

HOWARD RIPLEY

Burgundy and German Wine

2016 German Wines

A vintage after a great one like 2015 tends to be overlooked. That's a shame, since not only is 2016 a lovely vintage in its own right, but it is also a perfect complement to its predecessor. 2015 was intense and powerful, and will take time to reveal its potential; 2016, while having similar levels of extract, is relaxed, charming and forward, and offers a long life ahead of it – this is Riesling, after all.

The growing season fell into two clear halves: the first very wet and cold, the second, fine and dry. Spring and early summer were very challenging. After a mild winter, May, June and July were dominated by rainy weather that encouraged the spread of downy mildew, and frequent treatments were necessary as the rain kept washing them away. But the weather stabilised in late July and for the rest of the season it was dry and warm; September was particularly beautiful, the warmest on record. Although the harvest began a little later than normal, it was extended and relaxed, and growers had the luxury of being able to harvest their vines at perfect ripeness.

What effect did this have on the grapes? Disease pressure meant that yields were much reduced, and the grapes struggled to ripen in the bad weather. This lack of maturity early on has left its mark in an attractive green note – blackcurrant leaf and fresh herbs – in some of the wines. More pertinently, the rain released a lot of minerals from the soils, which were transmitted to the grapes: the wines are wonderfully mineral-driven as a result.

Loss of yield so early in the season allowed the vines to push all their energy into the remaining grapes, and combined with the warm weather made them ripen apace, making up for lost time. To such an extent, in fact, that the acidities are lower than in 2015, but then so are the sugars, which means the wines remain balanced. They also have high levels of extract, resulting from the low yields, and this will ensure their longevity. Towards the end of the season, the very dry weather prevented the onset of botrytis: many growers reported the healthiest grapes they had ever seen. This took the form of ripe, golden-yellow, almost purple grapes that gave pure wines with focus and great elegance. The latter part of the growing season has given a delightful perfume, an easy charm to the fruit, which combines perfectly with the fine minerality provided from the rainy start. The downside is that there is not very much of these wines, especially at the upper end.

This is a fine, delicate vintage of great elegance, and will give pleasure in both the short and the long term.

We will offer a large selection of *Grosse Gewächse* and other top dry wines in September, when they are officially released. There will also be a broad range of reds.

The wines of Joh.Jos. Prüm will be offered later this summer.

As ever, we will be visiting the auctions in September, where the finest *cuvées* will be released. Please let us know if you are interested.

PRICES ARE IN BOND LONDON.

UNLESS OTHERWISE MARKED, WINES ARE PACKED:

6-BOTTLE CASES (750ml)

12-BOTTLE CASES (375ml)

3-BOTTLE CASES (1500ml)

UNLESS OTHERWISE MARKED, WINES ARE OFFERED BY THE CASE ONLY, BUT MANY SINGLE BOTTLES ARE AVAILABLE

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Explanatory notes	

- We identify wines by the last four digits of the AP number, unique to the wine, for example [11 17] This avoids confusion when telling them apart.
- Auctions: in the last weekend of September, the VDP's finest and rarest wines are auctioned in the Mosel, Rheingau and Nahe (which includes Ahr, Pfalz and Rheinhessen). Mostly the wines are of the current vintage, but old rarities are also on offer. Prices here are sometimes very high, but there are often bargains.

THE WINES

Hermann Dönnhoff Oberhausen (Nahe)

In June, after what felt like three months of solid rain, Helmut Dönnhoff announced that he didn't need another drop for the next year. Come September, that turned out to be a rash statement: no rain had fallen for the succeeding three months, and even older vines were on the point of suffering, but fortunately it rained a little, and the vines revived. But just before and during the harvest it was so dry that there was little botrytis, and for the first time in many years, no Eiswein was made. But the estate is very pleased with the quality: the wines are elegant, pure and rich.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Oberhäuser Leistenberg Kabinett [03 17]

2016	Facing south-east, Leistenberg is a naturally cooler vineyard benefiting from the morning sun. Sweet ripe fruit is balanced by brisk acidity, and powerful slaty notes make the finish dry. <i>Drink 2018 - 2030</i>		£69
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Oberhäuser Brücke Spätlese [11 17]

2016	Perfumed, bright and clear, this shows fresh yellow fruit with some herbal notes. It is ripe and concentrated, and leads to a long, slaty finish. Like its big brother the Hermannshöhle, a classic expression of the vineyard's <i>terroir</i> . <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£138
		Magnums	£162

Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Spätlese [18 17]

2016	To make dry wine, you need healthy grapes. So before the main harvest, the pickers pass through the vineyard removing very ripe and botrytized grapes, which are used for sweet wines like this one. It is creamy, rich and rounded, backed by vibrant citrus acidity and a vanishingly fine minerality. Spectacular as ever. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£168
		Magnums	£186

Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Auslese Goldkapsel [20 17]

2016	A light clean botrytis lends a luscious creamy note to the pure yellow fruit. This is grapey and powerful, balanced by lively citrus notes and a hint of minerality under the dense fruit layer. <i>Drink 2019 - 2045</i>		£282
		Halves (6-bottle case)	£144

Franzen Bremm (Mosel)

Kilian and Angelina Franzen are the sixth generation to work this 10-hectare estate, 4 of which are situated in Europe's steepest vineyard, the Calmont. It is an intensely rocky, terraced slope of iron-rich slate and quartzite soil, giving wines of intense minerality and red fruit. They had to start young: in 2010, when Kilian Franzen was in his early twenties, his father died in a tragic accident, and they were obliged to take over the estate. Their first vintage was 2011; since then, supported by Angelina's brother Benedikt Lenz, they have found their own style and are making standout wines that are an exciting addition to our portfolio. *Grosse Gewächse will be released in September.*

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Bremmer Calmont Kabinett [05 17]

2016	A beautifully structured <i>Kabinett</i> . The Calmont is a warm site – it is steep and full of rocks that absorb heat – but the ripe perfumed fruit is balanced by a powerful fine minerality, brisk citrus acidity and a lovely touch of fresh herbs, and it finishes elegantly and long. <i>Drink 2018 - 2032</i>		£57
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Fritz Haag Brauneberg (Mosel)

The thin rocky soils of the Brauneberg are particularly sensitive to drought, and the second part of the growing season, when no drop of rain fell for weeks, caused much anxiety. But the deep roots of the vines ensured there were no yellowing leaves, and it rained just enough before harvest to avoid stress. A beautifully elegant collection as ever from Oliver Haag.

A Beerenauslese was also produced. A Spätlese, and Auslese LGK will be auctioned in September. Two Grosse Gewächse will be released in September.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Brauneberger Riesling trocken 'J' [19 17]

2016	Rounded and pure, with depth and lots of spice. <i>Drink 2018 - 2028</i>		£60
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Brauneberger Kabinett [03 17]

2016	Spicy, soft and delicate, this shows delicious lemony fruit and drives to a brisk, mineral-laden finish. As ever, a most elegant <i>Kabinett</i> . <i>Drink 2018 - 2028</i>		£54
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Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Spätlese [07 17]

2016	Made from vines clustered around the sundial in the heart of the vineyard, where it is very rocky. The rocks absorb warmth quickly, and the resulting wines are richer and warmer than those from the surrounding Juffer vineyard. This is intense, precise and pure, but manages an easy charm with its sweet ripe fruit and harmonious creamy finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2034</i>		£78
		Magnums each	£35
		Double Magnums each	£78

Fritz Haag (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese [06 17]

2016	Ripe lemony fruit mingles with yellow plums; there is spice and an almost luscious creamy minerality, culminating in a very long elegant finish. <i>Drink 2023 - 2040</i>		£105
		Halves	£120
		Magnums each	£44
		Double Magnums each	£99

Brauneberger Juffer Auslese Goldkapsel [22 17]

2016	Although there is 50% botrytis, this is anything but weighty. Instead there is vibrant and elegant golden-yellow fruit and a long creamy finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2030</i>	Halves	£156
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Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese Goldkapsel [09 17]

2016	A very juicy, ripe and almost ethereal wine, which nonetheless packs a considerable punch underneath its charming relaxed exterior: there is also boundless mineral intensity, dense fruit and great length. <i>Drink 2025 - 2040</i>		£192
		Halves (12- bottle case)	£204
		Magnums each	£78

Julian Haart Piesport (Mosel)

From tiny beginnings, farming 0.25 hectares in 2011, Julian Haart now harvests 4.5 hectares in Piesport and Wintrich. As well as holdings in the prime vineyards of Goldtröpfchen and Ohligsberg, he also owns nearly a hectare in the Schubertslay, a tiny, steep and rocky vineyard next to the Goldtröpfchen that boasts ungrafted vines over a hundred years old. Yields there are just 10 hl/ha.

Two top dry wines will be released in September, and a further one, the superlative Schubertslay, will arrive in 2018.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Mosel Riesling [03 17]

2016	Clean, crisp and round, with lovely intensity and a sweet lemony finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2022</i>		£57
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Piesporter Riesling [12 17]

2016	From young vines in Goldtröpfchen. Grey slate gives structure and purity, and there is lovely ripe fruit to balance the fine slaty finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2025</i>		£69
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Julian Hart (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Wintricher Riesling [18 17]

2016	A creamy, finely textured wine with intensity, freshness and good length. <i>Drink 2018 - 2025</i>		£93
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Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Kabinett [06 17]

2016	Fresh and ripe, this is packed full of lime and juicy yellow fruit, lively mineral flavours and a long energetic finish. <i>Noch eine Flasche bitte!</i> <i>Drink 2018 - 2032</i>		£66
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Piesporter Schubertslay Kabinett [13 17]

2016	From 110-year-old vines. Made in a drier style, with a tad more alcohol as a result (9%) this is intense, fine and very fresh, with a beautifully elegant mineral seam that lasts to the long sherbet finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2032</i>		£78
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Wintricher Ohligsberg Kabinett [10 17]

2016	Harvested a week before the Piesport <i>Kabinetts</i> to retain freshness, this is ripe, smooth and creamy, with mingled green and yellow fruit and bright lemony acidity. <i>Drink 2018 - 2032</i>		£69
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Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Spätlese [15 17]

2016	Not tasted. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£78
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Wintricher Ohligsberg Spätlese [16 17]

2016	Intense golden-yellow fruit, creamy minerality and a bright pure acidity keep this perfectly balanced and very appealing. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£96
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Piesporter Schubertslay Spätlese [14 17]

2016	Vines in the Schubertslay are planted around boulders, making the microclimate warmer and the wines riper, but this is balanced by powerful minerality extracted by the roots of the 110-year-old vines from the soil. It is pure, rounded and intense, with a creamy slaty finish. Quite lovely. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£96
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Reinhold Haart Piesport (Mosel)

Like everyone else, Johannes Haart was challenged by the extremely wet spring, but the deep soils of Piesport and Wintrich spared him any fear of drought in the long rainless summer. His 2016s are attractively perfumed and fine.

Two Grosse Gewächse will be released in September.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Kabinett [22 17]

2016	Beautifully lean and graceful, this has an intense, fine minerality and a healthy dash of spice. There is lots of power here too, but it will take some time to open out. <i>Drink 2018 - 2032</i>		£54
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Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Spätlese

2016	This is defined by delicacy and finesse, with perfumed red fruit and powerful minerality, and a long, intense finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2032</i>		£75
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Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Auslese [30 17]

2016	Made largely from healthy shrivelled golden berries with around 20% botrytis. There is an abundance of golden-yellow fruit, with a hint of pure apricot, a delicate creamy weave and a long fine finish. <i>Drink 2019 - 2040</i>		£120
		Halves	£126

Von Hövel Konz (Saar)

Since taking over the estate from his father in 2010, Max von Kunow has radically changed it. Not only has he considerably enlarged it by buying the moribund Schmidt-Reuter estate, but his style is very different. His viticulture is now organic, and he makes a range of dry wines – a style which did not interest his father. He also uses natural yeasts and does a pre-fermentation maceration of the grapes. 2016 is a perfect showcase for his methods: the wines are pure and lean and they taste much drier than those from some of his famous neighbours.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Scharzhofberg Kabinett [05 17]

2016	Cool, herbal and juicy, this shows a delightfully playful acidity, some richness in the middle and an elegant, energetic finish. It has a perfectly balanced interplay of sweet fruit, acidity and minerality that compels you to come back for more. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£66
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Scharzhofberg Spätlese [10 17]

2016	Very herbal and mineral-driven, this offers well balanced, sweet citrus fruit, freshness, and an enlivening dry, saline finish. An excellent <i>Spätlese</i> . <i>Drink 2018 - 2040</i>		£90
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Keller Flörsheim-Dalsheim (Rheinhessen)

'I make the wines I like to drink,' says Klaus-Peter Keller, and in the last ten years there has been a considerable style shift at this estate, moving away from rich, full-bodied wines to lighter, more delicate ones. The key to achieving this is vineyard management: the grapes must not be allowed to get too ripe. He has stopped leaf-plucking in August, ensuring instead that some bunches remain shaded and green, so as to give tension and longevity to the wines. There is an increased risk of rot if it rains at the end of the growing season, but in 2016 it worked beautifully. Keller has produced beautiful wines, the epitome of purity, elegance and intensity. Rigorous selection resulted in tiny quantities of sweet wines, and much reduced yields of dry ones.

A Hipping Kabinett, a Pettenthal GG and a Morstein Pinot Noir GG will be sold at the auction in September.

The Grosse Gewächse, the reds and the famous Kellerkiste, this year a 12-pack, containing a selection of the finest dry and sweet wines, will be released in September.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Riesling – DRY [14 17]

2016	From vines in the all non-GG vineyards. Floral and grapey, with a dash of fresh gooseberry, this bursts with energy and primary flavours. <i>Drink 2018 - 2025</i>		£57
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Riesling von der Fels – DRY [16 17]

2016	From 15 to 25-year-old vines in the GG sites Morstein, Kirchspiel and Hubacker, and from those up to 65 years old in the Absterde. An exceptional wine, up to GG standard, with floral fruit, good depth and a creamy minerality. The finish is long and fine. <i>Drink 2018 - 2032</i>		£72
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Kabinett 'Limestone' [10 17]

2016	Made from the same grapes that go into the von der Fels – from Absterde, Kirchspiel and Hubacker, and including some from 50-year-old Morstein vines. It is fresh and vibrant, with smooth citrus and mineral flavours. <i>Drink 2018 - 2025</i>		£81
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Nierstein Pettenthal Kabinett [20 17]

2016	Lively, fresh and elegant, this is lemony and ripe, with a lovely creamy minerality on the finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2038</i>		£180
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Westhofen Brunnenhäuschen Abst E. Spätlese Goldkapsel [22 17]

2016	There are delightful yellow and red fruit notes in this perfumed and delicate wine. It has superb balance, and a fresh ethereal finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2042</i>		£198
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Keller (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Nierstein Pettenthal Auslese [15 17]

2016	Made from fruit harvested at the top of the vineyard, where it is ripest, and then put in a basket press for five days at high pressure. There is intense golden-yellow fruit, along with fresh grass and a hint of spice. It is ripe and intense, supported by bright lemony acidity, and finishes on a fine, juicy note. Brings a smile to your face. <i>Drink 2023 - 2045</i>	3-bottle case	£156
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Nierstein Hipping Auslese GK

2016	Not tasted. <i>Drink 2023 - 2045</i>	3-bottle case	£270
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Nierstein Hipping Beerenauslese GK [29 16]

2016	Just 60 litres made. There is a very fine, elegant botrytis here, a delicious round intensity and a very long fresh finish. <i>Drink 2026 - 2050</i>	Halves (6-bottle case)	£948
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Peter-Jakob Kühn Oestrich (Rheingau)

Peter-Jakob Kühn started in 1979, the eleventh generation of his family to assume responsibility. This is one of the few estates in Germany to use biodynamic methods, and he and his family do it with awe-inspiring passion and thoroughness. The conversion was gradual, and started at home: unhealthy food was banned – no white sugar, white flour or processed foods of any kind. They began to believe that the chemical industry was encouraging an unhealthy dependence in farmers on its products, sidelining nature in the process. So they abandoned herbicides and insecticides, anti-fungal sprays, and cultured yeasts; in 2001 they took the plunge and became biodynamically certified. They are now one of Germany's leading growers.

The estate comprises 20 hectares, with prime sites in and around Oestrich. 90% is given over to Riesling production.

Some of the rarer dry wines will be released later this year.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Der kleine Kühn [18 17]

2016	A perfumed, gentle and rounded wine, with a fine energy and a hint of mineral on the finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2020</i>		£39
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Quarzit [03 17]

2016	From vineyards with silty clay (loess) soils and a high quartz content. Energetic and juicy, this has intense yellow fruit and a long gentle finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2020</i>		£66
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Peter Jakob Kühn (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Oestrich Lenchen Kabinett [10 17]

2016	A ripe, pure and elegant <i>Kabinett</i> , showing vibrant citrus fruit and a smooth mineral-driven finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2026</i>		£57
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Oestricher Lenchen Spätlese [11 17]

2016	Aromas of Alpine meadows and fresh herbs are complemented by a discreet minerality, leading to a smooth juicy finish. An absolutely cracking <i>Spätlese</i> . <i>Drink 2018 - 2028</i>		£90
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Oestricher Lenchen Auslese [12 17]

2016	A small amount of clear, fine botrytis adds creaminess to the intense golden-yellow fruit. It is sweet, rounded and elegant, but balanced by ripe citrus acidity, and finishes very long. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>	Halves (6-bottle case)	£129
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Oestricher Lenchen Beerenauslese [13 17]

2016	Perfumed and elegant, but with enormous intensity; the botrytis is clean and very pure, the acidity vibrant and fresh, and the finish gentle and long. <i>Drink 2025 - 2040</i>	Halves (6-bottle case)	£300
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Peter Lauer Ayl (Saar)

In the blink of an eye Florian Lauer has elevated this estate from relative obscurity when he took over ten years ago to one of the foremost in Germany. 2016 was a vintage with a much reduced yield. The acidity is lower than in 2015, but extracts are higher, and he is very pleased with the quality.

Grosse Gewächse will be released in September. There are auction versions of Kabinett and two further Spätlese, as well as an Auslese GK. What will appear at the auction this year has yet to be decided.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Saar Riesling Faß 16 [16 17]- DRY

2016	Fruity and forward, with an appealing softness in mid-palate, and a pleasant mineral tang on the finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2022</i>		£45
		Magnums (6-bottle case)	£108

Ayler Kabinett Faß 8 [08 17]

2016	Lots of zing as usual here, with energetic lemon fruit but also a touch of riper golden-yellow, which adds some softness, and a fresh and vigorous finish. A classic <i>Kabinett</i> , light and pure, that will give pleasure for twenty years and more. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£69
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Peter Lauer (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Ayler Spätlese Faß 7 [07 17]

2016	Picked from the same parcels a week after the <i>Kabinett</i> . Ripe golden grapes give lovely rich fruit redolent of ripe mirabelles, balanced by a vibrant, juicy finish with a mineral kick. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£90
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Ayler Auslese Faß 10 [10 17]

2016	The golden-yellow fruit is a little thicker and more viscous, and there is a note of orange here too, but the bright acidity and fresh, fine minerality keep it in perfect balance all the way to the long juicy finish. <i>Drink 2019 - 2035</i>	Halves (6-bottle case)	£192
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Schloss Lieser Lieser (Mosel)

Since taking over Schloss Lieser in 1992, and buying it outright in 1997, Thomas Haag has grown the estate from 6.5 to 22 hectares, now owning vineyards in Lieser (Helden), Brauneberg (Juffer and Juffer-Sonnenuhr), Wehlen (Sonnenuhr), Graach (Domprobst), Piesport (Goldtröpfchen and Falkenberg) as well as harvesting a tiny parcel in Bernkastel (Doctor). In all his holdings are spread across 170 different vineyard plots. He is now in the top rank of Mosel producers, and one of the most sought-after in Germany, crafting taut, pure wines that clearly express their vineyard origins.

2016 was very challenging as the early part of the growing season saw so much rain. Fortunately the latter part of the summer produced perfect weather, but nonetheless Thomas Haag was amazed at the fine quality of the wines. They are fine, pure and focussed.

A Doctor Spätlese and Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese LGK will be auctioned in September. No fewer than seven Grosse Gewächse from Niederberg Helden, Brauneberger Juffer and Juffer-Sonnenuhr, Wehlener Sonnenuhr, Graacher Himmelreich, Piesporter Goldtröpfchen and Bernkasteler Doctor will be released in September.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

The Schloss Lieser Kabinett Collection

2016	2 bottles each of Lieser, Himmelreich, Juffer, Sonnenuhr, Goldtröpfchen and Philipp Vesper's Muehlheimer Sonnenlay: an ideal way to sample the individual <i>terroirs</i> .	12-bottle case	£116
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Schloss Lieser Kabinett [04 17]

2016	A classic cool, mineral-driven spicy wine, full of energy and precision. <i>Drink 2018 - 2040</i>		£54
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Graacher Himmelreich Kabinett [06 17]

2016	Floral and smooth, with a gentle pure minerality framing vibrant citrus fruit, leading to a juicy, persistent finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2040</i>		£60
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Schloss Lieser (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Brauneberger Juffer Kabinett [07 17]

2016	Riper than the Himmelreich, but there is a delicate and very persistent minerality that balances the sweet fruit, and the finish is generous and long. <i>Drink 2018 - 2040</i>		£60
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Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett [08 17]

2016	Showing the delicate minerality typical of the vineyard, with vibrant citrus fruit, spice and lovely density, this is extremely fine and long. <i>Drink 2018 - 2040</i>		£60
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Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Kabinett [09 17]

2016	There is a smoky note to the ripe yellow fruit, and the wine is smooth, deep and fresh, culminating in a long rich finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2040</i>		£60
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Lieser Niederberg Helden Spätlese [10 17]

2016	There is power, but the overwhelming impression is of elegant, sweet fruit with a fine minerality and a fresh delicate finish. Very pure and lovely. <i>Drink 2018 - 2040</i>		£69
		Magnums	£90

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Spätlese [11 17]

2016	Very low yields give an intense, perfumed wine which is rich in the middle but has a lovely delicate mineral finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2040</i>		£75
		Magnums	£96

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese [12 17]

2016	Gentle and elegant, the fruit is cooler than from Brauneberg, and there is a gentle, very elegant mineral streak running through. The finish is fresh, citrusy and long. <i>Drink 2018 - 2037</i>		£75
		Magnums	£96

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Spätlese [13 17]

2016	The first vintage from a 0.7 ha plot. Dense, powerful yellow fruit leaning to the tropical is in evidence here, joined by very lively citrus acidity and a hint of minerality. <i>Drink 2018 - 2040</i>		£75
		Magnums	£96

Schloss Lieser (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Lieser Niederberg Helden Auslese [14 17]

2016	An unusually fine Helden Auslese this year: there is delicate yellow fruit to balance the dark, elegant mineral flavours, and great depth and intensity. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>		£108
		Magnums	£132

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese [15 17]

2016	Typically floral and angular in structure, this has the usual filigree minerality and creaminess running through to a very long balanced finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>		£120
		Magnums	£144

Bernkastel Doctor Auslese [17 17]

2016	From a tiny parcel of 0.15 ha in the most valuable vineyard in Germany. It is intense and rich, with a very fine and persistent mineral vein, perfumed tropical fruit and a very long finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>		£240
		Halves	£270
		Magnums	£270

Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Auslese [16 17]

2016	Rich, exotic ripe tropical fruit dominates this dense wine, but underneath there is enormous mineral power and a delicate, drying finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>		£120
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Lieser Niederberg Helden Auslese Goldkapsel [18 17]

2016	A very fine clean botrytis (around 40%) gives a creamy smoothness to the mineral-laden rich yellow fruit. It is vibrant, seamless and rounded, and finishes on a beautifully elegant juicy note. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>		£177
		Halves	£207
		Magnums each	£72

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Auslese Goldkapsel [19 17]

2016	Very low yields and around 25% botrytis give an astonishingly intense wine that is sweet, rich and powerful, with tropical fruit laced with apricots and a very fine minerality peeking through. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£186
		Halves	£228
		Magnums each	£78

Schloss Lieser (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese Goldkapsel [20 17]

2016	The Goldkapsel with the lowest botrytis quotient, around 10%. Complex, very ripe yellow fruit with typical floral notes meld with fine mineral flavours, leading to a gentle, endless finish. <i>Drink 2023 - 2030</i>		£186
		Halves	£228
		Magnums each	£78

Georg Mosbacher Forst (Pfalz)

Sabine Mosbacher and Jürgen Dürigner are based in the heart of the best area of the Pfalz. Their wines are never showy, never rich nor heavy, but excel through finesse and elegance. They have now converted fully to organic viticulture, and all harvesting is done by hand.

The wet weather early in the season was a particular challenge for organic growers, as the rain kept washing off the treatments applied to the leaves. Nonetheless, through sheer hard work, the Mosbachers held the line, although at the cost of 30% loss of yield; the fine weather later in the season was very welcome. Harvesting was under excellent conditions, with perfectly healthy grapes, and no selection was necessary. The wines are forward and appealing.

Grosse Gewächse will be released in September.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Georg Mosbacher trocken [13 17] - DRY

2016	Very aromatic floral notes in a ripe balanced wine that has plenty of energy. An excellent <i>Gutswein</i> . <i>Drink 2018 - 2020</i>		£42
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Deidesheimer Leinhöhle trocken [26 17] - DRY

2016	Exuberant fruit and lots of power here, underlined by a pithy rich finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2025</i>		£57
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Basalt [32 17] - DRY

2016	Harvested from various sites in GG vineyards where the soil is primarily volcanic basalt. This is broad and rich, with racy yellow fruit and lovely finesse and purity. <i>Drink 2018 - 2025</i>		£75
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Egon Müller Wiltingen (Saar)

This famous estate has produced an impressive range of 2016s. Egon Müller is Germany's botrytis specialist, but there was very little to work with in 2016. Instead the estate has produced a series of pure, delicate wines of great elegance.

A very small quantity of Eiswein was also produced. A separate Kabinett and Auslese will be released at auction this year. The estate does not make dry wines.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Scharzhofberger Kabinett [02 17]

2016	A dark, slaty, mineral-driven wine, well integrated and balanced, with lots of power and intensity, and a long dry finish. <i>Drink 2019 - 2032</i>		£336
		Magnums each	£130

Scharzhofberger Spätlese [05 17]

2016	Pure and focussed, this tends to the seriously mineral, but a delightfully playful quality emerges from the tightly coiled middle, and it finishes rich and long. <i>Drink 2019 - 2036</i>		£660
		Magnums each	£238

Willi Schaefer Graach (Mosel)

The advantage of a small estate is that the grower can react quickly to events, and this was amply demonstrated by the practised father and son team in this difficult vintage. As well as constant rain until July, they had to contend with two hailstorms in May and July, but despite this, yields are close to normal, except at the upper end, where quantities are tight. Graach fared better than most: the steep vineyards ensure that they are less humid, and the estate used a helicopter for treatments, which was quicker and spared the soil from being churned up by tractors. The harvest in October happened under perfect conditions, with very healthy grapes and the 2016s are charming, with ripe fruit, superb balance and great elegance. A truly excellent vintage here.

A Domprobst Spätlese and Auslese GK will be auctioned in September.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Graacher Himmelreich Kabinett [02 17]

2016	Delicate, ripe and floral, with very expressive mineral notes, this is playful and charming, but long and intense, too. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£66
		Magnums	£93

Graacher Domprobst Kabinett [03 17]

2016	With more mineral depth than the Himmelreich, this has gorgeously zingy fruit, lots of citrus acidity and a very long, energetic finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£66
		Magnums	£93

Willi Shaefer (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Graacher Himmelreich Spätlese [08 17]

2016	Elegant yellow fruit and a playful floral ripeness combines with a rich salty minerality to give elegance, purity and length. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£90
		Magnums	£120

Graacher Domprobst Spätlese [10 17]

2016	Dark, creamy mineral tones dominate at present, but there is yellow fruit too, as well as green notes of quince, gooseberry and herbs. The finish is juicy, astonishingly elegant and long. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£90
		Magnums	£120

Graacher Domprobst Spätlese [05 17]

2016	A wine on the edge of Auslese: there is more power and sweetness than in the <i>Spätlese #10</i> ; the texture is denser, the minerality more pronounced, and the finish lively and ripe. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£114
		Magnums	£132

Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese [17 17]

2016	From young vines in the newly replanted (tiny) parcel, now four years old. There is forward peach and some tropical fruit, typical floral notes and a hint of fresh herbs too. The minerality breaks through this market garden, and it finishes on a lingering juicy, salty note. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£108
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Graacher Himmelreich Auslese [04 17]

2016	Fine and honeyed, the fruit here is fresh, ripe and yellow with a hint of green, the minerality creamy, beautifully textured and seamless, and the whole has an effortless elegance as it drifts across the palate. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>		£144
		Halves	£150

Graacher Domprobst Auslese [11 17]

2016	More botrytis gives more density, but the emphasis is still on elegance despite the powerful minerality. There is strawberry, apricot and mirabelle fruit, and the finish is intense and long. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>		£180
		Halves	£192
		Magnums each	£76

Willi Shaefer (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Graacher Domprobst Auslese [14 17]

2016	Just 400 litres made of this ripe, intense wine, packed with perfectly ripe golden-yellow fruit, bags of energy and very fine mineral elegance. Absolutely amazing. <i>Drink 2021 - 2040</i>		£282
		Halves	£294
		Magnums each	£110

Schäfer-Fröhlich Bockenau (Nahe)

Every year it seems the wines get better here. The gifted Tim Fröhlich produces uncompromisingly angular wines that display breathtaking energy, precision and finesse.

In 2016 the poor weather early in the growing season doubled the amount of work necessary to keep the vines healthy. After July the weather was perfect, and a relaxed harvest spread over eight weeks resulted in the finest vintage he has made. He believes the wines similar in style to the 2015s, but with more finesse. *Six Grosse Gewächse will be released in September.*

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Nahe Fröhlich trocken [05 17]

2016	Made from young vines in top sites, this is powerful, rich and rounded, with a long vibrant finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2020</i>		£39
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Vulkangestein trocken [10 17]

2016	From 30-to-40-year-old vines in Felsenberg and Stromberg. This is ripe and elegant, with a powerful minerality and a seamless balanced finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2022</i>		£72
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Schiefergestein trocken [12 17]

2016	From 30-to-40-year-old vines in Felseneck. Flinty, perfectly poised and fine: this is easily at a GG level of intensity and elegance. <i>Drink 2018 - 2025</i>		£87
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Felseneck Kabinett [15 17]

2016	Harvested early from a parcel favoured by the afternoon sun, this year it is delicately fresh and ripe, with grapefruit, lemon and riper stone-fruit in the background. It is very zingy indeed, and the minerality on the finish makes it taste almost dry. A fabulous <i>Kabinett</i> . <i>Drink 2018 - 2030</i>		£66
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Schäfer-Fröhlich (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Felseneck Spätlese [16 17]

2016	Harvested two weeks later than the <i>Kabinett</i> from 35-year-old vines, this has meltingly ripe yellow fruit allied to masses of bright energy, and finishes on a strong mineral note. <i>Drink 2018 - 2030</i>		£84
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Felseneck Spätlese Goldkapsel [17 17]

2016	As every year, the grapes were picked on the same day as the regular <i>Spätlese</i> , but from older 55-year-old vines in south-facing parcels, giving an altogether more intense wine. There is a dark, strong minerality, and vigorous acidity to balance the very ripe golden fruit. Above all there is an impression of great elegance and balance all the way to the finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2032</i>		£102
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Felseneck Auslese

2016	A rare beast: 'old-style' Auslese, namely one made using fruit that is not overripe or affected by botrytis. It is not rich, but has an extraordinary focus; there are smoky, slaty mineral flavours, cool orchard fruit with herbal notes and a dry finish. Very exciting. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>	Halves (6-bottle case)	£112
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Felseneck Eiswein

2015	Harvested in January, but not tasted. <i>Drink 2018 - 2030</i>	Halves (6-bottle case)	£348
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Felseneck Trockenbeerenauslese

2016	Not tasted, but what can go wrong? <i>Drink 2025 - 2055</i>	Halves (6-bottle case)	£900
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C. von Schubert Mertesdorf (Ruwer)

Under the expert guidance of Carl von Schubert and his winemaker Stefan Kraml, the Maximin Grünhaus estate is producing fantastic wines from one of the best *terroirs* in Germany. Like the estate's owner, they are courtly and aristocratic, possessed of a natural delicacy and finesse that make you return to them again and again. In youth, they are poised and charming, in maturity – and they age extremely well – they are effortless and gentle. It is solely with the best interests of our customers at heart that we recommend you acquire twice as many of these wines as you think you will need.

An Abtsberg Kabinett and Spätlese, and a Herrenberg Auslese will be auctioned in September. Two Grosse Gewächse will be released in September.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Abtsberg 'Superior' [03 17]

2016	The finest grapes of the Abtsberg, fermented with minimal intervention to near dryness. Intense, ripe and round, this shows herbal, spicy notes and has a long, rich finish. <i>Drink 2020 – 2030</i>		£114
		Magnums	£126

Herrenberg Kabinett [04 17]

2016	An absolutely magical <i>Kabinett</i> this year. If you like 'em old-style, then this is for you: it is lean and pure, there is dense gooseberry and herbal fruit and so much focussed minerality on the finish that it tastes dry. <i>Drink 2018 – 2030</i>		£66
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Abtsberg Kabinett [13 17]

2016	There is more obvious fruit than in the Herrenberg, a fine yellow layer on top of the herbal spice notes. The minerality is slaty and pure, and fits into a seamlessly elegant and vibrant whole. There is absolutely everything to like. <i>Drink 2018 – 2035</i>		£69
		Magnums	£87

Herrenberg Spätlese [06 17]

2016	Juicy, ripe and round, with a delicate perfumed fruit typical of the vintage, effortless mineral tension, and a long fresh finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£72
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Abtsberg Spätlese [16 17]

2016	A little sweeter than the Herrenberg, this buzzes with energy: there is perfumed yellow and green fruit, spice and an intense mineral heat on the very long finish. A wine in perfect balance. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£78
		Magnums	£99
		Double Magnums each	£78

C. von Schubert (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Herrenberg Eiswein [18 17]

2016	Fresh hay and citrus notes on the nose lead to a light, gentle wine with a dash of creamy richness and a big hit of vibrant acidity. It is elegant and pure, with a clearly defined minerality and a fresh sweet finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2030</i>	3-bottle case	£420
		Halves (6-bottle case)	£420

Philipp Vesper Mülheim (Mosel)

Philipp Vesper is Thomas Haag's right-hand man at Schloss Lieser, but farms some vines on the side in the excellent Sonnenlay vineyard in Mülheim.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Mülheimer Sonnenlay Kabinett [01 17]

2016	Somewhere between a <i>Kabinett</i> and a <i>Spätlese</i> , this is ripe and yellow, with lively citrus acidity and a long fresh finish. (It is also available as part of the Schloss Lieser Kabinett Collection) <i>Drink 2019 - 2030</i>		£54
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Daniel Vollenweider Traben-Trarbach (Mosel)

A lovely vintage here. Daniel Vollenweider works his 5 ha estate almost entirely by himself, not an easy feat considering he owns some of the region's steepest vineyards. His vines are mostly old and ungrafted, his wines powerful and elegant.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Wolfer Goldgrube Kabinett [01 17]

2016	A rich sweet juicy wine with ripe golden-yellow fruit, some spice and fine mineral tones. Thanks to the deep soils there is a good water supply, and this was key in ensuring a pronounced lemony acidity that gives this structure and balance. It finishes powerfully and long. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£57
		Magnums	£72

Wolfer Goldgrube Spätlese [02 17]

2016	Integrated and mineral-driven, there is also an abundance of spicy yellow fruit and lemony acidity. It is beautifully textured, seductive and finishes on a long dry note. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£78
		Magnums	£93

Robert Weil Kiedrich (Rheingau)

A classic vintage from this grand estate. The harvest was leisurely and long, and they were still harvesting Auslese in December, as well as managing to bring in an Eiswein in January.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Robert Weil Kabinett [32 17]

2016	The fruit is bright, rich and vibrant, the minerality polished, and the whole very smooth and long. <i>Drink 2018 - 2028</i>		£75
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Kiedrich Gräfenberg Spätlese [11 17]

2016	A richer style of Spätlese, with honeyed yellow fruit, a rounded middle and a pleasant mineral flourish on the long finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2030</i>		£176
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Kiedrich Gräfenberg Auslese [56 17]

2016	10% botrytis gives a rich creamy note to the very ripe yellow fruit which covers the considerable minerality. The finish is a delightful mix of sweet, sour and salty. <i>Drink 2019 - 2030</i>	Halves (6-bottle case)	£168
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Kiedrich Gräfenberg Eiswein [18 17]

2016	A lighter style of <i>Eiswein</i> , but still with a viscous sweetness and lashings of bright acidity, along with an elegant salty sweet finish. <i>Drink 2019 - 2030</i>	Halves each	£150
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Kiedrich Gräfenberg Beerenauslese [16 17]

2016	Not tasted. <i>Drink 2023 - 2035</i>	Halves each	£120
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Kiedrich Gräfenberg Trockenbeerenauslese [20 17]

2016	Not tasted. <i>Drink 2018 - 2040</i>	Halves each	£240
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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 so hard to work that they have been given up by others as unviable. They are not interested in making fruity wines, favouring an oxidative style of winemaking that brings out the minerality. The quality is consistently dazzling.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Wolfer Sonnenlay Kabinett [03 17]

2016	A beautifully perfumed and focussed <i>Kabinett</i> , with cool green notes of blackcurrant leaves, citrus and mineral. The texture is crunchy and lean, and the finish long and pure. One of our favourite <i>Kabinetts</i> this year. <i>Drink 2018 - 2030</i>		£54
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Enkircher Ellergrub Spätlese [02 17]

2016	Lemony, and clear, this has a fine blue-slate note that radiates a cool freshness. It is invigorating, powerful and long. Quite lovely. <i>Drink 2018 - 2032</i>		£81
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Enkircher Ellergrub Auslese [01 17]

2016	Just 80 litres made of this honeyed, smooth wine that's packed with fruit, spice and a dark minerality. It is viscous from the botrytis, but throbs with a vibrant energy and has a fine long finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2038</i>	Halves	£156
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Forstmeister Geltz Zilliken Saarburg (Saar)

'It's amazing what a month of perfect weather can do. We had a difficult spring, but came out of it with healthy leaves and a plentiful supply of water, and the grapes ripened as quickly as I have seen,' reported Hanno Zilliken. The wines are excellent, but the harvest is half the normal crop.

With the addition of another hectare this year, their holdings in the Rausch now total 11 ha. As usual some older wines were released with the current vintage: they are well worth a look.

A Rausch Grosses Gewächs will be released in September. A Rausch Spätlese will be sold at auction, along with an extraordinarily good 1997 Auslese Lange Goldkapsel. Start saving now!

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Saarburger Rausch Kabinett [04 17]

2016	A soft, elegant wine, with fresh, forward fruit leaning to the tropical, balanced by fine minerality. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£78
		Magnums	£93

Saarburger Rausch Spätlese [03 17]

2016	A smooth, harmonious wine redolent of grapefruit and pineapple, with a precise fine minerality and a very long salty finish. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>		£114
		Magnums	£129

Forstmeister Geltz Zilliken (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Saarburger Rausch Auslese [01 17]

2016	Dense, weighty tropical fruit is lifted by vibrant citrus acidity and a very smooth fine mineral-driven finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>		£204
		Magnums	£222

Saarburger Rausch Spätlese [10 00]

1999	18 years old and barely a sign of age: just a hint of wax on the edges gives it away. 1999 was a vintage with 100% botrytis, and here it has completely integrated into this smooth wine which shows tropical fruit and fine mineral flavours. <i>Drink 2018 - 2025</i>		£144
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Saarburger Rausch Auslese Goldkapsel [02 00]

1999	1999 was one of the best years of the last century here, and this one of the best wines. It is intense, sweet and tropical, and still astonishingly youthful, with strong mineral flavours and a creamy long finish. Will run and run. <i>Drink 2018 - 2035</i>	Halves (6-bottle case)	£204
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