

**2020 Binger Scharlachberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese**

**Score: 18.5**

Quite unbidden, a sip of this wine brought tears to my eyes. There is a moment when you stand on the top of a mountain – a thousand meters in the sky, the earth flung beneath you, the glow of light on towering rocks – when there is this exquisite stillness. Words don't fail, they're simply not needed. There is no need to talk about greatness or smallness. There is just a sense of wonder that floods you; a silent roar of wonder. Rather than tell you about what this wine tastes like, I will tell you that it feels just like that. When you taste this wine, you stand on mountain tops. You're sipping wonder. You want to kneel. You almost want to pray. (TC) Drink 2025-2050  
Published 20/10/21

**2020 Binger Osterberg Riesling trocken**

**Score: 17+**

Smells of nectarines on the cusp of ripeness, but not yet there. Sharp, lime-soused stone fruit. Green apples, grey mountain-stream pebbles, white marbles, cold smooth rockiness. A floral smell-taste-flavour that reminds me of Achillea millefolium. A little bit of a wild child, like the wild flower you find growing in impossibly rocky soil halfway up the mountain; delicate beauty bravely blooming, tucked into the scree. (TC) Drink 2023-2031  
Published 20/09/21

**2020 Binger Kirchberg Riesling trocken**

**Score: 17**

Stony and intent. Incredibly taut, clenched, polished-metal minerality. The structure of this is like a gleaming steel sculpture against a grey sky, glistening with thunderstorm rain. White pepper, cardamom, tight lime and an almost-not-quite-there trace of smoke. Bones and stones – a wine that seems to be tracing a glacial river path down the sheer side of a rocky mountain. You can almost taste that green-white tumble and roar of snow water. (TC) Drink 2024-2030  
Published 20/09/21

**2020 Binger Scharlachberg Riesling Kabinett**

**Score: 17**

If you've ever tasted a glass of homemade lemonade - the most delicious sort, made with love, spring water, ripe lemons and by someone with an unerring instinct for balance. An absolute delight. Delicate, so summery it could practically be wearing a floating dress of lime flowers. A bit of spritz, spangled with tingling acidity, lime and lavender honey. This is devastatingly pretty. I could drink the whole bottle! But don't be deceived; it's far from simple. (TC) Drink 2021-2026  
Published 25/07/21

**2020 Binger Scharlachberg Riesling trocken**

**Score: 16.5++**

So much more towering and tensile than the 2018! Lime juice wrapped in steel wreathed in smoke. So structural, it's almost like swallowing a magnificent suspension bridge that rises up above you out of the fog. Tastes like the ancient gleam of pewter, the soft-hard intent and ambition of platinum. There's a glimpse of green peach, a glimpse of sorrel. But right now this wine is a relentless focus of piercing, hard-lined geometry. And I don't know if there might be small component of skin contact, but the texture is so powerfully tactile that it's almost as if there is a smudge of tannins. (TC) Drink 2024-2032  
Published 20/09/21

**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 Published 15/01/21

**2020 Binger Weißburgunder & Chardonnay trocken**

**Score: 16.5+**

Really nutty – this is cashews and blanched hazelnuts and sweet walnuts with a grating of white-green apple and the lightest touch of sweet fennel fronds and chervil herbs. Lightly spring-green grassy. Smells, tastes, like a cool morning. Earth and ferns. A meadow stream coming down from the mountains. Tiny wild flowers. An unusual blend and unusual delicacy for both these varieties. Something even alpine about the wine. I'd love to try this with a mountain cheese. (TC) Drink 2022-2027 Published 20/10/21

**2020 Silvaner Réserve trocken**

**Score: 16.5**

Apples and hay. Fragrant but not trying to charm. A little spicy; almonds dipped in lemon barley water. Raw hazelnuts. Firm, citrusy bitterness. A samphire-savoury, quinine-like salt-n-citrus wine that's as bracing as a walk along a wind-swept coastline in winter. (TC) Drink 2022-2025 Published 20/10/21

**2020 Chardonnay Réserve trocken**

**Score: 16.5**

White pepper, white pears and peppery florals. Tense and pretty racy, although the fruit is deep and ripe – grainy golden pears, guava, spicy apples. I can feel the oak on this more than I could on the Silvaner Réserve, but the fruit has more shoulder and shunt so it holds it well. It also has an innate wet-chalk minerality that is somehow incredibly thirst-quenching. Elegant white-pepper-spiced finish. Not remotely French, very much of its own place, but also true to the varietal. Bravo! (TC) Drink 2022-2028 Published 20/10/21

**2018 Binger Spätburgunder »Mariage« trocken**

**Score: 16.5**

Spiced strawberry nose. Mille-feuille layers of strawberry-coulis sweetness and woody-mushroom savouriness. Tannins that feel and taste like mandolined tree bark. Refined and restrained. An introverted Pinot, but not without presence. This has a sure sense of place and purpose, a clarity of fruit, and an elegant, dry finish. (TC) Drink 2021-2028 Published 20/10/21

**Riesling Sekt demi-sec**

**Score: 16.5**

Smells a little bit like apple-stuffed brioche. Baked-apple gentleness; lime zest, Danish pastry and a slim but firm buzz of bubbles. There is sweetness but it's very far from sweet – more sweetness of fruit than dosage. Charming. Breakfast wine! (TC) Drink 2021-2023 Published 20/10/21

**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 Published 15/01/21

**2020 Rosengarten Riesling feinherb**

**Score: 16.5**

Peaches, gorse blossom, strawberries and the ripest of gooseberries. Feinherb, but this is on the dry end of medium dry. Very pretty, liling, like a fruit salad of ripe peach and raspberries with a handful of chopped spearmint and basil. Like two little girls in fairy dresses dancing silly giggle dances on the lawn. (TC) Drink 2021 – 2025 Published 25/07/21

**2020 Pinot Noir Rosé trocken**

**Score: 16.5**

Perfumed. Rose petals and raspberries and strawberry-leaf tea. Red apple in a skein of bitterness, dry and cool-pebble hewn. This has substance. Was surprisingly good with a beef and blue-cheese pie. (TC) Drink 2021 – 2023 Published 25/07/21

**2019 Binger Bubenstück Pinot Noir Réserve trocken**

**Score: 16.5**

Pure on the nose - cherries, the smell of a mid-summer strawberry patch, sweetness in sunlight. On the palate, the fruit - still ripe, still pure - sits under a veil of cedary oak. Fine tannins press with very, very gentle insistence, more to remind you that they're there than to make a statement or define the wine. A moderate, unobtrusive but perfectly collected Pinot. (TC) Drink 2021 – 2026 Published 25/07/21

**2020 Binger Silvaner Quarzit trocken**

**Score: 16.5**

Smells of cold green apples and lemony goat's curd. Deliciously ripe but still super-crisp and crunchy: green apples, yellow pear, mirabelle plum and borage leaf dipped in lemon sherbet. Almost fizzing with energy (metaphorically speaking, not literally). Sheer delight in a glass. This tastes of spring. (TC) Drink 2021-2023 Published 20/09/21

**Zero alcoholfree Riesling**

**Score: 16.5**

Usually, for an alcohol-free wine, this actually smells like Riesling. And tastes like Riesling! Lime, white tea, a touch of peach-juice sweetness. Even a decent finish. One of the better alcohol-free wines I've tasted! I'd thoroughly recommend! (TC) Drink now Published 25/07/21

**2020 Orange Naked trocken**

**Score: 16**

Pale cloudy lemon color. Like white grapefruit blitzed in a blender, skin, pith, pips and all. Smoky. Bitter, citrus sours, white almonds, lemon thyme. You could make a palate-cleansing granite out of this! It makes more sense with food than without – the acidity is challenging, to say the least. But despite being challenging, it's interesting. Salty finish. (TC) Drink 2021-2022 Published 20/10/21

**2020 Binger Riesling Quarzit trocken**

**Score: 16**

The Silvaner Binger Quarzit smelt of green apples; the Riesling Binger Quarzit smells of golden apples. And orchard blossom. Fresh, breezy, with a tiny bit of petillance on the tongue. Whippet-thin but not bony. Plenty of mouth-watering white fruit. (TC) Drink 2021-2024 Published 20/09/21

**2019 Binger 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 Published 15/01/21

**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 Published 15/01/21

**2019 Chardonnay Réserve 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 Published 15/01/21

**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 Published 15/01/21

**2019 Sauvignon Blanc Réserve 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 Published 15/01/21

**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 Published 15/01/21

**2020 Riesling trocken**

**Score: 15.5**

Limey, dry and pert. Clean, articulate, pizzicato. Lovely with soft, lemony goat's cheese on a stick of celery. (TC) Drink 2021 – 2023 Published 25/07/21

**2020 Silvaner trocken**

**Score: 15.5**

This reminds me, in an unexpected way, of Mauzac. Elderflowers, kohlrabi, borage leaf, lanolin. Soft, creamy acidity, like plump balls of cotton wool dipped in lemon yogurt. This is, quite possibly, the most perfect wine for asparagus and poached egg. (TC) Drink 2021 – 2023 Published 25/07/21

**2020 Weißburgunder trocken**

**Score: 15.5**

Still hard-candy pineapple-flavoured notes on the nose and palate. Very young. Nice fruit if totally lacking in the complexity, weight and richness that German Weissburgunder is capable of. Just a fresh, perfectly nice quaffer. (TC) Drink 2021 – 2022 Published 25/07/21

**2020 Grauburgunder trocken**

**Score: 15.5**

A touch of rose petal, orange cream, lemon curd – cupped in a curve of pithy bitterness, some hazelnut skin and a cardamom-scented dust of icing sugar. Probably the most interesting of their entry-level 2020 wines. Lovely with soft English goat's cheese. (TC) (TC) Drink 2021 – 2023 Published 25/07/21

**2020 Scheurebe & Sauvignon blanc trocken**

**Score: 15.5**

Green gooseberries on steroids! A whiff of cat pee on the nose, but the palate leans back towards fruit – although there is the iron-and-green character of spinach and the sharp tang of sorrel in there as well. Gooseberries, passion fruit, spritz and pink-grapefruit acidity. Playful, and rather nice with a Moroccan-style fennel, mint and orange salad. (TC) Drink 2021 – 2022 Published 25/07/21

**2020 Rosé trocken**

**Score: 15.5**

Medium coral pink. Very, very slightly spritzzy. Dry, crunchy, apple skin, redcurrants, lemon. Light on its feet. Simple but elegant. (TC) Drink 2021-2022 Published 25/07/21