

# HOWARD RIPLEY WINES



## **2018 Joh.Jos. Prüm Offer**

This famous Mosel estate, one of Germany's finest, has released its 2018s.

2018 was a warm year, and it shows: the wines are rich, muscular and ripe. But they are blessed with vibrant acidity, and none are heavy or cloying: instead there is balance, purity and freshness, and will give pleasure both in their youth and well into old age, which in Prüm's case is going to very old indeed. It is a superb year.

One of the magical aspects of 2018 is its purity at the super-sweet level. To get the levels of ripeness you need for Auslese Goldkapsel and above, you usually need botrytis, which drills holes in the grapes, allows moisture to evaporate and concentrates the must. But it also changes the flavours to a greater or lesser extent. In 2018 the concentration came from a *passerillage* – a shrivelling of the grapes – which allows the grapes to reflect their origins with almost no evidence of botrytis. This is extremely rare, and they are well worth seeking out. The estate made wines all the way up to TBA. We only get as far as Auslese Goldkapsel here; some Lange Goldkapsel will be offered at the Trier auction later this year, and for the rest we will have to be patient.

Unless otherwise indicated, wines are packed:

6-BOTTLE CASES (750ml)

12-BOTTLE CASES (375ml)

3-BOTTLE CASES (1500ml)

**Wines available from January 2020. Not for export.**

**Bernkasteler Badstube Kabinett**

2018	An intense wine with a melting softness and stern stony flavours offsetting the scented floral fruit. <i>Drink 2020 – 2030</i>		£81
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**Graacher Himmelreich Kabinett**

2018	Pure, generous bright citrus fruit gives way to a soft creamy middle, there is a hint of earthy stone, and the elegant floral notes are complemented by a smooth, slightly salty finish. <i>Drink 2020 – 2030</i>		£87
	<i>Drink 2023 – 2035</i>	Magnums	£108

**Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett**

2018	Here's a perfect example of why Kabinett is all the rage again. There is so much going on: new flavours tumble over each other so rapidly that it's hard to keep pace. The fruit is playful and full-throated, a blend of floral and vibrant citrus, there are cool very linear slaty flavours and the whole is pure, melting and elegant, not to mention smoky, smooth, fine and very long. Only Mosel Kabinett can do this, because it refreshes the parts other wines cannot reach. <i>Drink 2020 – 2040</i>		£108
	<i>Drink 2023 – 2045</i>	Magnums	£126

**Bernkasteler Badstube Spätlese**

2018	Richer soils with a higher proportion of clay give a silky, delicate wine with cool mineral flavours and a soft, rich finish. It will be approachable young, and after a dumb period, open out into glorious middle age. <i>Drink 2020 – 2035</i>		£102
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**Graacher Himmelreich Spätlese**

2018	A wine on fire: boundless energy, purity and elegance in one. A smooth, restrained elegance prevails. The fruit is floral and peachy, the backing minerality has an appealing smoky earthiness, and the finish is juicy and long. <i>Drink 2020 – 2040</i>		£112
	<i>Drink 2023 – 2045</i>	Magnums	£129

**Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese**

2018	The Zeltinger wines from Prüm are a little broader than their brothers in next-door Wehlen. This is juicy, bright and very stony, the mineral power tempered by persistent floral flavours tapering to a smooth, salty finish. <i>Drink 2020 – 2035</i>		£108
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**Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese**

2018	As always, this is the finest and most effortlessly elegant of all the Prüm <i>Spätlesen</i> . The scented golden-yellow fruit is tightly wound, itching to unfurl but kept in check by powerful, linear slaty notes that develop smoky spicy flavours as the wine glides to a long, saline finish. An absolute cracker. <i>Drink 2020 – 2042</i>		£129
	<i>Drink 2023 – 2048</i>	Magnums	£150

**Bernkasteler Badstube Auslese**

2018	Generous juicy yellow plum fruit is balanced by stony mineral flavours, and fresh green herbal notes creep in on the nicely balanced long salty finish. <i>Drink 2020 – 2035</i>		£129
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**Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Auslese**

2018	Structured, angular and slightly austere smoky slaty flavours are almost, but not quite, overwhelmed by a torrent of fresh yellow fruit that shades to the tropical on the long finish. <i>Drink 2020 – 2035</i>		£129
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**Graacher Himmelreich Auslese**

2018	Gorgeous, zingy and elegant soft yellow fruit is balanced by melting fine earthy mineral flavours. There is beautiful tension here: you can sense the pressure of fruit pushing against the confines of the mineral walls, promising a long and glorious future. <i>Drink 2021 – 2040</i>		£135
	<i>Drink 2020 – 2035</i>	Halves	£162
	<i>Drink 2023 – 2040</i>	Magnums	£156

**Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese**

2018	What so many growers are going for, but don't achieve: as close to effortless as you can get. There is enormous energy, a steely core of smoky slate, loads of sweet ripe yellow fruit, ripe lemony acidity and a melting, long rich finish. It will last longest of all the Prüm Auslesen. <i>Drink 2023 – 2045</i>		£156
	<i>Drink 2020 – 2040</i>	Halves	£180
	<i>Drink 2025 – 2050</i>	Magnums	£174

**Zeltinger Sonnenur Auslese Goldkapsel**

2018	Not tasted.		£300
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**Graacher Himmelreich Auslese Goldkapsel**

2018	Here's one of the reasons why 2018 is so special: a Goldkapsel almost without botrytis. It is astonishingly pure, with melting yellow fruit, perfumed floral flavour and a gentle earthy saltiness that builds towards a long, very rich finish. <i>Drink 2025 – 2040</i>		£300
	<i>Drink 2025 – 2035</i>	Halves	£324
	<i>Drink 2027 – 2045</i>	Magnums	£324

**Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese Goldkapsel**

2018	Almost no botrytis here, and so the vineyard characteristics are in plain view: playful delicate floral notes, ripe citrus acidity, and a fine steely smoky core. But it's still a Goldkapsel folks, so of course the exuberant fruit is very luscious, smooth and long, and the minerals are melting, elegant and build to a powerful crescendo on the long smoky salty finish. <i>Drink 2025 – 2040</i>		£336
	<i>Drink 2023 – 2035</i>	Halves	£360
	<i>Drink 2027 – 2050</i>	Magnums	£360

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