

HOWARD RIPLEY WINES

2018 GERMAN GROSSE GEWÄCHSE & 2017 PINOT NOIR



20 TOP GROWERS

SEPTEMBER 2019

EN PRIMEUR OFFER

Battenfeld-Spanier | Dengler-Seyler | Hermann Dönnhoff | Maximin Grünhaus |
Fritz Haag | Holger Koch | Jülg | Knewitz | Kühling-Gillot | Peter Lauer | Rudolf May
| Georg Mosbacher | Schäfer-Fröhlich | Schloss Lieser | Shelter Winery |
Vollenweider | von Hövel | Weiser-Künstler | Wittmann | Ziereisen |

2018 is a very good year for dry whites. It 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 they will give pleasure both in their youth and well into old age

2017 was an excellent year for reds. A mixed growing season culminated in an early harvest, producing elegant, attractive wines, with lovely zing and excellent balance. Spring frosts greatly reduced the crop, so they have excellent concentration, as well as great ageing potential.

Both red and white wines continue to offer excellent value.

Prices are in bond London.

Unless otherwise marked, wines are packed:

6-Bottle Cases (750ml)

12-Bottle Cases (375ml)

3-Bottle Cases (1500ml)

Wines are offered by the case only.

The prices of this offer are valid until 10th October 2019

Contents

BADEN

- Holger Koch** Bickensohl/Kaiserstuhl (Baden) 3
- Shelter** Kenzingen/Breisgau (Baden) 4
- Ziereisen** Efringen-Kirchen/Markgräferland (Baden) 5-6

FRANKEN

- Rudolf May** Retzstadt 7

MOSEL

- Fritz Haag** Brauneberg (Middle Mosel) 8
- Julian Haart** Piesport (Middle Mosel) 9
- Heymann-Löwenstein** Winningen (Mosel) 10-11
- von Hövel** Konz (Saar) 12
- Peter Lauer** Ayl (Saar) 13
- Schloss Lieser** Lieser (Middle Mosel) 14-15
- Willi Schaefer** Graach (Mosel) 16
- von Schubert** Mertesdorf (Ruwer) 17
- Daniel Vollenweider** Traben-Trarbach (Middle Mosel) 18
- Weiser-Künstler** Traben-Trarbach (Middle Mosel) 19
- Zilliken** Saarburg (Saar) 20

NAHE

- Hermann Dönnhoff** Oberhausen 21
- Schäfer-Fröhlich** Bockenau 22-23

RHEINHESSEN

- Battenfeld-Spanier** Hohen-Sülzen/**Kühling-Gillot** Bodenheim 24
- Keller** Flörsheim-Dalsheim 25
- Knewitz** Appenheim 26
- Wittmann** Westhofen 27

PFALZ

- Bernhart** Schweigen-Rechtenbach 28
- Dengler-Seyler** Maikammer 29
- Jülg** Schweigen-Rechtenbach 30
- Georg Mosbacher** Forst 31

Holger Koch Bickensohl/Kaiserstuhl

Baden, and in particular the pretty range of hills known as the Kaiserstuhl ('Emperor's Chair'), is the traditional seat of German Pinot Noir production. This is a volcanic outcrop on the Rhine plain overlooking Alsace, with a mix of warm volcanic and stony loess soils: Holger Koch's small nine-hectare estate lies at its heart. On taking over from his parents in 1999, he immediately replanted with small-berried French clones from Alsace and Burgundy. He makes Pinot Blanc, Gris and Noir, and has a particular passion for the latter. All his wines are finely structured and aromatic, and they age extremely well.

Extreme vintages are the real test of a winemaker: how will they react to the adverse conditions, and above all, will they react quickly enough? The advantage of a small estate is that it can be more spontaneous and reactive than a large one, which needs to plan its work schedule far in advance in order to muster the necessary manpower or equipment. All around him in 2018, Holger Koch saw the large estates struggle with the heat; the key decision was the picking date and he moved it forward at short notice to 30th August as ripening accelerated. Larger estates are locked into their planning, so had to harvest many of their grapes over-ripe, resulting in flabby, high-alcohol wines. No danger of that for Holger: his whites are breezy and balanced, and his reds are fine and perfectly pitched.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Pinot Noir Herrenstück [14 18]

2017	There is fresh strawberry and plum fruit tinged with spice on the nose; the palate is smooth, energetic and fine, the gentle balancing tannins leading to a juicy finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2025</i>		£72
------	--	--	-----

Pinot Noir* [18 18]

2017	Crushed red fruit and loads of spice – cloves come to mind – leap out of the glass; in the mouth there is delicacy but also great depth, freshness and an intense finely balanced finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£118
------	--	--	------

Pinot Noir*** [17 18]

	From the estate's best site, the Halbuck, a terraced vineyard with poor loess soils on volcanic rock: grapes ripen more slowly here than in other vineyards on the estate. There is a knot of cool crushed raspberry fruit and spiced plums joined by silky tannins, and a gentle persistent mineral heat on the long fresh juicy finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2032</i>		£174
	<i>Drink 2023 - 2035</i>	Magnums	£189

Pinot Noir Reserve [LOS 0419]

2017	The top selection from the Halbuck vineyard. There is more whole-bunch fermentation and more new wood than in Holger Koch's other wines, and this is built to last. It has all the requirements: bags of fruit, vibrant acidity and smooth minerality all in perfect balance, leading to a very long finish. <i>Drink 2023 - 2035</i>		£222
------	---	--	------

Weissburgunder***

2017	The warm stony soil of the Eichbuck gives a ripe, pure wine with a playful mineral note, delicate acidity and a gentle elegant presence all the way to the long fresh finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£87
------	--	--	-----

Shelter Kenzingen/Breisgau

Hans-Bert Espe and Silke Wolf are two Northerners who met while studying winemaking at Geisenheim and decided to found their own estate in 2003. They made their first wines in a bunker on an abandoned Canadian airfield (hence the name) and have since built themselves a winery based on the same design. They have vineyards with old vines in the villages of Kenzingen and Malterdingen, and produce some of the best wines of the region.

April frosts reduced yields, particularly of white varieties, but the Pinot Noir also suffered. The rest of the growing season was perfect, and has produced a range of 2017s that is elegant, forward, and ripe.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Spätburgunder [02 19]

2017	A deep vein of spicy black cherry runs through this, enveloped by smoky earthy flavours, balancing fine tannins and a long fresh finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2022</i>		£54
------	---	--	-----

Pinot Noir [03 19]

2017	Made from small-berried Dijon clones around forty years old. A seductive, floral nose with strong notes of cherry, a silky intensity and freshness in the mouth and a fine, long sweet bitter chocolate finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2028</i>		£156
------	--	--	------

Pinot Noir N114 [04 19]

2017	Named after the bunker number on the Canadian airbase where Hans-Bert and Silke made their first wines. The smallest bunches from the oldest vines in their Nordweil vineyard, planted in 1971, were harvested a little earlier and vinified separately, giving a single <i>barrique</i> . Vibrant aromas of blueberry, tarragon and a touch of smoke are joined on the palate by intense cherry flavours; there is great density and freshness, and a fine mineral undercurrent, all of which make the 100% new oak fade into the background where it belongs. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£258
------	--	--	------

Ziereisen Efringen-Kirchen/Markgräferland

Hanspeter Ziereisen is quick-thinking and full of energy, and his wines get better every year. After a love affair with new oak early this century, he has tempered its use so that it subtly supports, rather than dominating the wines. Based close to the Swiss and French borders just north of Basel, he makes a selection of Pinot Noirs (and a host of other varietals) that offer both purity and value. His vineyards are on a south-facing slope overlooking Basel, the vines grow at an altitude between 250 and 400 metres, and there is a constant breeze, allowing slower ripening. He does not chaptalise, and uses 10% – 20% new wood across the range. The musts are handled very gently, with no punching down and little extraction. The wines are breathtakingly pure and long-lived.

The estate releases its wines a year later than most. 2016 is less powerful than 2015, with pure elegant wines perfectly reflecting their terroirs.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Tschuppen Spätburgunder

2016	A high clay content in the soil gives a rich, bloody wine with notes of grilled meat and game, along with intense rich blueberry fruit, smooth tannins and fresh acidity. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£60
------	--	--	-----

Talrain Spätburgunder

2016	From a high vineyard in the Black Forest near Kandern, surrounded by dense woodland, with loam soils rich in iron on a limestone base, similar to that in Gevrey. It is a cool spot, and 60% whole-bunch fermentation has yielded dark, stony black fruit with smooth tannins and a long juicy elegant finish. Its 12% alcohol makes it an appealing prospect. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£75
------	---	--	-----

Rhini Spätburgunder

2016	A little iron in the soil gives an edge of salty spice to the rounded supple red fruit. Made mainly from whole-bunch fermentation, the wine has a lifted freshness, intensity and ample density, driving to a long rich mineral-laden finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2026</i>		£144
------	--	--	------

Jaspis Pinot Noir

2016	Old vines in warm iron-rich soil are harvested late, resulting in a spicy, raspberry-fruited wine of delicate intensity, with smooth rounded tannins, and a rich juicy finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£180
------	---	--	------

Jaspis Spätburgunder Alte Reben

2014	Always one of the best Pinot Noirs in Germany. Made from the last grapes to be harvested, it has spicy raspberry fruit with a cool, sinewy quality and a herbaceous edge that lends structure, along with very fine tannins and a seductive juicy finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2032</i>		£285
------	--	--	------

Ziereisen (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Gutedel 10⁴

2016	<p>10⁴ refers to the vine density – originally planted in 1968 – Hans-Peter doubled the amount of vines per hectare in the oldest part of the Steingruble vineyard in 2001 to get closer to Burgundian models. The wine shows what Gutedel – known as Chasselas across the border in Switzerland – can do when challenged. This is a supremely fine wine in anyone’s book, up there with the best Burgundies, showing that Gutedel is not only a superb reflector of <i>terroir</i>, but can also produce something of extraordinary complexity and intensity. Overnight skin contact after picking gives freshness, structure and a hint of bruised apple, backed by bright citrus fruit, a dash of cream and a minerality that grows more persistent as it glides to an infinitely long, smooth finish.</p> <p><i>Drink 2022 - 2032</i></p>		£492
------	--	--	------

FRANKEN

Rudolf May Retzstadt

Rudolf May founded his estate in 1998 with two hectares, and through hard work and emphasis on quality has grown it to fourteen. His focus has always been on Silvaner, and his poor, fossil-rich soils allow him to make very fine, pure, mineral-driven wines. He is one of few growers to demonstrate that this often overlooked varietal can produce distinctive wines that have ageing potential, with the result that he produces the finest Silvaners in Germany. He believes in minimal intervention, hence his recent conversion to organic viticulture. His son Benedikt, recently returned from his studies, is being groomed to take over.

Fast and hot was the way Rudolf May described the vintage. It began on 27th August, a good three weeks earlier than any before it, and was over in a record eighteen days. Father and son were very happy with it. Old vines were the key: most of theirs are over thirty-five, and could withstand the lack of rain from May onwards. Organic viticulture made the vines more resilient, and careful canopy management – hedging at the latest possible moment to reduce growth vigour, as well as leaf-plucking from inside the canopy to prevent sunburn – gave a crop of perfectly healthy, balanced grapes that produced an exciting range of wines, none more so than the two superb Silvaner GGs.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Himmelspfad Silvaner GG [15 19]

2018	From the warmest part of the Langenberg vineyard, which is composed primarily of fossil-rich fine limestone. The soil is poor, and the vines are the estate's oldest, at fifty-five, which keeps yields correspondingly low. The only hint that it was a warm year is the smooth yellow fruit, the rest is pure <i>terroir</i> : this is an effortlessly elegant, lean, pure and floral wine, with a fine density. To balance the ripeness, there is a pronounced slightly bitter stoniness that builds to a crescendo on the finish, leaving a pleasant sensation of heat behind it. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£150
------	--	--	------

Rothlauf Silvaner GG [16 19]

2018	From the best parcel of a cooler vineyard in neighbouring Thüngersheim, the Johannisberg, which features the same fossil-rich limestone, but here mixed with multicoloured sandstone. The wine is aged in equal parts in steel, concrete egg and wood, and shows how this often under-rated varietal can be an excellent foil for <i>terroir</i> . It is smooth and ripe, with focussed yellow fruit, a hint of lychee, a touch of oak and a beautifully detailed stony mineral element that lasts to the very long juicy finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£150
------	--	--	------

MOSEL

Fritz Haag Brauneberg (Mosel)

Thanks to Wilhelm Haag, Fritz Haag is one of the grand estates of the Mosel. He was lucky enough to inherit vineyards in two of its greatest sites, the Brauneberger-Juffer and the slightly warmer Juffer-Sonnenuhr, whose vines are clustered around the sundial on the rocky slope. They had been classified as 'grand cru' by Napoleon in 1804, but were under-appreciated until Wilhelm Haag's brilliant wines put them back at the top of the tree again. While his older son Thomas took over Schloss Lieser in the Nineties, the younger Oliver took over the twenty hectares in 2005. Building on his father's work, Oliver has made the wines ever finer, to the point where it is hard to find wines of such delicacy and balance elsewhere.

The Juffer is a dry site, but the estate's vines are now of sufficient age not to be adversely affected by the rainless summer. Oliver reported that the picking date was vital. He had learned from 2003 and 2011 to pick earlier to maintain freshness, but not so early that the wines would have a vegetal note, so he started with Kabinetts on 15th September.

Oliver's focus in 2018 was on purity: great efforts were made to remove every last berry of botrytis from grapes destined for dry wines, and there was less skin contact than in 2017. It has worked. The wines are crystal clear and beautifully delineated.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Juffer GG [24 19]

2018	A lovely elegant fine wine, with very juicy ripe yellow fruit and a pronounced stony minerality building through to a long salty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2027</i>		£96
------	--	--	-----

Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr GG [08 19]

2018	Made from grapes in the heart of the vineyard, clustered around the sundial, where the microclimate is warmer and the vines much older. It is more powerful than the Juffer, finely woven, transparent, silky and beautifully smooth, with a steely mineral backbone that makes it taste very dry, and a very seductive, spicy, melting and elegant finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£126
------	--	--	------

Julian Haart Piesport (Mosel)

Tragically, there is no Schubertslay from here any more, since the lease was taken on by Julian Haart's friend Klaus-Peter Keller in early 2018. However, Julian continues to maintain the vineyard for him, and we do at least have Julian Haart Riesling grown on limestone from Rheinhessen this year.

After work experience at Keller, Heymann-Löwenstein, Schönleber and Egon Müller, Julian Haart took over the family's small vineyard holdings in 2010 and has since grown the estate to five hectares, which he and his wife Nadine manage by themselves. Now in his eighth vintage, he is making wines as exciting as any in the Mosel. They are well worth seeking out, and demand for them is set to increase, so get in while you can.

Julian was concerned to preserve acidity, so began harvesting very early, on 20th September. The weather was fine, and harvesters were able to take their time selecting the best bunches, but then after a week he saw acidity levels dropping, and speeded up the process. There was no skin contact, as Julian was worried about bitter flavours; instead, the grapes were lightly pressed, and the must infused with bunches of the best white grapes, which added richness. By heating the cellars, fermentation was encouraged to start quickly: this ensured that the mineral *terroir* flavours came to the fore, rather than just simple fruit notes. With the aid of his friend and mentor Klaus-Peter Keller, we see a new vineyard added this year, the Frauenberg from Nieder-Flörsheim in Rheinhessen.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Goldtröpfchen [16 19]

2018	From 111-year-old vines adjacent to the Schubertslay vineyard. A rich, bright lemony wine tautening towards the finish as powerful stony flavours kick in. It is persistent and juicy, and will keep extremely well. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£150
------	---	--	------

Ohligsberg [15 19]

2018	A beautifully lean, perfumed wine with focus and elegance. There is bright citrus acidity, generous herb-tinged fruit and a wonderfully pure fine minerality emerging on the long finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£186
------	--	--	------

Frauenberg [13 19]

2018	At last Julian can fulfil his dream of a making a limestone Riesling. The Frauenberg can be divided into two parts: the higher level with pure limestone, the lower with redder soils; Julian has holdings in both, which were vinified separately and blended together. There are lean, pure lemony flavours from the limestone, and a melting richness from the red elements, culminating in a long linear, almost austere finish. A complex wine that will reward cellaring. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£150
------	--	--	------

Heymann-Löwenstein Winingen (Mosel)

Reinhard Löwenstein's primary interest has always been in dry wines, and for many years his estate was known for its intense, powerful and long-lived Rieslings. His refusal to use cultured yeasts means that the wines often had levels of residual sugar that put them more into the off-dry category. In 2011 he made a wine without any botrytised grapes that fermented dry. It was an epiphany, 2012 saw a complete change in style: a rigorous cull of botrytis-affected grapes made the wines more precise, focussed and approachable younger, and now they are amongst the most exciting the Mosel has to offer. In recent years he has gradually been handing over control to his daughter Sarah, who has brought fresh energy to the estate.

The lower Mosel is home to some of the world's steepest vineyards, most of them terraced, with very poor stony soils that little capacity to retain water. Not a drop of rain fell from the end of June, and towards the end of the growing season, Reinhard Löwenstein thought that he would have to declassify his GGs into *village* wines. He was confounded when his terraces produced not only a generous crop, but also a range of superb, healthy grapes full of flavour. He confesses to not fully understanding why, but he sees old vines as the key. He has not used artificial fertiliser for forty years, which has forced the roots to dig deep for water and kept them nourished during the long drought. Additionally, the growing season started out dry, and he suspects that the vines adapted to the absence of water. The wines are lovely: ripe, generous and mineral-driven, and all are beautifully fine.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Kirchberg GG

2018	One of the warmest and driest sites in the Mosel, the Kirchberg's iron-rich sandy slate soils produce a very friendly, accessible wine with purity and elegance, and a juicy slaty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2027</i>		£120
------	--	--	------

Stolzenberg GG

2018	Another warm site, the Stolzenberg's weathered slate soils give a pretty juicy yellow-fruit nose with a smoky spicy note. It is not as rich as the Kirchberg, but fine and elegant, with a gentle persistent slightly sour finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£126
------	---	--	------

Röttgen GG

2018	A fantastically steep terraced vineyard facing south-east, the Röttgen's weathered slate soils warm up early in the morning. The terrace walls then act like storage heaters, and the temperature remains high well into the evening. The result is a powerful wine packed with syrupy yellow peach and herbal notes, balanced by stony slaty flavours. The finish is long and very fine. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£144
	<i>Drink 2024 - 2035</i>	Magnums each	£55

Uhlen Blaufüsser Lay GG [09 19]

2018	Blue slate soils mixed with clay give a smoky dark slaty character tinged with spice. This is very powerful, well defined with lots of energy and herbal character, and an intensely stony salty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£165
------	--	--	------

Heymann-Löwnstein (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Uhlen Laubach [10 19]

2018	Grey fossil-rich slate gives a supremely elegant and balanced wine, seamless and pure. It is juicy and very fruity, and underneath the smoky flavours there is a lean mineral streak that lends length and intensity. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£180
	<i>Drink 2024 - 2034</i>	Magnums Each	£64

Uhlen Roth Lay

2018	The estate's top wine, bottled long after the others and released a year later. Not tasted, but based on the line-up so far, I am sure we won't be disappointed. <i>Drink 2023 - 2034</i>		£198
	<i>Drink 2025 - 2039</i>	Magnums Each	£70
	<i>Drink 2027 - 2040</i>	Jeroboams Each	£138

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 the vineyard holdings by buying the moribund Schmidt-Reuter estate, but his style is very different. Viticulture is now close to organic (no herbicides or pesticides), 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.

The earliest harvest in the history of the estate began on 24th September, and it was also the easiest, so healthy was the fruit. The wines are clean and pure, with the characteristic energy and bright acidity of the Saar.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Hütte GG

2018	Not tasted. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£114
------	--------------------------------------	--	------

Scharzhofberg GG [14 19]

2018	The Saar's most famous vineyard gives a lean, powerful wine with vibrant ripe pear fruit, juicy citrus acidity and a very salty spicy finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2032</i>		£171
------	--	--	------

Peter Lauer Ayl (Saar)

‘This small traditional Saar wine producer in Ayl bottles some of the finest, most classic Rieslings in Germany: pure, precise, piquant, racy, mineral and chiselled, but also ripe, concentrated, compact and complex.’ Stephan Reinhardt, *The Finest Wines of Germany*. It’s all true folks. From relative obscurity when he took over fifteen years ago, the calm and thoughtful Florian Lauer has elevated this estate to one of the foremost in Germany.

Florian’s primary goal is for his wines to reflect the place where the grapes were grown. As such, he vinifies each parcel with different soils separately, even from within the same vineyard. To taste them is to see just how transparent a wine can be. It helps that he has very old vines of up to 100 years old, and as you would expect, they are vibrant, pure and very exciting.

2018 saw Florian adapt his methods. He pressed whole bunches, as they do in Champagne, to preserve acidity and avoid too much skin contact, which would make the wines heavy, and he made sure to eliminate any overripe grapes that would give too much richness. The result is an elegant, pure set of wines that are some of the best the vintage has produced.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Saarfeilser Fass 13 GG [13 19]

2018	From the estate’s warmest site, a steep west-facing slope directly on the river. A powerful ripe wine this year, with a gentle smoky note that tempers the juicy rich yellow fruit, green tea and spice flavours. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£132
------	--	--	------

Schonfels Fass 11 GG [11 19]

2018	An inviting perfumed citrus- and smoke-laden nose yields to rounded elegant fine silky fruit and a beautifully elegant flowing salty mineral finish. A gorgeous wine. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£132
------	--	--	------

Kupp Fass 18 GG [18 19]

2018	A fresh slaty wine of great density, with loads of juicy citrus, melting ripe apple and yellow orchard fruit, and a silky stony minerality that builds to a long and satisfying salty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£132
------	--	--	------

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 25 hectares, now owning vineyards in Lieser (Helden), Brauneberg (Juffer and Juffer-Sonnenuhr), Wehlen (Sonnenuhr), Graach (Himmelreich and Domprobst), Piesport (Goldtröpfchen and Falkenberg) as well as harvesting a tiny parcel in Bernkastel (Doctor). In all, his holdings are spread across 192 different vineyard plots. He is 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.

Thomas Haag made his usual seven GGs in 2018. It takes forty minutes to drive from Piesport to Lieser, double that time by tractor, and on that stretch Thomas Haag has 160 different vineyard plots to manage. Exceptional organisation is required to manage all these. Not only this, but he also produces a brilliant range of wines that perfectly reflect their *terroirs*.

Once again, he has pulled off one of the best collections in Germany. There are few that can match the elegance, lightness of touch and transparency. However, demand is strong, so in some cases the wines are available only in a mixed case.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Schloss Lieser GG Case

2018	1 bottle each of: Doctor, Himmelreich, Niederberg Helden, Juffer-Sonnenuhr, Wehlener Sonnenuhr, Goldtröpfchen. A unique opportunity to sample some of the Mosel's finest <i>terroirs</i> , as channelled by one of its best winemakers. <i>Drink 2021 - 2040</i>		£245
------	--	--	------

Goldtröpfchen GG [33 19]

2018	Goldtröpfchen is known for making powerful, rich and long-lasting wines. This is all that – the fruit is yellow and of depth and intensity, and the stony minerality provides a resonant bass note. But there is so much more to it: there is a seductive floral element, there is purity and delicacy, and the minerality is finely structured, building to a silky crescendo on the long salty finish. It is a wine of focus, energy and elegance – in short, sheer joy. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£144
------	---	--	------

Himmelreich GG [29 19]

2018	One of the last acquisitions to the Lieser portfolio. This is forward, floral and ripe, with vibrant, delicately wrought fruit and a fresh creamy saltiness on the long finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£144
------	--	--	------

Juffer GG [28 19]

2018	The floral fruit seems a little delicate at first, but you quickly realise that it is more than a match for the intense slaty mineral flavours; the tension between them drives through to a juicy, salty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£135
------	--	--	------

Juffer Sonnenuhr GG [31 19]

2018	There is pure floral and citrus fruit here, and what can only be described as liquid slate, an intense dark minerality of melting finesse that grows in richness and volume towards the very long finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£144
------	--	--	------

Schloss-Lieser (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Wehlener Sonnenuhr GG [32 19]

2018	Hugh Johnson once wrote about the inevitability of great art, and here it is: everything is here, and all in perfect balance: floral, beautifully elegant fruit, very fine angular minerality and a silky, creamy saltiness that builds and builds. The tension between the two gives the wine great energy, but it is so gentle, so elegant, that it takes your breath away. Here comes the sun, I say. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£144
------	--	--	------

Niederberg Helden GG [30 19]

2018	The Helden vineyard is the heart of Schloss Lieser, and comprises its largest single vineyard holding. It gives powerful, mineral-driven and long-lived wines that are packed with flavour. This year it is an effortless and harmonious joy: seamless, smooth and elegant, with yellow fruit, a hint of fresh herbs, massive mineral stony power, great depth and a long succulent finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£144
------	---	--	------

Pinot Noir Niederberg Helden [46 19]

2017	Now firmly back in the stable after an absence of some years. The Helden Pinot vines were part of a parcel of Riesling purchased in 2009. Thomas decided not to grub them up, and has made a red wine 'for fun' ever since. It bears all the hallmarks of the Lieser style, each element clearly delineated and in harmony: very spicy delicate ripe strawberry fruit, juicy acidity, fine tannins and an intense slightly smoky finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2028</i>		£75
------	---	--	-----

Willi Schaefer Graach (Mosel)

Now run by Christoph and Andrea Schaefer, this estate is one of the jewels of the Mosel. From just four hectares, they produce an extraordinary range of pure, delicate wines that brilliantly reflect their *terroirs*. Their two main sites are in the Graacher Himmelreich and Domprobst, and nowhere else are the differences between the two vineyards expressed so clearly: the forward, fruit-driven and seductive charm of the Himmelreich, and the deep, complex mineral and fruit tones of the Domprobst. How do they do it? With their palates: rather than rely on instruments to measure ripeness levels and acidity, they taste the grapes to decide on a harvesting date; during pressing, the juice is tasted to see when it's time to stop, and during fermentation, each cask is tasted repeatedly to decide when the perfect balance of sweetness and acidity has been achieved, and when it should be arrested.

A superb vintage here. The deep soils of Graach have a good water supply, so there was no danger of drought during the hot summer: the vines were always fresh and green. Little bouts of rain came at just the right time, a hail storm in May threatened but did no damage and cool nights prevented acidity in the grapes dropping too rapidly. Ripening proceeded apace, and by mid-September there was a generous crop of beautifully ripe grapes. At this point it was vital to choose the correct picking date so as to preserve freshness in the wines, and judging by their range of wines, including the rare GG, they got it spot on.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Himmelreich GG [12 19]

2018	Christoph Schaefer has not made a GG since 2012, mainly because in other years he feared there was too much acidity, but in 2018 the balance was just right, so the grapes normally destined for an Auslese were fermented dry. It is a typical Schaefer wine: pure, fine and mineral-driven. The nose is creamy and floral, and in the mouth there is very juicy crisp acidity, a lovely flowing texture to the yellow fruit and a very fine salty minerality framing – and keeping in check – the ripeness of the vintage. The finish is salty and extremely long. <i>Drink 2021 – 2038</i>		£132
	<i>Drink 2023 – 2041</i>	Magnums	£150

C. von Schubert Mertesdorf (Ruwer)

Carl von Schubert has now handed over control of the estate to his son Maximin (although Carl remains very much in place). Winemaker Stefan Kraml continues to produce some of the best wines in Germany from one of its very finest *terroirs*, a contiguous strip of the three vineyards Bruderberg, Herrenberg and Abtsberg. There is something magical about these wines: if you have the patience to wait, they acquire a melting elegance that calls you back for more. Our completely impartial advice, for which you will be eternally grateful, is to buy more than you think you will need.

2018 is another lovely vintage at this famous estate. The approachable style of 2018 particularly suits the fine, delicate minerality and elegant fruit of two of the finest *terroirs* in the region, the Abtsberg and the Herrenberg. The Pinot, too, continues to make great strides. Winemaker Stefan Kraml is learning how best to bring out the *terroir* of the Abtsberg via a red grape, and as the wines age they are becoming more complex.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Herrenberg GG [07 19]

2018	A juicy ripe powerful wine with stony mineral and grassy flavours to complement the yellow fruit, and fine salty flavours on the long finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£138
------	--	--	------

Abtsberg GG [08 19]

2018	Old vines give a smooth, silky wine with heady floral and fresh herbal notes, rich yellow fruit, a juicy ripe defining acidity and a dark stony core building to a long creamy finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£138
	<i>Drink 2021 - 2036</i>	Magnums	£156

Pinot Noir [21 19]

2017	10-year-old vines in the Abtsberg are giving wines of increasing complexity. Frost severely reduced yields, and the very small berries have produced rich, juicy crushed red fruit, a distinct smoky note, firm fine tannins and a bitter chocolate finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£144
	<i>Drink 2023 - 2033</i>	Magnums	£168

Daniel Vollenweider Traben-Trarbach (Mosel)

Daniel Vollenweider came to the Mosel from his native Switzerland in 1999 with no money but a huge passion for Riesling. He purchased a hectare of a formerly famous, but near-derelict vineyard, the Wolfer Goldgrube, which had very old ungrafted vines, and has not looked back. The estate now comprises 4.5 hectares, and has never produced a sub-standard wine.

The Goldgrube is too rocky and steep to be the subject of *Flurbereinigung*, a process that sees fragmented parcels rationalised, roads built if necessary and vines replanted, all to make mechanisation easier. It runs south to west, and its grey and red slate soils produce deep, spicy wines that need time in bottle to show their glory.

Daniel Vollenweider usually releases his wines two years after vintage, but he has made an exception for us.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Goldgrube

2018	A ripe, finely wrought and delicate wine that builds in power and intensity, finishing on a lively rich salty stony note. <i>Drink 2022 – 2038</i>		£120
------	---	--	------

Goldgrube ‘Aurum’

2018	The oldest vines of the Goldgrube – over a hundred years old – give something special: a fresh vibrant wine that has seemingly limitless reserves of smooth stony power, great depth and concentration, intense citrus and yellow fruit and a long fresh finish. <i>Drink 2024 - 2042</i> <i>Shipment Spring 2021.</i>	3-bottle case	£144
------	---	---------------	------

Weiser-Künstler Traben-Trarbach (Mosel)

Like their friend Daniel Vollenweider, Konstantin Weiser and Alexandra Künstler are newcomers to the region, attracted by a love of Riesling. Starting from nothing in 2005, they began building a portfolio of formerly famous sites around Traben-Trarbach that were on the point of being abandoned: steep, inaccessible and uneconomic, as everything had to be done by hand. But the soils were superb, the vines old and ungrafted, and they began to produce a dazzling range of wines which have given them cult status. Their production, from 3.8 hectares, is tiny. They are not interested in a fruity style, favouring oxidative winemaking that brings out minerality, and the wines benefit from decanting well ahead when young.

The challenge in a year of accelerating ripeness like 2018 was to keep the wines fresh. Having old vines helped, as they did not suffer from drought, and harvest began much earlier than usual, on 21st September, and there was rigorous selection. Bunches were pressed whole, to preserve acidity, and gently, to avoid too much phenolic extraction, which can make the wine taste bitter.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Gaispfad [07 19]

	<p>There is ripe yellow fruit here, but the pronounced wet slate note keeps it lean; the vibrant lemony acidity throws all elements into pure relief and the finish is juicy, stony and long. <i>Drink 2021 – 2029</i></p>		£120
--	--	--	------

Ellergrub ‘Grosse Eule’ [06 19]

	<p>On our first visit last year, the estate’s signature dry wine was still fermenting, so Konstantin offered us the dregs of a bottle of 2016, open for six weeks in the fridge. We feared a tired oxidised wine, but... it was stupendous: beautifully balanced, expressive and long. We learned there that the wines are built to last, and benefit from decanting well in advance. The 2018 is no exception. It has a powerful backbone of salty wet slate, supported by brisk lemony acidity, pure ripe yellow fruit and a very long smooth finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i></p>		£135
--	--	--	------

Zilliken Saarburg (Saar)

Dorothee Zilliken took over the running of this venerable estate in 2016, the 11th generation to do so. The majority of the 14-hectare estate is in the Rausch, climbing an impossibly steep hill directly above the town centre. The soil is slate, dotted with quartz and pockets of basalt, and its southern exposure ensures it gets a lot of sun. Low yields and painstaking vineyard work, combined with fermentation in old oak casks in a very cool cellar, give a stunning range of classic Saar wines that can take many years to reach their full potential.

This year the estate did not suffer from drought. For years the Zillikens have been covering their vineyards with mulch, which prevents evaporation. As a result they had a generous crop of perfectly pitched wines. Harvest began on 23rd September, finishing a month later on 21st October.

Rausch GG [19 19]

2018	A beautiful Saar GG: smoky, spicy, elegant and very fine, with a seamless silky minerality and a juicy yellow-fruit finish. <i>Drink 2022 - 2030</i>		£156
------	---	--	------

NAHE

Hermann Dönnhoff Oberhausen (Nahe)

The Nahe is the driest region in Germany, so the summer of 2018 was a particular challenge for growers there. The Dönnhoffs are lucky that they have a high proportion of old vines, whose roots are deep enough to access water, but the pressure had to be taken off younger vines by green harvesting – in this year 30% of the potential crop. On the plus side, there were no frosts and no diseases, leading to a perfectly healthy crop for their earliest harvest ever. As was the case last year, the Brücke GG will be sold at auction.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Dellchen GG [29 19]

2018	Dellchen produces the most ethereal wines in the Dönnhoff stable: there is lightness and delicacy to the exotic yellow fruit, which has a gentle silky feel. But it also has the power of the vintage, and there is a dark, slaty fine finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2032</i>		£231
------	---	--	------

Hermannshöhle GG [30 19]

2018	Helmut Dönnhoff likens this wine to a large orchestra playing quietly, with each instrument clearly discernible. There is great depth here, and everything is in balance: meltingly elegant silky yellow orchard fruit, ripe citrus acidity, and a powerful slaty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2034</i>		£276
	<i>Drink 2024 - 2040</i>	Magnums	£288

Schäfer-Fröhlich Bockenau (Nahe)

From his 21 hectares Tim Fröhlich produces uncompromisingly angular wines that display breathtaking energy, precision and finesse. He took over responsibility for making the wine in 1993, at the tender age of 19, and supported by his father, who looks after the vineyards, has elevated the estate to one of the very best in Germany. His principal holdings are in Bockenau – the flagship Felseneck and Stromberg, but he also has vines in the geologically diverse communes of Monzingen, with the Halenberg and Frühlingsplätzchen vineyards, and Schloßböckelheim, with Kupfergrube and Felsenberg. These are wines that can be drunk young, but the best need years to showcase the *terroir* of their vineyards.

Tim Fröhlich is one of those winemakers who can bring out the best from even the most difficult conditions. In 2018, while there was no frost and no disease pressure, he had to deal with heat and drought. Fortunately a few bouts of rain in the summer eased the problem of water-stress on the young vines, but maintaining freshness was a priority. His concern was to avoid too much yellow fruit, which to his mind interferes with the wines' purity. To this end he laid down a layer of humus in the vineyard to slow evaporation, hedged the vines as late as possible, and leaf-plucked from inside the canopy so that the bunches remained out of direct sun. He picked early, starting on 18th September, when acidity levels were perfect, and put the grapes straight into a refrigerated truck at the vineyard itself. He pressed the grapes gently – too hard and the acidity falls and there is too much phenolic structure. The result is a perfectly pitched, polished set of wines with extraordinary energy.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Felsenberg GG [18 19]

2018	Felsenberg's position next to the river makes its vines reach maturity quickly. This also means the vineyard is susceptible to fog, and as the damp air softens the grapes, it is crucial to harvest at the right moment. Tim Fröhlich is all over it, with the result that his wine is less weighty than that of other growers. There is power here, of course, from the rich soils, but the racy citrus acidity keeps it light on its feet, and there are seductive herbal notes on the long fine saline finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£210
------	---	--	------

Kupfergrube GG

2018	Kupfergrube – on the site of an old copper mine – is a narrow strip of vineyard between the river and a steep volcanic cliff, and has correspondingly little airflow. The rocks reflect and store heat, and the grapes have riper flavours even when they have the same must weight as those in other vineyards. This year it has produced the most charming wine in the portfolio: it is flowing, effortless and elegant, with red fruits, clearly delineated vibrant citrus fruit and a steely, salty stony finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£228
------	--	--	------

Frühlingsplätzchen GG

2018	Hard red slate gives an elegant wine with pronounced dark earthy flavours, redcurrant fruits, a spicy note, vibrant lemony acidity and a firm salty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£210
------	--	--	------

Halenberg GG

2018	Fine weathered blue slate has produced a wine of amazing clarity. A knot of rich juicy blueberry fruit is completed by racy lemony acidity and a long smoky finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£228
------	--	--	------

Schäfer-Frölich (contd.)

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Stromberg GG

2018	The steep rocky volcanic soils of Stromberg are the site of the estate's oldest vines, half of them eighty-five years old. Not surprising then, that the wine is intense, with a dry, smoky stone core, but balanced by intense yellow fruit, vibrant citrus acidity and a long fine salty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£228
------	---	--	------

Felseneck GG [22 19]

2018	The estate's flagship, and always the shyest in youth. It is very elegant and melting, slaty and pure, cool and fresh, and there are green notes of mint and nettles to complement the yellow fruit, culminating in a very fine salty bitter finish. An absolute cracker. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£246
	<i>Drink 2021 - 2038</i>	Magnums	£264

RHEINHESSEN

Battenfeld-Spanier Hohen-Sülzen / Kühling-Gillot Bodenheim

When Oliver Spanier of Battenfeld-Spanier married Carolin Gillot of Kühling-Gillot in 2006, it brought together two of Rheinhessen's leading estates, and created its most glamorous couple. The wines are marketed separately, but he is the winemaker for both.

Kühling-Gillot's prime holdings are on the 'Roter Hang' (red slope), an iron-rich strip between Nierstein and Nackenheim along the Rhine, which includes the vineyards of Hipping, Pettenthal, Ölberg, Rothenberg, and Orbel. There are further vineyards in Oppenheim and Bodenheim.

Battenfeld-Spanier lies in the southern-most part of Rheinhessen, and the vines are grown on limestone, which gives them a lifted, citrus character. The estate converted to organic viticulture in 1992, and went biodynamic in 1995. Both estates are now farmed biodynamically. If Prüm made wines in Rheinhessen, this is what they would be like: beautifully pure, restrained, and with the promise of a long life.

Oliver Spanier's solution to the potential drought problem in 2018 was to buy 10,000 bales of straw and lay them out in long mats in the vineyards to prevent evaporation. As a result, his vines were fresh green islands in a sea of wilted suffering. There was no green harvesting, but a lot of leaf plucking at flowering time to slow down ripening. The GGs weigh in at a modest 12.5% alcohol.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Ölberg GG [50 19]

2018	The south-east orientation of the Ölberg ensures a lot of sun, giving an open, elegant wine with fine yellow fruit and a salty richness building to a long melting finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2032</i>		£216
------	--	--	------

Pettenthal GG [52 19]

2018	A dense, smoky linear wine with lovely definition: clear red and ripe yellow fruit, bright citrus flavours, a cooling green herbal note and a long salty oak-tinged finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2035</i>		£216
------	---	--	------

Hipping GG [51 19]

2018	A smoky, floral nose – mainly orange blossom – leads to explosive orchard fruit with racy citrus acidity and a melting core of fine stony salty fruit. <i>Drink 2021 - 2026</i>		£216
------	---	--	------

Frauenberg GG [47 19]

2018	A limestone base gives generous juicy citrus notes, balanced by a lovely salty fine finish with a hint of oak. <i>Drink 2021 - 2032</i>		£216
------	---	--	------

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 shift in style 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. Unlike many of his colleagues, he has resisted the temptation to expand: 'if we enlarged the estate, I would no longer be able to be able to supervise work in the vineyards so closely. The wines would be maybe 3% less good. Perhaps no one would notice, but I would, and I won't allow it.' His wines are the epitome of purity, elegance and intensity.

In comparison to 2017, which saw yields decimated by frost and a hailstorm just before harvest, 2018 was a charm. True, hail caused damage to vines in Morstein and Abst.E, but for the rest of the season the main concern was coping with the dry weather and heat. To this end they let the canopy grow much higher than in the past, and leaf-plucked from inside it, but it was still so thick that pickers has to search for bunches during the harvest. The fruit from younger vines, which had begun to suffer from drought, were discarded. The harvest itself occurred in perfect conditions, with an impressive haul of dry wines.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Kirchspiel GG [22 19]

2018	A wine with very fresh, floral and spicy fruit, lovely mineral tension and a long fine finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		POA
------	---	--	-----

Hubacker GG [23 19]

2018	A vineyard owned by the Keller family since 1889. The used to be made in a powerful, rich style, but it is now understated and delicate, with fine dense ripe apple fruit and a vibrant fresh finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		POA
------	--	--	-----

KELLER-Kiste 'von den Großen Lagen'

2018	Very special: a twelve-bottle GG case containing two bottles each of Abtserde GG and Kirchspiel GG, three bottles each of Hubacker GG and Morstein GG, and one bottle each of G-Max and Hipping GG. <i>Very limited quantities. Wooden case. Shipment Spring/Summer 2020.</i>	12-bottle case	POA
------	---	----------------	-----

Schubertslay trocken [37 19]

2018	The first from the estate's new vineyard in the Mosel, taken over from Julian Haart. Not tasted. <i>Drink 2021 - 2038</i>		POA
------	---	--	-----

Nierstein Hipping Kabinett Prince Louis [35 19]

2018	OK, so it's not a dry wine, but we just received our allocation, so who's complaining? It is the Christening wine of Prince Louis Windsor. Not tasted. <i>Drink 2020 - 2034</i>		POA
------	---	--	-----

Knewitz Appenheim (Rheinhessen)

Rheinhessen is a land of rolling hills, so the long, very even slope facing due south seems out of the ordinary. Which it is: forty million years ago it was a coral reef in a prehistoric sea. It is almost pure limestone, and this makes the Knewitz wines particularly rich and taut.

Tobias Knewitz took over the estate from his father in 2009 and is one of the rising stars of this exciting region. Together with his brother he produces superbly crafted Rieslings and excellent Chardonnays. He believes in long ageing on the lees, and bottles two of his top dry Rieslings a year after most other growers.

In 2018 he has produced a set of taut, mineral-driven wines of considerable longevity.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Goldberg [15 19]

2018	From a warmer site, with a higher clay content in the soil. The fruit is rich and fat, but there is a cooling smooth stony minerality and a brisk lemony acidity that keeps it pure, lean and elegant. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£108
------	--	--	------

Steinacker [18 19]

2018	Red soils give a herbal, crisp lemony wine with notes of fresh nettles and redcurrants to go with the ripe yellow orchard fruit, and as the vineyard name suggests, there is a powerful stony finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£144
------	---	--	------

Hundertgulden [19 19]

2018	So named because of the prices it once fetched, this vineyard is made up of chalky loam on a limestone base. It is a precise, finely wrought, lean and flinty wine with fresh herb notes, vibrant citrus acidity and a long, lean and very smooth salty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2031</i>		£144
------	---	--	------

Wittmann Westhofen (Rheinhessen)

Wittmann is based in Westhofen, the heart of southern Rheinhessen, surrounded by some of the region's best vineyards. The Wittmans are not exactly newcomers to the area, having made wine here since 1663, and perhaps this gives them a sense of responsibility for the soils in their vineyards: they were pioneers in adopting organic methods in 1990. A conversion to biodynamism followed in 2004, and Philip Wittmann reports that his wines now have even more character and depth. The estate makes wine from a number of varieties, but predominantly Riesling. Most holdings are in Westhofen, but like their colleague Klaus-Peter Keller, they also have vineyards in Nierstein.

In 2018 Philipp Wittmann had fewer drought problems than others. The vineyards in Westhofen are well supplied with water, as the hillside is the source for a well in the town. It helps that the clay-rich topsoil is water retentive, particularly as it rained at the right time in July and August. The other problem, of heat, was dealt with by avoiding leaf plucking, so as to keep bunches in the shade. He reported that the limestone base in his vineyards gives coolness to wines, which compensates for the warmth of the vintage. His GGs this year are outstanding – clear, precise, restrained and fine.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Aulerde GG [16 19]

2018	The warmest site in the estate's portfolio, with rich marl soils on a sandy clay base. The vines were planted in 1951. This is forward, ripe, pure and accessible, with lovely lemony intensity and brightness, very juicy yellow fruit, smoky mineral flavours and long hot salty length. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£162
------	---	--	------

Kirchspiel GG [17 19]

2018	Situated just above the Aulerde in a shallow east-facing amphitheatre which catches the first sun, the soil is mostly limestone with some loam. This is a wine of depth and power, with pure vibrant cool green fruit, a note of spice, brisk lemon flavours and good salty length. <i>Drink 2021 - 2029</i>		£204
------	--	--	------

Brunnenhäuschen GG [18 19]

2018	A south-facing vineyard, with a soil rich in iron-oxide, it gets a lot of sun, but a west wind prevents the grapes from ripening too quickly, and it is harvested after the Kirchspiel. There are lots of red fruits – redcurrants and strawberries – in a dense wine with vibrant citrus flavours and there is a very, very elegant fine salty finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2033</i>		£258
------	--	--	------

Morstein GG [19 19]

2018	The coolest vineyard in the line-up, with clay soil on a rocky limestone base giving a powerful rich wine that will need time to unfold. Always the most backward in the line-up, it is seamless, ripe and long, with a melting intensity and lots of weight, effortlessly supported by a finely wrought salty mineral structure and a very long finish indeed. <i>Drink 2023 - 2035</i>		£258
------	--	--	------

PFALZ

Bernhart Schweigen-Rechtenbach

Like his colleague Johannes Jülg, Gerd Bernhart's best vineyards are across the border in Alsace – over eleven hectares of his seventeen. As a result, he cannot declare some of his best wines as GG, since that designation can only be applied to vineyards in Germany. He specialises in Pinot Noir and Pinot Blanc, and makes a fine Chardonnay.

The wines are released a year later than those of other estates, hence we offer the 2016s. They are pure, ripe and powerful.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Spätburgunder [37 17]

2016	One of the best value Pinots around. There is ripe round strawberry fruit, firm tannins and an earthy smoky finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2023</i>		£45
------	--	--	-----

Spätburgunder 'S' Sonnenberg FG [31 18]

2016	From the Finstergasse ('dark alley') vineyard, where warm rich clay soils on a limestone base give a ripe, open wine with deep raspberry fruit, a hint of smoke and elegant soft tannins. <i>Drink 2021 - 2027</i>		£102
------	--	--	------

Spätburgunder Sonneberg 'RG' [28 18]

2016	From the estate's best site, Rädling, composed of marl soils rich in limestone. It gives a very rich, powerful wine with great reserves of energy, showing cherry fruit, very fine, juicy tannins framed by new wood, and smooth mineral flavours on the long finish. Will reward time in bottle. <i>Drink 2022 - 2032</i>		£186
------	--	--	------

Dengler-Seyler Maikammer (Pfalz)

Matthias Seyler had a background in business, but he married the girl next door, who happened to have a wine estate, so he retrained and now they run it together. Maikammer is one of the principal wine-growing villages in the Southern Pfalz, with a history of viticulture dating back to Roman times. At Dengler-Seyler, a wide variety of soils allows many different varieties to be grown successfully, and there is minimal intervention in the cellar to allow the *terroirs* to shine through.

Matthias Seyler was lucky: in early 2018 he bought a second press to speed up processing of the grapes. As ripening accelerated during the harvest, this proved an invaluable tool, allowing him to pick and press each parcel at optimum ripeness. This year he pressed whole bunches of half of each *cuvée*, which provided freshness, and macerated the other half, which gave structure. Picking began early, on 23rd August.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Im Obern Weinspar [12 19]

2018	From fifty-year-old vines in limestone-gravel soil. There is always a breeze here, particularly welcome in a hot summer, not only for the vineyard workers but also to keep the wine fresh! This has cool, aromatics, with a green note underpinning the yellow fruit, and there is a lively citrus zing lasting to the delicately salty finish. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£78
------	--	--	-----

Am Heiligen Berg [14 19]

2018	From heavier soils with more clay in the limestone-gravel mix. This is a powerful wine, with intense pithy grapefruit and ripe pear and apple fruit framed by delicate floral notes, finishing smoothly on a long rich bitter stony note. <i>Drink 2020 - 2026</i>		£78
------	--	--	-----

Jülg Schweigen-Rechtenbach (Pfalz)

Weingut Jülg is a stone's throw from the French border, and half its vineyards are in Alsace. A further French connection is the young winemaker Johannes's spell under Thierry Brouin at Domaine des Lambrays, which taught him to focus on complexity and elegance rather than obvious primary fruit. He also spent seven years working at top German estates, including Weingut Keller, before returning home in 2011, when his father handed him the reins of the twenty-hectare family estate. His primary focus has been to improve work in the vineyard with new French clones and denser planting, and resulting wines have become finer and more balanced, with impressive Riesling and superb Pinot Noir.

The shifting frontier between Germany and France has resulted in many Schweigen-Rechtenbach growers owning vineyards on both sides of the border. This has caused difficulty in classification: although they can make wine from French grapes and sell it as German, they are unable to use French vineyard names on German bottlings, so cannot, for example, declare GGs from them. Just as confusing is the expansion of the commune's best vineyards, the four-hectare Sonnenberg, to a *Grosslage*, meaning that almost all the wines from the town can be labelled with its name even when they are miles away.

Each year Johannes Jülg's wines get finer and more expressive, but he made a big leap in 2017. They are among the best German Pinots we tasted this year.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Spätburgunder [18 19]

2017	From vines around Schweigen-Rechtenbach, half of them in France. The fruit is from young vines, or older ones in less favoured sites. The fruit is dark and tinged with violets, there is freshness, intensity and fine tannins, and the finish is long and satisfying. Hard to think of a better bargain for the quality. <i>Drink 2020 - 2024</i>		£54
------	--	--	-----

Spätburgunder Sonnenberg [35 19]

2017	From the original Sonnenberg vineyard in Germany. Vines planted in steep sandy loam soils on a limestone base give a rich, pure plummy wine with depth and power and fine, fresh tannins. <i>Drink 2021 - 2026</i>		£93
------	---	--	-----

Spätburgunder Sonnenberg 'WB' [36 19]

2017	From 25-year-old vines in Wormberg vineyard, across the border in France. A warm, inviting strawberry and spice nose leads to a firm, fresh, fleshy wine with intense red fruit, ripe tannins and a balancing stoniness. <i>Drink 2021 - 2026</i>		£114
------	---	--	------

Spätburgunder Sonnenberg 'KB'

2017	The Kammerberg is the estate's best vineyard, on a gentle south-facing limestone-rich slope overlooking Wissembourg. The vines are young, but already showing real class: there is intense crushed raspberry and spiced plum fruit, delicately wrought but with tensile strength, firm but fine tannins giving balance, and a wonderfully fresh, fruity mineral-tinged finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2028</i>		£174
------	---	--	------

Spätburgunder Sonnenberg 'Opus Oscar'

2017	The best vines from the Kammerberg give a delicately perfumed nose of strawberry and violets, and breathtaking finesse, depth of flavour and richness in the mouth, backed by firm fine tannins and a juicy crushed raspberry and mineral finish. Will reward cellaring. <i>Drink 2021 - 2030</i>		£450
------	--	--	------

Georg Mosbacher Forst (Pfalz)

Sabine Mosbacher and Jürgen Düringer are based in the heart of the best area of the Pfalz, and the estate now comprises 20 hectares. 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 Mosbachers were lucky in 2018: they saw healthy amounts of rain in June, which reduced the impact of the ensuing drought, and they have a high proportion of old vines, which cope with drought better than young ones. They kept the canopy shorter so the vines needed less water, and protected their fruit by reducing leaf-plucking to a minimum. The harvest of very healthy yellow grapes began on 27th August and turned out to be the earliest and longest in the estate's history. The Mosbachers made many passes through their vineyards, carefully selecting ripe grapes, which were cooled with dry ice, and discarding those that showed any signs of water-stress, finishing on 8th October. There was less pre-fermentation maceration, and the wines are clean, pure and fruity.

PER CASE OF 6 IB

Ungeheuer GG [44 19]

2018	Ungeheuer means monster, and the wines from this vineyard are often monumental. But the power is easily handled by the vibrant yellow fruit and beautifully fine citrus acidity, joined by a little oak and a big hit of tightly wound salty minerality on the long finish. There is a lovely energy here, a flowing ripeness and purity that makes it particularly appealing. <i>Drink 2021 - 2036</i>		£138
------	---	--	------

Freundstück GG [42 19]

2018	Very old vines give a smooth vibrant wine with rounded grapefruit and ripe pear fruit, lots of zingy freshness and a very stony finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2036</i>		£138
------	--	--	------

Jesuitengarten GG [45 19]

2018	A very elegant, juicy rich wine, with bags of yellow fruit, pointed citrus acidity and a very fine mineral vein. There is a good deal of oak here, which will take time to be digested, but there is more than enough wine to do the job. <i>Drink 2021 - 2039</i>		£144
------	--	--	------

Langenmorgen GG [46 19]

2018	A new addition to the portfolio. Organically farmed vines planted in multicoloured sandstone in the best part of the vineyard give a powerful, rounded wine with ripe juicy apple and pear fruit, a lovely smooth salinity and a rounded seamlessly fine finish. <i>Drink 2021 - 2039</i>		£144
------	---	--	------

Terms of Business

Please see our website www.howardripley.com for our full terms and conditions

This list cancels all previous lists. This list and its contents are © Howard Ripley Limited.
E. & O.E. September 2019

HOWARD RIPLEY WINES

18 Madrid Road
London SW13 9PD
Tel: 020 8748 2608
Fax: 020 8741 7244

adrian.burns@howardripley.com
zigmars.grinbergs@howardripley.com
sebastian.thomas@howardripley.com

www.HowardRipley.com