£64
------	---	--	-----

Graacher Himmelreich

2007	<i>Auslese</i> ripeness. Sweet ripe peach and lemon fruit with tangerine notes; delicious vibrant minerality, long smooth finish.		£99
------	---	--	-----

Van Volxem Wiltingen (Saar)

A very successful year for Roman Niewodniczanski, whose vaulting ambition and seemingly endless quests for top vineyards has earned him the sobriquet 'King of the Saar'. Close attention to the ripeness of the grapes from his very old vines, results in powerful, rich wines that reflect their soils perfectly.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Saar Riesling - DRY

2008	Muscular, rich and ripe, with peach and citrus fruit to balance the salty mineral flavours. A lot of wine for the money.		£40
------	--	--	-----

Scharzhofberger - DRY

2008	Clearly defined ripe peach and mineral flavours, very poised and rich, with a long smooth finish.		£68
------	---	--	-----

Goldberg - DRY

2008	From the best vineyard in Wawern, once famous, but now almost forgotten. More power than the Scharzhofberg, with astonishing, almost painful density that will take time to integrate. Spritzy and ripe, with lots of racy mineral acidity.		£68
------	---	--	-----

Scharzhofberger Pergentskopp - DRY

2008	Still fermenting during our visit and not tasted.		£119
------	---	--	------

Wiltinger Gottesfuss Alte Reben - DRY

2008	From ungrafted vines now over 120 years old, planted in steep red slate soil. Still fermenting during our visit and not tasted.		£119
------	---	--	------

Altenberg Alte Reben - DRY

2008	From the best part of the best vineyard in Kanzem, a dizzyingly steep slate slope. Still fermenting during our visit and not tasted.		£119
------	--	--	------

Vollenweider Traben-Trarbach (Mosel)

Daniel Vollenweider's wines are amongst the richest in the middle Mosel. This cooler vintage gives them considerable lift, which highlights the purity of his winemaking.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Wolfger Goldgrube Kabinett

2008	Some richness, but dominated at present by delicious racy lemon and peach flavours. Lashings of mineral on the fresh finish.		£47
------	--	--	-----

Wolfger Goldgrube Spätlese

2008	Fine, pure and clear lemon fruit, very vibrant clean peach flavours, backed by a refreshing slaty minerality. Very delicious.		£64
------	---	--	-----

Wolfger Goldgrube Spätlese Goldkapsel

2008	Made from very old vines in a particularly steep part of the vineyard. Tight and dense, with great elegance and focus. Beautiful acid structure, and very fine indeed.		£90
		Magnums	£220

Robert Weil Kiedrich (Rheingau)

We are delighted to import the wines of this famous estate, one of the few in the Rheingau realising its full potential. With 70 hectares under vine, this is big business by the standards of most German quality estates, and its opulent old villa and large visitor centre give the impression of a first-growth Bordeaux château. Despite this size, the enormous efforts to ensure the best possible quality is repaid with superb wines.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Robert Weil Kabinett

2008	Pure, elegant, and fine, with delicious broad grapefruit and mineral flavours.		£67
------	--	--	-----

Kiedrich Gräfenberg Spätlese

2008	Peach and apple fruit with hints of apricot. Beautifully clear mineral flavours and a tangy lemony finish. Excellent balance and intensity.		£156
------	---	--	------

Kiedrich Gräfenberg Auslese

2008	A declassified BA, with lots of very pure botrytis in the form of fresh clean apricot flavours. Delicious interplay of lemon and pithy mineral notes. Pure, balanced and long.		£302
		Halves	£309

Kiedrich Gräfenberg Beerenauslese

2008	A fantastically clean, pure and delicate botrytis, with notes of lemon, and some smoky notes. Very polished and fine, with a powerful mineral presence on a beautifully elegant finish.	Halves (6-bottle-case)	£614
------	---	------------------------	------

Kiedrich Gräfenberg Trockenbeerenauslese

2008	A quite stunning wine of enormous concentration and elegance. Seamless creamy mineral notes complement the rich apricot and citrus fruit. Fantastic length and purity. Very, very lovely.	Single bottle	£430
		Single half	£216

Kiedrich Gräfenberg Eiswein

2008	Some fresh young botrytis gives a slightly medicinal nose, but this will clear by the time it has been in bottle for a year or so. Fantastically concentrated, but with no aggressive acidity. Rather this is powerful, elegant and fine.	Single bottle	£268
		Single half	£135

Weiser-Künstler Traben-Trarbach (Mosel)

The remarkable story of Konstantin Weiser and Alexandra Künstler continues. Like their friend Daniel Vollenweider, they continue to produce fantastic wines from vineyards that are so hard to work that they have been given up by others as economically unviable. The quality continues to dazzle.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Enkircher Ellergrub Kabinett

2008	Soft, elegant ripe peach, lime and apple fruit. Soft minerality on the long finish. Very lovely.		£40
------	--	--	-----

Enkircher Ellergrub Spätlese

2008	Very pure and fine, with real elegance and length. Long intense finish.		£57
------	---	--	-----

Enkircher Zeppwingert Auslese

2008	100% botrytis, but manages the feat of being light on its feet and very elegant, due to the vibrant lemony acidity and powerful mineral backbone. Very good indeed.		£110
		Halves (6-bottle-case)	£60

Enkircher Ellergrub Auslese

2008	Smoother and more seamless than the exuberant Zeppwingert, with fresh apricot, peach and apple flavours. Very long fresh finish.		£127
		Halves (6-bottle-case)	£66

Forstmeister Geltz Zilliken Saarburg (Saar)

The wines here are the epitome of Saar Riesling: graceful, vibrant and mineral-driven.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Saarburger Rausch Kabinett

2008	Vibrant, clearly defined apple and citrus fruit, with a great whack of juicy mineral on the finish. A lovely Saar <i>Kabinett</i> .		£40
------	---	--	-----

Saarburger Rausch Spätlese

2008	Very clean apple fruit with bright citrus flavours and a creamy minerality. A hint of apricot on the long finish.		£69
------	---	--	-----

Saarburger Rausch Spätlese

1993	Astonishingly, this great Saar year is still available at <i>Spätlese</i> level direct from Hanno Zilliken's cellar. Not a bad price for a wine that is drinking perfectly now and has over 15 years of bottle age in perfect conditions!		£67
------	---	--	-----

Terms of Business

1. All wines are offered subject to remaining unsold.
2. Prices for 2008s are under bond.
3. Minimum quantity one dozen bottles (9L case). Unless otherwise indicated, wines may be purchased by the case only.
4. Free delivery in mainland UK on orders over £600 excluding VAT, otherwise at cost. Minimum charge £10.50 plus VAT. Customers outside mainland UK are responsible for their own shipping arrangements.
5. All wines are sold in good faith but we shall not be liable if a grower fails to supply a wine or if it is lost or damaged in transit. In such very rare cases, another wine or a cash refund will be offered.
6. Please note well that no claims for breakages or shortages can be entertained unless this has been noted on the carrier's delivery note and we are informed within 24 hours of receipt by telephone or in writing within three days.
7. The wines of certain estates may not be exported from the UK. Please contact us for details.
8. Approved trade accounts: payment 30 days after date of invoice. Private customers: cheque with order or payment by credit card, please.
9. Force majeure: we shall not be liable for any failure to meet our obligations occasioned by circumstances beyond our control.
10. Goods remain the property of Howard Ripley Limited until paid for in full.
11. Unless otherwise indicated, shipment of 2008s will be by Spring 2010. Customers will be informed of the arrival of their wines in the UK.
12. This list cancels all previous lists. This list and its contents are © Howard Ripley Limited. E. & O.E. June 2009

Howard Ripley Ltd.

Specialists in domaine-bottled Burgundy & German Wines.

25 Dingwall Road
London SW18 3AZ
Fax: 020 8877 0029

sebastian.thomas@howardripley.com; polly.oconnor@howardripley.com
www.howardripley.com