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2019 Scharlachberg Riesling trocken

Score: 16.5+

Noticeably deeper in colour than both the other Riffel Grosse Lage Rieslings – quite golden, in fact! Unusual for such a young Riesling. Rich nose, a lot more baked apple and pear with a touch of crème brûlée. Feels broader, heavier, fuller, silkier in the mouth than their Kirchberg and Osterberg 2019s. The fruit has more confidence and dominance, and there is a (very fine) cordite smokiness to the wine at the back of the palate. Richer, but the fruit is built around steely lime-and-rocks structure that gives the wine determined length and power. (TC) Drink 2023 – 2030

2019 Kirchberg Riesling trocken

Score: 16.5

White pepper, nectarines nose and then, through the very-youthful tingle of spritz on the palate, you can still pick up that little dusting of white pepper, along with fine-ground cumin and gorse flower. Cold stony limes. There is something of an arched garden pergola about this wine: warm, sunlit yellow florals; cool mossy stones beneath; firm but slender and curved structure, dappled shadows, intentional, leading you through from start to finish. I'd wait at least another six months, if not longer. (TC) Drink 2022 – 2027

2019 Osterberg Riesling trocken

Score: 16

Both crisp and crispy, like apple slices lightly spiced and baked slowly in an oven to crunchiness. Has cream-of-tartar acidity (which, to me, tastes like baobab fruit). Super-dry – the driest of the three Riffel 2019 Grosse Lage Rieslings, and the one in which fruit is but traced on to the acidity with a sharp pencil. All minerals, pebbles, stones. If quartz had a flavour, it would taste like this, laced with lime and white grapefruit. A pale, quiet wine with a bit of a hole in the middle of that ascetic frame. (TC) Drink 2022 – 2025

2019 Binger Weissburgunder Tonmergel trocken

Score: 16

Wonderful, classic Pinot Blanc nuttiness on the nose. Forward-focused acidity with the cashew cream of PB, a little toasted-pecan depth, white pears and very very soft sage. Fills the mouth with clouds of flavour. Soft in its approach, direct in its acidity, subtle in its flavour. Everything in the right place at the right time. (TC) Drink 2021 – 2025

2018 Réserve Chardonnay trocken

Score: 16

White-pepper spiciness on the nose. Subtle but profound spiciness, fine-ground cumin and coriander, cracked black-mustard seed. A broad (but not thick) spread of grainy, creamy baked pear that fills every corner of the palate, soft within the framework but the framework itself is clenched with spun-citrus acidity. A little nip of bitterness on the end. Very young but potential for development in the next couple of years. (TC) Drink 2021 – 2025

2017 Binger Spätburgunder Mariage trocken

Score: 16

Cherries and silk and clean fresh fruit. Cinnamon and apple. Fresh, elegantly traced tobacco-leaf spice wrapped around warm red fruit. (TC) Drink 2020 – 2023

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2019 Réserve Sauvignon Blanc trocken

Score: 15.5++

Very reduced on the nose. Green pepper and nettles and deep-timbred, like the gravelly voice of someone who has been smoking for 50 years. Way too young right now – curled into a very tight fist. Oak and fruit are lying rigidly on opposite sides of the bed. No fusion going on there, at this stage anyway. I'd like to taste a vintage of this with a couple of years on it, to see if it melds or keeps that oaky chastity belt firmly on... I'll give it the benefit of the doubt. (TC) Drink 2023 – 2026

2019 Binger Quarzit Riesling trocken

Score: 15.5

A sylvan little wine that tastes of quicksilver light on a tiny fast-flowing, pebbled forest stream. Mossy rocks and green ferns, green vineyard peaches and a squeeze of lime. Delicate. (TC) Drink 2021 – 2022