



Wine Spectator

BUYING GUIDE – January 2007

Germany

Kabinett / Mosel-Saar-Ruwer

93 – 2005 Reinhold Haart Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Piesporter Goldtröpfchen – 61 cases in stock CA

Smooth & creamy, this Riesling is balanced by a lovely structure. Harmonious, with peach, lime and slate flavors and a hint of vanilla. Very enticing, with a long after taste of mineral. Drink now through 2018. 300 cases made. –B.S.

93 – 2005 Karthäuserhof Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Eitelsbacher Kathäuserhofberg – 2 cases in stock CA

Lithe & racy, this is full of lime and mineral flavors. A bit jangled now, but has the delicacy and crispness that make Mosel kabinetts so special. Fine length. Give this time. Best from 2008 through 2018. 250 cases imported. –B.S.

92- 2005 Fritz Haag Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Brauneberger Juffer-

Well-delineated and racy, with lime, floral and slate notes, this is a textbook kabinett. Light-weight, yet packed with flavor. Subtle balance, with length & harmony. Drink now through 2015. –B.S.

92- 2005 von Hövel Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Oberemmelener Hütte-

Has an extra level of ripeness, along with a creamy texture. Lemon pie, vanilla, pear and mineral flavors combine with the firm structure for balance. Long and fresh on the finish. Drink now through 2018. -B.S.

92- 2005 Schloss Lieser Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer -

Lively, with an airy texture. The lime and mineral notes have concentration and persist from start to finish. Through rich, it retains a sense of elegance. Nice stony aftertaste. Drink now though 2018. –B.S.

92- 2005 Bert Simon (Herrenberg) Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Serrig Herrenberg –

Loads of spice and mineral highlight the peach and lime flavors, allied to a creamy texture, with racy structure underneath. Light-weight and intense, with great potential and long finish of Eastern spice and stone. Best from 2008 through 2018. 1,000 cases made.-B.S.

92- 2005 J. Wegeler Erben Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Wehlener Sonnenuhr -40 cases available 4/4/07 / More available in Germany

Ripe & juicy, with tangerine, lime and mineral aromas and flavors. Shuts down a little, needing time to integrate, yet all the components are in the right place. Finishes long. Best from 2008 through 2018, 250 cases made.-B.S.

91- 2005 Robert Eymael (Mönchhof) Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Ürziger Würtzgarten – 139 cases in stock CA

A beauty, with both intensity and cut. More unevolved than others. This offers grapefruit, peach and mineral flavors matched to a keen acidity. Good lingering finish. Drink now through 2012, 1,000 cases imported.-B.S.

91- 2005 Schloss Lieser Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Brauneberger Juffer -

Ripe and creamy, this mouth filing Riesling evokes key lime pie, with backdrop of slate. Big and slightly hot, with mineral-tinged aftertaste. Drink now through 2015. 100 cases made. – B.S.

91- 2005 Dr. F. Weins-Prüm Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Graacher Domprobst-

Bright, finely detailed and expressive, this white exhibits lime, apple and slate aromas and flavors on a delicate frame. On the drier side for a kabinett, with a refreshing finish. Drink now through 2015. 200 cases imported. –B.S.

89- 2005 Reinhold Haart Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Piesporter-61 cases in stock CA

A bit shy on the nose, this seems muted, though it picks up intensity midpalate through the finish. Lime and grapefruit notes are accented by slate and spice. A little compact for now. Best from 2008 through 2015. 250 cases imported.-B.S.

88- 2005 Bert Simon (Herrenberg) Riesling Kabinett Halbtrocken Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Serrig Würzberg-

A ripe style, with passion fruit, apricot and slate aromas and flavors. Off-dry, with a soft structure that glides to a gentle finish. Drink now through 2012. 200 cases imported.-B.S.

87- 2005 Dr. F Weins-Prüm Riesling Kabinett Feinherb Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Ürziger Würzgarten -

On the dry side and minerally, with apple, citrus and white pepper notes. Bright, but a bit austere. Needs a few months to settle down. Drink now through 2010. 100 cases imported.-B.S.

87- 2005 Dr. F. Weins- Prüm Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Wehlener Sonnenuhr-

Candied berry and citrus notes mark this ripe 2005 Riesling. Starts out nicely, turning awkward mid-palate through the finish. May improve with time, but lacks the purity of the best. Drink now through 2012. 400 cases imported.-B.S.

**Germany
Kabinett / Pfalz**

90- 2005 Reichsrat von Buhl Riesling Kabinett Pfalz Armand- 543 cases in stock CA/ 240 cases available 4/11/07/ 106 cases available 5/16/07

Pungent, this evokes grapefruit and stone notes. Intense and defined by vivid acidity, needing time to harmonize. Ends with refreshing citrus after taste. Best from 2008 through 2014. 2,000 cases imported.-B.S.

90- 2005 Pfeffingen Riesling Kabinett Halbtrocken Pfalz Pfeffo- 40 cases in stock CA/ 40 cases available 4/11/07

A round style, displaying grapefruit, peach and quince notes. On the soft side, but persistent in flavor and balanced. Fine length. Drink now through 2012. 1,000 cases made.-B.S.

**Germany
Kabinett / Rheingau**

91- 2005 Franz Künstler Riesling Kabinett Rheingau Hochheimer Reichstal- 29 cases in stock CA

A touch milky in aroma, then settles into lemon pin and mineral notes. Racy and focused, with good balance and a creamy texture. It's youthful. Good mineral-tinged finish. Best from 2008 through 2018. 400 cases imported.-B.S.

91- 2005 J. Wegeler Erben Riesling Kabinett Rheingau Rudesheimer Berg Schlossberg – 10 cases in stock CA/ 50 cases available 4/4/07 / More available in Germany

Very rip and intense, offering dried pineapple, grapefruit and yuzu notes over an under current of mineral. Balanced and lively, needing some time to knit together. Best from 2008 through 2015. 400 cases made.-B.S.

88- 2005 Franz Künstler Riesling Kabinett Trocken Rheingau Hochheimer Hölle-

Crisp and lively, with mandarin orange, kumquat and mineral notes fusing with the vibrant structure. Delicate and moderately long. Drink now through 2010. 500 cases made. - B.S.

88- 2005 Robert Weil Riesling Kabinett Halbtrocken Rheingau -

Shy in aroma, with delicate peach, grapefruit and spice notes that interplay with the lively acidity. On the dry side, with lingering finish. Drink now through 2012. 250 cases imported.-B.S

**Germany
Kabinett / Other**

93- 2005 Schäfer Fröhlich Riesling Kabinett Nahe-

Broad, rich and creamy, this Riesling evokes complex apple, peach, mango and mineral flavors. Bright and almost seamless. Shows the balance and intensity to develop well. Drink now through 2018. 400 cases imported.-B.S.

90- 2005 Hans Wirshing Riesling Kabinett Trocken Franken Iphöfer Kronsberg- 12 cases in stock CA

White peach, apple, lemon and mineral notes grace this dry Riesling. Well balanced and firm. Fine lingering finish. Drink now through 2012. 50 cases imported.-B.S.

88- 2005 Rudolf Fürst Riesling Kabinett Trocken Franken Bürgstadt Centgrafenberg-

Dry, bracing and spicy offering lemon and mineral flavors. Lean for now with good richness midpalate. Needs a year or so to flesh out. Good length. Best from 2008 through 2012.200 cases made. - B.S.

**Germany
Spätlese / Mosel-Saar-Ruwer**

95- 2005 Joh. Jos. Prüm Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Graacher Himmelreich-

Silky and suave, with violet, lime, mineral and scallion aromas and flavors. Concentrated and graceful. Closed for now, this needs a year or so to open up. But will develop well. Fine class and harmony. Best from 2008 through 2025.1, 000cases made. – B.S.

95- 2005 Joh. Jos. Prüm Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Wehlener Sonnenuhr-

Aromas of lilac and hot slate after a rain segue into vivid peach and lime flavors. Has great definition and grace, with resonant energy and something in reserve. Lovely silky texture. The fine, mineral aftertaste shows ultimate potential. Best from 2008 through 2025. 1,200 cases made.-B.S.

94- 2005 Reinhold Haart Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Piesporter Goldtröpfchen -

Exotic, showing apricot, nectarine and mandarin notes, this is intense and elegant at once. It's shot through with a lovely acidity, keeping it fresh and lively on the long, apricot tinged finish. Drink now through 2020. 200 cases imported.-B.S.

94- 2005 Schloss Lieser Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr-

Gorgeous aromas of flowers, lime and mineral, with intensity and concentration matched by elegance and silky texture. Lovely harmony and balance. Fine finish and after taste that will gain in length after some time in the bottle. Best from 2008 through 2020. 287 cases imported.-B.S.

93- 2005 Reinhold Haart Riesling Spätlese Mosel –Saar-Ruwer Wintricher Ohligsberg-

Rich and broad, with peach, mango, nectarine and slate aromas and flavors mingling together. The structure is covered now, but this is so well balanced it's almost seamless. Fine length and very clean on the finish. Drink now through 2020. 100 cases imported.-B.S.

92- 2005 Robert Eymael (Mönchhof) Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Ürziger Würtzgarten- 75 cases in stock CA / 120cs arriving 5/2/07

Racy, with searing mineral intensity. Apricot and orange notes emerge as this resonates on the palate. Still needs a little time to integrate, but shows great promise. Best from 2008 through 2020. 600 cases imported.- B.S.

92- 2005 Fritz Haag Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr-

Plump and juicy, this Riesling mixes citrus notes of lime and grapefruit with nectarine and mineral. Has a bright acidity, with the youthful exuberance and a mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2018. 200 cases imported.-B.S.

92- 2005 Reinhold Haart Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Piesporter Grafenberg- 23 cases in stock CA

Floral and talcum powder aromas and lime flavor mark this supple Riesling. The citrus acidity keeps it fresh, while the slate element sits just under the surface. Fine length. Drink now through 2018. 100 cases imported.- B.S.

92- 2005 Milz-Laurentiushof Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Trittenheimer Apotheke- 4 cases in stock CA / More available in Germany

Golden delicious apple, grapefruit and spice notes mingle with the lively acidity in his elegant Spätlese. There's a sense of latent mineral character fine length. Fine harmony. Best from 2008 through 2018. 150 cases made.-B.S.

92 -2005 J. Wegeler Erben Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Bernkasteler Doctor- 18 cases available 4/4/07

Plump and juicy, with a vivid structure setting peach, passion fruit and citrus flavors in relief. Picks up a mineral accent and piquancy on the finish. Drink now through 2018. 250 cases made.-B.S.

91- 2005 Fritz Haag Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Brauneberger Juffer-

Lush, with creamy vanilla and baked apple aromas giving way to citrus. Opulent, yet with a vibrant structure that will shine through with time. So will the mineral character. Drink now through 2018. 100 cases imported. - B.S.

91- 2005 Zilliken Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Saarburger Rausch-

Round, yet offset by piquant acidity, this sports lime, herb and vanilla notes. Borders on creamy, staying fresh and lively on the finish. Delicious midpalate with Granny Smith after taste. Drink now through 2016. 300 cases imported.-B.S.

90- 2005 Robert Eymael (Mönchhof) Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Mosel Slate -91 cases in stock CA/ 70 cases available 3/21/07/ 408 cases available 4/4/07

Soft and succulent, with enough acidity to keep the apricot and mandarin orange flavors focused and lingering. Deceptive in its structure. Delicate. Drink now through 2015. 2,000 cases imported. - B.S.

90- 2005 von Hovel Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Oberemmelmer Hütte- 85 cases in stock CA/ 56 cases available 4/11/07

Lime candy marks this tangy white, whose rich texture and citrus acidity keeps it focused and present. A touch soft with a fine lingering finish. Drink now through 2016. 600 cases made.-B.S.

90- 2005 Karthäuserhof Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg- 6 cases in stock CA/ 28 cases available 4/4/07

Still closed, with some carbonic gas lifting the apple and peach flavors. Rich midpalate with well intergraded acidity. Slim, yet ripe and crisp on the finish. Best from 2008 through 2016. 200 cases imported.-B.S.

90- 2005 J. Wegeler Erben Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Wehlener Sonnenuhr- 18 cases in stock CA

Ripe with an open airy texture setting the stage for peach and lime flavors. Balanced and elegant with a mineral element emerging on the finish. Drink now through 2015. 200 cases imported.-B.S.

90- 2005 Dr. F. Weins-Prüm Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Wehlener Sonnenuhr- 24 cases in stock CA

The racy structure is matched by richness in this elegant Riesling, framing the peach, lime and slate flavors nicely. Delicate and nimble, with refreshing finish. Best from 2008 through 2018. 250 cases imported.-B.S.

90- 2005 Dr. F. Weins-Prüm Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Graacher Himmelreich-

Exotic, showing coconut, honey and apricot flavors. Open and rich with a fine structure. Will need time to harmonize. Fine length. Best from 2008 through 2020.50 cases imported.-B.S.

**Germany
Spätlese / Nahe**

94- 2005 Schafer Fröhlich Riesling Spätlese Gold Cap Nahe Bockenauer Felseneck-

A touch reduced for now, but this is complex and mineral driven. Creamy in texture, displaying apricot, nectarine, vanilla and stone notes. Beautifully balanced, revealing layers of flavor through the mouthwatering finish, all on a delicate frame. Drink now through 2020. 150 cases made.-B.S.

93- 2005 Schafer Fröhlich Riesling Spätlese Nahe Bockenauer Felseneck-

A terrific Spätlese, with a kaleidoscope of berry, lime, sweet corn and mineral aromas and flavors that mingle with the elegant harmony and lingering citrus and mineral after taster. Drink now through 2020. 200 cases imported.-B.S.

**Germany
Spätlese / Pfalz & Rheinhessen**

93- 2005 Gunderloch Riesling Spätlese Rheinhessen Nackenheim Rothenberg -114 cases in stock CA

An intense Spätlese, exhibiting a piercing smoke and herb scent backed by apricot and pineapple flavors. Rich yet elegant with well intergraded acidity and a mouth watering finish. Drink now through 2018. 400 cases imported. - B.S

90- 2005 Pfeffingen Riesling Spätlese Pfalz Ungsteiner Herrenberg- 1 case and 11 bottles in stock CA/ 33 cases available 4/11/07

A lanolin, almost nutty, aroma and flavor suggest malolactic fermentation in this broad white. Apple and grapefruit notes complete the flavor spectrum. Rip, with a firm acidity that keeps it focused through the finish. Best from 2008 through 2018. 100 cases imported.-B.S.

Germany Spätlese / Rheingau

94 - 2005 Franz Künstler Riesling Spätlese Rheingau Hochheimer Kichenstuck-

Succulent, this starts out lush and ripe, and then the structure emerges. These components frame the apricot, peach and mandarin notes, with any mineral sub merged. Fine length, very classy. Drink now through 2020. 150 cases imported.-B.S.

94- 2005 Robert Weil Riesling Spätlese Rheingau Kiedrich Grafenberg- 11 cases available 4/4/07

More like an auslese, displaying pure apricot and nectarine aromas and flavors. Retains a sense of elegance, with support from the firm structure. The mineral character emerges on the finish. Drink now through 2022. 100 cases imported.-B.S.

91- 2005 Robert Weil Riesling Spätlese Rheingau-

Has an added dimension of ripeness and concentration. Apricot, peach and lemon notes mingle with the bright acidity. Overall, starts better than it finishes. Drink now through 2018. 100 cases imported.-B.S.

Germany Dry

92- 2005 Gunderloch Riesling Qualitätswein Rheinhessen Nackenheim Rothenberg- 14 cases in stock CA / 10 cases available 4/18/07

A juicy delicious dry-style Riesling, offering plenty of juicy peach and passion fruit flavors underscored by mineral. Very harmonious, this handles its weight well and lingers nicely on the finish. Drink now through 2012. 300 cases made.-B.S.

91- 2005 Karthäuserhof Riesling Spätlese Trocken Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg-

Dry, with terrific balance between the juicy peach and spice flavors, the bright structure and the alcohol. The slate core lurks beneath it all. Fine length. Drink now through 2012. 100 cases imported.-B.S.

91- 2005 Hans Wirsching Riesling Spätlese Trocken Franken Iphöfer Julius-Echter-Berg-

Lovely passion fruit, citrus and mineral aromas and flavor marks this bracing, elegant white. Balanced and long, though it will benefit from a year or so in the bottle. Drink now through 2012. 50 cases imported.-B.S.

90- 2005 Rudolf Fürst Riesling Spätlese Trocken Franken Bürgstadt Centgrafenberg R- 4 cases in stock CA

Bright and focused, offering lemon, apple and stone flavors, a creamy texture and fine balance. Builds to a long, expressive finish. Best from 2008 through 2012. 50 cases made.-B.S.

90- 2005 Ökonomierat Rebholz Riesling Spätlese Trocken Pfalz Vom Buntsnadstein-

Generous and open, but with no shortage of concentration. Rose, grapefruit and white peach flavors are persistent, lingering on the finish. Well-balanced and dry. Drink now through 2012. 500 cases made.-B.S.

90- 2005 Hans Wirsching Riesling Spätlese Trocken Iphöfer Kronsberg- 22 cases in stock CA

Grapefruit is the main theme, with flashes of mineral. A nutty not midpalate. All bound by a vibrant structure. Well-integrated and long. Drink now through 2012. 100 cases imported.-B.S.

89- 2005 Reichsrat von Buhl Riesling Spätlese Trocken Pfalz Von Buhl- 21 cases in stock CA / 48 cases available 4/11/07

Dry yet succulent, exhibiting grapefruit and spice flavors on a racy spine of acidity. Most of the intensity is up front with a juicy finish. Drink now through 2010. 200 cases imported.-B.S.

89- 2005 Ökonomierat Rebholz Riesling Spätlese Trocken Pfalz Vom Rotliegend- 8 cases in stock CA

Medium to full bodied, with grapefruit peel and apple flavors. Has a creamy texture, slightly milky even with the good underlying acidity and minerality. Needs time. Best from 2008 through 2012. 200 cases made.-B.S.

88- 2005 Schäfer Fröhlich Riesling Spätlese Trocken Nahe Bockenauer Felseneck-

Shows fruity aromas of peach and honeydew melon, then surprises with its dryness on the palate. Vivid and peppery, with a light citrus finish. Drink now through 2010. 50 cases imported.-B.S.