



*VDP. Wine Auction*  
on the Nahe

*History / The Wines 2026*

## GREETINGS

I can't remember when I first wrote or said that Riesling is the best white wine grape in the world. It was so long ago that it may even have been in the midst of the Chardonnay craze of the 1980s, so some people may have thought I was crazy.



© Colin Hampden-White

Anyway, who's laughing now? When I first said that, admittedly not all German wines were outstanding. And the first dry Rieslings of the modern era were certainly not sublime. But the variety and quality of German Rieslings available today is truly breathtaking. Lucky bidders at auction get some of the best examples in all styles, from feather-light Kabinett wines to magnificent GROSSE GEWÄCHSE to some of the finest nectars in the world.

One of my greatest joys today is seeing how Germany has developed into a great red wine producer. When I think back to the sweet, grey-pink wines that were my first experience of Spätburgunder almost 50 years ago, I would never have believed that so many German winemakers would rival Burgundy.

*Jancis Robinson MW*

## THREE QUESTIONS FROM DR. STEFAN PEGATZKY TO MICHAEL PRINZ ZU SALM-SALM

**Stefan Pegatzky:** When you are seen at a VDP auction, people might think that you are having the most fun that day.

**Michael Prinz zu Salm-Salm:** That impression is deceptive; an auction is extremely stressful. The spotlight is terribly dazzling, and I cannot make a single mistake!

**Stefan Pegatzky:** Why do you still put yourself through this?

**Michael Prinz zu Salm-Salm:** It has to do with responsibility, which is in our family's blood. I have withdrawn from almost all other offices in recent years. But I am so attached to the auction that I don't want to stop yet.



**Stefan Pegatzky:** But hopefully you still have a little fun?

**Michael Prinz zu Salm-Salm:** I am what others call a 'show-off'. Although I hope I have a little more elegance than the usual category. And I love interacting with people. Especially, of course, when it comes to top wines.

*Michael Prinz Salm-Salm has been the honorary auctioneer of the wine auction in Bad Kreuznach since 2018. The long-standing president of the Association of German Prädikat Wine Estates (VDP) managed the family winery in Wallhausen until handing it over to his son Felix.*

## THE VDP AUCTION IN BAD KREUZNACH

“Going once, going twice - sold!” Even those who only know auctions from the internet know how exciting they can be. After all, each purchase here is unique. The products on offer are very limited or even one-of-a-kind, and the behavior of potential buyers is unpredictable. Expectations are also raised at a “wet wine auction” by the opportunity to taste the auction wines in advance. Many a wine lover has lost their heart to one or another of these wines, but has hardly ever regretted it when they subsequently bought the object of their desire at auction. Even though it is of course also possible to bid online at the VDP auction on the Nahe, a unique atmosphere unfolds on site at the Römerhalle Museum in Bad Kreuznach. However, few of those present know how closely the creation of top wines is linked to the history of wine auctions – especially on the Nahe.



## THE CRADLE OF EXCELLENCE

Wine auctions on the Nahe have a tradition dating to the 18th century. In the 19th century, renowned wineries in particular used auctions, including prior tasting in the spring, to sell higher-quality wines from the previous year, while sales conditions for simpler wines were agreed with retailers immediately after the harvest. In 1912, the “Verein der Naturweinversteigerer an der Nahe e.V.” (Association of Natural Wine Auctioneers on the Nahe) was founded in Kreuznach, the “soul of vine culture on the Nahe” (Heinrich Wilhelm Dahlen, 1895). August Schulte, director of the Provincial Teaching Institute in Bad Kreuznach, recognized early on that winegrowers needed to join forces in order to gain a stronger position vis-à-vis the trade. In 1902, he founded the Winegrowers’ Association for the Nahe and Glan and, in 1905, initiated joint wine auctions for Nahe winegrowers in Kreuznach that were held from then on. In 1912, he was the driving force behind the founding of the Association of Natural Wine Auctioneers on the Nahe.

Verein der Naturweinversteigerer  
an der Nahe e. V.



Verband deutscher Naturwein-Versteigerer.

# Naturwein-Versteigerungen in Kreuznach.

Der  
Verein der Naturwein-Versteigerer a. d. Nahe  
versteigert  
am 7., 8., 9. u. 10. Mai 1912, jedesmal 11 Uhr vormittags  
im Kaisersaale zu Kreuznach (Mühlenstr.)

die nachstehend verzeichneten Weine, meist 1911er, sämtlich naturrein und eigenes Wachstum bzw. eigene Kelterung der Versteigerer, aus guten und besten Lagen der Nahe. Der 1911er ist wie im Rheingau so auch an der Nahe ganz vorzüglich geraten. Unter den zum Ausgebot kommenden Weinen finden sich solche in mittleren Preislagen bis zu höchsten Spitzen. Naturreine Naheweine sind nicht schwer, sondern frisch, würzig und blumig mit feinem Fruchtgeschmack.

Es versteigern:

**Dienstag, 7. Mai**  
**Karl Voigtländer, Weingut Rotenfels, Münster a. St.:**  
10 Halbstück 1910er, 26 Stück, 42 Halbstück 1911er Rotenfels, Altenbamberger, Norheimer, Niederhäuser und Schloss Böckelheimer, lagernd in Münster a. St.

**Mittwoch, 8. Mai**  
**1. E. Puricelli'sche Gutsverwaltung, Bretzenheim:**  
13 Stück, 10 Halbstück 1909er, 6 Stück, 5 Halbst 1910er Bretzenheimer, Winzenheimer, Kreuznacher, Langenlonsheimer, Heddesheimer, lagernd in Bretzenheim.  
**2. Martin Traurich-Delius, Kreuznach:**  
26 Stück, 5 Halbstück, 2 Viertelstück 1911er Gutenberger, Hüffelsheimer, Rüdesheimer, Winzenheimer, Kreuznacher, Norheimer, lagernd in Kreuznach.

**Donnerstag, 9. Mai**  
**1. Karl Stumpf, Kreuznach:**  
28 Stück, 4 Halbstück 1911er Mandeler, Gutenberger, Rüdesheimer, Ebernburger, Kreuznacher, Roxheimer, Winzenheimer, Norheimer, lagernd in Kreuznach.  
**2. Rittergutsbesitzer Hermann Stoeck, Kreuznach:**  
46 Halbstück 1911er Schloss Kauzenberger, lagernd auf Schloss Kauzenberg bei Kreuznach.

**Freitag, 10. Mai**  
**1. Provinzial-Wein- und Obstbauschule, Kreuznach:**  
6 Halbstück 1911er Kreuznacher, lagernd in Kreuznach.  
**2. Karl Ewald, Sobernheim:**  
1 Stück, 13 Halbstück 1911er Monzinger, lagernd in Sobernheim.  
**3. J. Meurin Andernach:**  
13 Halbstück 1911er Edelberger, lagernd in Bingen.  
**4. Königl. Domäne Niederhausen-Schlossböckelheim:**  
27 Halbstück, 2 Viertelstück 1911er Niederhäuser und Schloss Böckelheimer, lagernd in Niederhausen.

Under Schulte's chairmanship, the ten founding members, including the teaching institute, the Royal Domain and the winery of Karl Voigtländer, joined the Association of German Natural Wine Auctioneers, which had been founded two years earlier.

It is a connection that can be described as historic, one that still exists today among the successor organisations, the national VDP and the regional association VDP.Nahe. The very first (four-day!) auction in 1912 was a great success. The “Mitteilungen des deutschen Weinbau-Vereins” (Newsletter of the German Winegrowers’ Association) reported in its June issue: „On 7, 8, 9 and 10 May, the eagerly awaited auctions of the Association of Natural Wine Auctioneers took place on the Nahe. With the exception of a single day, attendance was very high, so that the spacious Kaisersaal auction hall proved almost too small. On the last two days, almost 500 people filled the hall. The highlight of the natural wine auctioneers’ event was the third day, when Mr H. Stoeck, owner of the Kreuznach estate, auctioned off the Schloß Kauzenberger wines and set a new record price for Nahe wines at 12,040 marks per bottle.” For over 25 years, the best wines from the Nahe region were successfully auctioned in Kreuznach by the “Verein der Naturweinversteigerer” (Association of Natural Wine Auctioneers) – until disaster finally struck. The post-war association chairman Egon Anheuser reported that around 1936, the united winegrowers were still able to fend off an attack by the SA (paramilitary organization associated with the Nazi party) on the mostly Jewish wine commission agents. The following year, however, there were no longer any commission agents of the Jewish faith.

Around 1940, auctions ceased due to the war, and in the immediate post-war period, they were no longer permitted because the association had been banned.



*Wine auction in Trier in 1925*



*Auction preview in Bad Kreuznach in the early 1990s*

## A DIFFICULT NEW BEGINNING

After the war, the first meetings of wineries took place in 1946 with the aim of jointly improving the economic situation. In 1948, winery owner Heinrich Ewald, a member of the former natural wine auctioneers’ circle, proposed the founding of the Kreuznach Wine Club (KWC) – but it took until 29 March 1951 before the auction association was re-established. The constitution was based on the last version of the old statutes of the natural wine auctioneers, but the name was changed to “Versteigerungsring der Naheweingüter e. V.” (Auction Ring of Nahe Wine-ries). The membership requirement of producing “naturally pure wines” was changed to “quality wines”. Even though the statutes were not signed by the seven founding members until February 1954 (and the name changed to “Erster Versteigerungsring der Naheweingüter e. V.” in 1961), the first auction took place in 1952. A new era had begun.

However, structural changes in the wine trade and changes in consumer drinking habits significantly altered the nature of wine auctions in the decades that followed. While auctions of full and half barrels were common until the 1960s, the range of wines on offer soon shifted entirely to bottled wines. Initially, the lot sizes were considerable, but these then shrank from year to year. Even simple QbA wines were auctioned, with the final price remaining identical to the original asking price. In 1975, the Staatliche Weinbaudomäne (State Wine Estate) wrote an angry letter to the association, stating that the auctions had become “unacceptable” for the company, especially since the ministry and the Court of Auditors were demanding the “most efficient sales channel” from the state-owned enterprise. Unlike the teaching institute, which left the association in 1986, the Staatliche Weinbaudomäne remained in the association for the time being. In 1977, after the unique wine vintages of 1975 and 1976, the domain achieved the best auction results in its history. By 1982, it was the only company still offering wines for auction.

## THE GERMAN WINE MIRACLE

The shockwave of the 1985 glycol scandal of 1985 shook German viticulture, including the Nahe region, was also to herald a change for the better. More and more wineries once again committed themselves to quality wine production in the Nahe region. The four remaining founding members of the Nahe Auction Ring were joined by the first newcomers: Weingut Crusius in 1984, the Prinz zu Salm-Dalberg estate in 1986 and Schlossgut Diel in 1989.

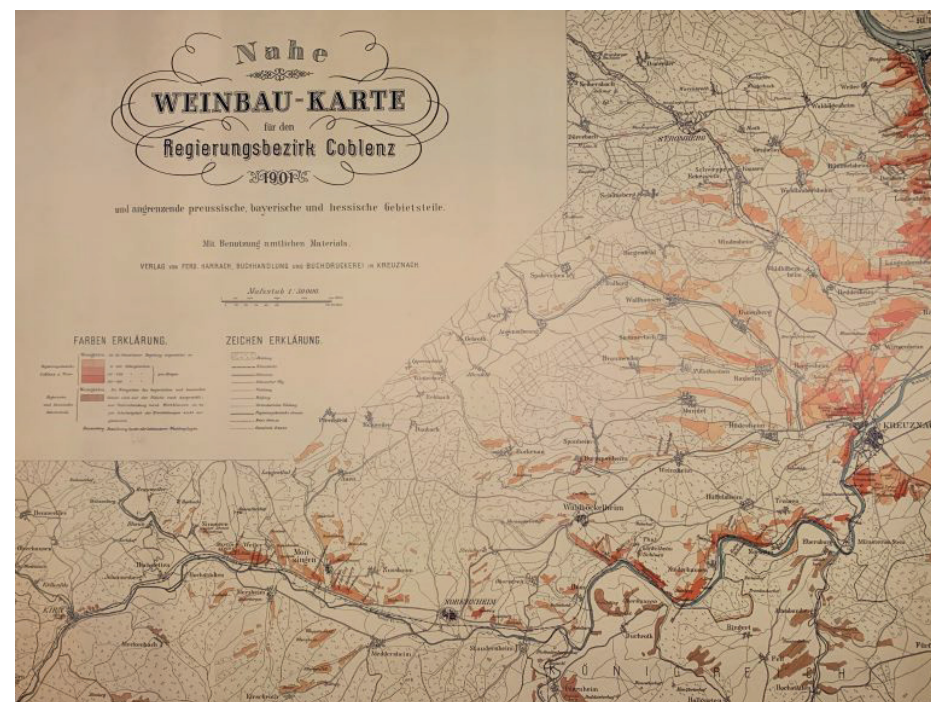
Of course, the interest of the “young wild ones” in the Nahe Auction Ring had an ulterior motive: membership in the association automatically made them members of the VDP, the Association of German Prädikat and Quality Wine Estates, the successor organization to the Association of German Natural Wine Auctioneers. In the early 1970s, the latter had transformed itself from an auction association into what was probably the most important representative of the interests of Germany’s leading estates. At the end of the 1980s, it became the driving force behind the beginning of the German wine miracle. Consequently, in 1991, the “First Auction Ring on the Nahe” became the VDP.Nahe, a regional association of the federal VDP. That year, the Dönnhoff winery joined the VDP.Nahe, followed by Kruger-Rumpf in 1993, Emrich-Schönleber in 1994, Schäfer-Fröhlich in 2001,

Gut Hermannsberg (as successor to the Staatsdomäne) in 2009 and, most recently, Joh. Bapt. Schäfer in 2013.

The pioneering role that the Nahe region played at this turning point for top-quality German wine was embodied by two individuals in particular. In 1990, Michael Prinz zu Salm-Salm became chairman of the Nahe Auction Association and, the following year, took over as chairman of the federal VDP. Under his leadership, the “new VDP” made the principles of integrated, i.e. environmentally friendly viticulture and rigorous harvest restrictions, mandatory for its members. At the same time, Armin Diel of Schlossgut Diel became regional chairman of the VDP.Nahe in 1993. His crowning achievement was the “Riesling Statute” of 1997, which was based on the aforementioned classification of vineyard sites for the Nahe region from 1901, which had only been rediscovered and republished in 1995. In it, the members of the VDP.Nahe committed themselves to exclusively use vineyard names for Riesling wines from top sites. The Nahe „GROSSE GEWÄCHSE” was born. In 2002, the federal VDP under Michael Prinz zu Salm-Salm also adopted its statute for the classification of ERSTE and Große Gewächse. The new national and increasingly international attention for this rebirth of top German wines was also reflected in

a renaissance of German wine auctions. It was thanks in no small part to Armin Diel that the auction in Bad Kreuznach once again became a must-attend event in the annual wine calendar. In 1994, quality wineries from the Ahr region joined the VDP.Nahe and have been enriching the auction with first-class Pinot Noir wines ever since. In 2007, wineries from the VDP associations in Rheinhessen and the Pfalz also joined

the VDP auction in Bad Kreuznach. These regions had also long been at the forefront of German viticulture in terms of quality – however, local auction traditions had been broken here, not least due to the introduction of the “Mainzer Weinbörse” in 1974. The broader participation significantly increased the relevance of the Kreuznach auction.



*Historical Nahe viticultural map for the administrative district of Coblenz from 1901*

## TO NEW HEIGHTS

Under the chairmanship of Frank Schönleber, elected in 2016, the event reached completely new heights, especially in terms of auction sales. By now, the German wine miracle was recognized worldwide, and top wines from the Rhine and Nahe regions were also considered sought-after investment objects internationally. In 2024, the VDP wine auction on the Nahe became the highest-turnover VDP wine auction in Germany. As diverse as the range on offer in Bad Kreuznach has become – even German sparkling wines are now auctioned – the range of great dry Rieslings, perhaps the most important achievement of the German wine miracle, is unrivalled in Bad Kreuznach. Here, the Emrich-Schönleber winery, as a pioneer, handed the auction an im-

portant key to future success in 2008 with the creation of a very limited dry wine reserved exclusively for the auction in Bad Kreuznach – and the members of the association enthusiastically followed suit.

Experiencing exclusive excellence together on one day of the vintage, tasting the top wines of the year and deepening the experience through discussions between winemakers and wine lovers: this is what makes the VDP auction in Bad Kreuznach so relevant and appealing.



*VDP.Nahe Chairman Frank Schönleber and auctioneer  
Michael Prinz zu Salm-Salm 2024*



**SCHÄFER-FRÖHLICH (NAHE)**  
**2025 FINAL,**  
**RIESLING TROCKEN**



**Tim Fröhlich:** The Final comes from over 60-year-old vines in the VDP.GROSSE LAGE FELSENECK in Bockenau. Grown on slate and quartzite, it is the ultimate expression of this terroir. Just one barrel was made, and it is available exclusively as an auction wine.

**Caro Maurer:** A sophisticated interplay of lime zest, freshly ground white pepper and smokiness outlines the wine's characteristic profile, centred around a herbal infusion of dill and bay leaf. This is complemented by hints of wet stone and an ethereal fragrance. The slate gives the wine its distinctive spicy character. On the palate, the acidity takes centre stage.

Crisp, expansive and full of tension, it guides the individual elements and ensures an inner balance. The wine is currently still youthful, with plenty of substance and a firm structure. This is a Riesling that demands time – with age, its contours will refine further. This is precisely where its greatness lies: not in power or opulence, but in finesse that sets its own standard.



**WITTMANN (RHEINHESSEN)**  
**2025 LA BORNE,**  
**RIESLING ALTE REBEN TROCKEN**

**Philipp Wittmann:** Grown above the MORSTEIN centerpiece in high-elevation site on Westhofen's slop, La BORNE displays the limestone minerality of this terroir in its purest form.

**Caro Maurer:** A distinctive character from the very first moment: the scent of ripe lemons, as if freshly picked from a tree in Sicily. This is then joined by notes of herbal infusion blended with mint, freshly mown grass, white blossoms and lemon balm. The interplay of aromas is tightly woven, cool and clear – still characterised entirely by youthful vigour. On the palate, the wine makes no compromises.

Taut, bone-dry and with a powerful, ripe acidity, it draws a clear line and defines the overall character. It possesses the substance to effortlessly withstand this energy. The impression is one of classic elegance and self-assurance. Not a people-pleasing charmer, but a striking personality with edges: unconventional and, for that very reason, deeply fascinating.



**WAGNER-STEMPEL (RHEINHESSEN)**  
**2025 EMT,**  
**RIESLING TROCKEN**

**Daniel Wagner:** The Riesling EMT comes from the oldest and most exposed parcel of the VDP.GROSSE LAGE HEERKRETZ and, year after year represents to us the stylistic quintessence of the Siefersheim terroir.

**Caro Maurer:** Even on the nose, this Riesling reveals a distinct character: herbal notes take centre stage, accompanied by a hint of cold mint tea. These are followed by precisely defined citrus notes, green apple and hints of verbena, lemon balm and lemongrass. The whole impression is cool, crystal-clear and concentrated. The wine is still decidedly young and so intricately interwoven that the individual facets can scarcely be distinguished from one another.

On the palate, it remains uncompromising. Taut and direct, it builds enormous intensity from the very first moment. Its concentration demands attention without ever seeming heavy – rather, a clear line runs right through to the long finish. The wine takes up space, remains present and leaves a lasting impression. One of those Rieslings that aren't simply easy to drink, but linger in the mind for a long time.



### **KELLER (RHEINHESSEN)**

**Klaus-Peter Keller:** With their old, partly ungrafted vines, steep slopes and minimal yields, the auction wines from PETTENTHAL and SCHUBERTSLAY are not only witnesses to a centuries-old winegrowing tradition, but also the unique expression of a winegrowing family that has been producing wine with great dedication and passion for 10 generations.

### **2025 PETTENTHAL, RIESLING GG**

**Caro Maurer:** Pickled white peach, white pepper and the cool sensation of wet stone define the first impression. Behind this lies a salty, spicy note that lends definition to the ripe fruit. The whole effect is rounded and harmonious – characterised less by youthful rigour than by a contemplative maturity. On the palate, this maturity combines with an inner tension.

The wine possesses great substance, yet remains crystal clear throughout. Despite its impressive concentration, the PETTENTHAL flows with great vigour, displaying a rounded character that makes it downright sexy. The balance seems effortless. In years when the Rote Hang had sufficient water, a familiar serenity emerges here: power without heaviness and a confidence that makes it irresistible.

### **2025 SCHUBERTSLAY, RIESLING GG**

**Klaus-Peter Keller:** The 2025 Piesporter Schubertslay Riesling GG from Weingut Keller is a monumental, exceptional wine from an extremely steep, prestigious Mosel vineyard. On the finest blue slate, ungrafted vines over 120 years old grow here, yielding only minimal harvests of the highest concentration.

The nose is dominated by cool, profound aromas of smoky slate spice, flint, wild herbs, and light stone fruit. On the palate, this Grand Cru is uncompromisingly dry, precise, and gripping. A razor-sharp, vibrant acidity meets a deeply salty minerality that, despite the wine's lightness, lends it tremendous intensity, density, and a seemingly endless finish..



### **SCHLOSSGUT DIEL (NAHE)**

**2018 PINOT NOIR ARA,  
SPÄTBURGUNDER**

**Caroline Diel:** The ARA comes from a single, outstanding barrique, which is only filled in special vintages and is characterized by elegance, finesse and complexity. It is dedicated to our children and is more than just a wine to us: it is a little piece of ourselves.

**Caro Maurer:** Here, the full beauty of maturity is revealed. The individual aromas are almost indistinguishable from one another; everything is intricately interwoven. Ripe red berries, cherries, raspberries and mulberries mingle with violets, dried rose petals, dark chocolate and a deep, earthy note. The complexity is impressive on the palate. Every moment reveals new facets. Fruit, floral hints and subtle spice are fused together. Maturity has smoothed out the tannins – fine-grained, silky and perfectly integrated. Supported by a lingering finish, the wine comes across as both powerful and harmonious. What is fascinating is that the grape variety is no longer the focus of attention. The wine has now attained a quiet grandeur.

**JOH. BAPT. SCHÄFER (NAHE)**  
**2024 GOLDLOCH,**  
**RIESLING AUSLESE GOLDKAPSEL**



**Sebastian Schäfer:**

2023 Dorsheim GOLDLOCH Riesling Auslese -Gold Cap-  
This Auslese from the GOLDLOCH vineyard comes from the oldest Riesling vines on the estate and captivates with magnificent fruit, great concentration, and a brilliant balance of sweetness and acidity!

**Caro Maurer:** This Auslese showcases Botrytis in its finest, purest form. Honey, beeswax and Turkish delight characterise the profile, complemented by puréed white-fleshed peach, which lends a juicy, almost melting fruitiness. The first subtle hints of ginger emerge, which will become more pronounced as the wine matures. On the palate, the wine is creamy and dense, yet possesses the astonishing lightness that makes great Auslese wines so fascinating.

The residual sugar never feels opulent or overpowering, but is perfectly balanced by a mature, refined acidity. The three years of ageing have brought all the facets together; everything is in balance, with no single element dominating the others. A wine of such beauty that it already hints at its future potential.



**EMRICH-SCHÖNLEBER (NAHE)**  
**2025 AUF DER LEY,**  
**RIESLING GG**

**Frank Schönleber:** The Grand Cru from the AUF DER LEY vineyard comes from our oldest vines and focuses the stony, cool minerality of the mountain in its purest form. The stimulating climate between a windy high elevation and warm air that rises along the steep southern slope, creates maximal tension.

**Caro Maurer:** As fragrant, fresh and unspoilt as a dew-kissed meadow of wild-flowers in the early morning. Impressions of a blend of herbs emerge, along with notes of freshly mown grass, mint and a smoky hint, underpinned by fruit notes of peach, lime and grapefruit. Pure nature.

On the palate, it is substantial, dense, direct, reliable and classic – this wine isn't here to play games; it is taking it very seriously. Riesling in its purest and most classic form, made to stand the test of time. The acidity is distinctive, emphasising the fruit whilst otherwise flowing smoothly and unhindered. A pleasantly light hint of bitterness underscores the freshness.

**GUT HERMANNSSBERG (NAHE)**  
**2019 KUPFERGRUBE,**  
**VDP.SEKT PRESTIGE ,**  
**RIESLING SEKT EXTRA BRUT**



**Karsten Peter:** This strictly limited edition sparkling wine from our cult vineyard KUPFERGRUBE impressively reflects its origins. Five years on the lees give it depth, complexity and balance, while its distinctive minerality bears the signature of the terroir.

**Caro Maurer:** The Riesling's freshness sets the tone. Citrus fruit, fresh lemon zest, a hint of mint and white flowers characterise the aroma. With a little aeration, the autolysis notes become increasingly pronounced: white dough, brioche and a hint of smoke, complemented by candied lemon zest. Everything is interwoven; nothing pushes itself to the fore. On the palate, the acidity takes the lead. It is straightforward, lending the wine backbone and tremendous drive.

The fine, creamy perlage and the impressive density provide a counterbalance and ensure harmony. This creates an exceptionally elegant arc of tension. The finish is impressively long-lasting. A sparkling wine with nobility.

**GUNDERLOCH (RHEINHESSEN)**  
**2025 FENCHELBERG,**  
**RIESLING GG**



**Johannes Hasselbach:** The FENCHELBERG parcel on the border between Rothenberg and Pettenthal was once the birthplace of our legendary 100-point TBAs. Today, unique dry Rieslings are produced from this cool oasis on the Roter Hang, fed by its own water supply.

**Caro Maurer:** Rather than primary fruit, the focus is on a delicate herbal infusion, mint, lemon balm and preserved lemons. Added to this is a hint of white flowers, all woven together with a sense of lightness. On the palate, the wine is taut; the acidity clearly sets the pace, yet comes across as silky and polished. With its creaminess and relaxed character, this Riesling is almost reminiscent of a great Chardonnay. The concentration is impressive, yet never heavy. On the contrary: it possesses great inner density, is full-bodied and substantial, yet at the same time has an invigorating lightness. Nothing is overpowering; everything fits into the overall picture. A Riesling that deliberately breaks away from the usual expectations and is all the more fascinating for it.

**2001 NACKENHEIMER ROTHENBERG**  
**RIESLING BEERENAUSLESE, GUNDERLOCH**

**Caro Maurer:** Even its amber colour hints at its uniqueness. The array of aromas seems endless: dried apricots, peaches and apples, along with nougat, vanilla, saffron and milk chocolate – a kaleidoscope of scents that is almost impossible to take in fully. On the palate, this wine thrives on the fascinating interplay of sweetness and acidity.

Neither dominates; both circle each other with an almost dance-like lightness, like a perfectly choreographed pas de deux. The fruit is carried by a vibrant freshness, ensuring that the wine never feels heavy despite its immense concentration. This is a Beerenauslese that tells a story rather than simply explaining itself. An inscrutability that is as moving as it is impressive. Monumental in its complexity. Unforgettable.



**K. F. GROEBE (RHEINHESSEN)**  
**2020 KIRCHSPIEL,**  
**RIESLING GRANDE RÉSERVE**

**Fritz Groebe:** The KIRCHSPIEL vineyard in Westhofen is predestined for fine, long-lived Riesling wines of the highest quality, both dry and with varying degrees of residual sweetness. Its calcareous marl soils produce wines of great grace, cool character and elegant minerality.

**Caro Maurer:** This Riesling is intended as a tribute to a historic style – this is likely how great Rieslings would have tasted around 1900. A classic that tells its story in subtle tones. The nose reveals notes of preserved peaches, hints of dried tobacco and apricot kernels. Maturation has brought the aromatic profile into perfect harmony: nothing stands out, nothing seeks to take centre stage – everything is harmoniously interwoven.

The wine has long since moved beyond its primary fruit and exudes that quiet beauty that only develops with time. On the palate, it feels surprisingly youthful despite its maturity. The delicate residual sweetness of 12 grams blends seamlessly with the lively acidity, lending the wine an effortless balance. A silky texture, great inner calm and a delicate hint of incense lend the finish its insistence.



**DÖNNHOFF (NAHE)**  
**2025 BRÜCKE,**  
**RIESLING GG**

**Cornelius Dönnhof:** The OBERHÄUSER BRÜCKE is our exclusive vineyard and has been closely linked to the history of our winery for generations. It has become famous above all for its great sweet Rieslings—but in exceptional vintages, it also produces great dry Rieslings of international renown. The 2025 vintage combines power and concentration with the cool minerality and refined elegance typical of the Brücke. For us, this “Großes Gewächs” is a very special interpretation of one of our most significant vineyards.

**Caro Maurer:** A Riesling of almost weightless elegance. Cool, clear and unadorned, it is still very much in the early stages of its development. On the nose, stone fruit with peach and freshly cut green herbs – all delicately defined and imbued with a youthful innocence that is truly moving. On the palate, it is still firm and compact. The individual elements are closely intertwined – the wine still has its story to tell, as these elements gradually separate over time.

At the same time, there is a palpable inner strength: great concentration, intensity and tension. The acidity still has a good bite to it, yet never comes across as sharp, but rather as ripe and vibrant. It carries the wine across the palate with great precision and gives it a long, energetic finish.



**H. J. KREUZBERG (AHR)**  
**2024 DEVONSCHIEFER R,**  
**SPÄTBURGUNDER**

**Ludwig Kreuzberg:** The Devonschiefer R is a powerful, profound Pinot Noir with plenty of spice and fine herbal notes from our best barrels from our grand cru vineyards on Devonian slate.

**Caro Maurer:** The wine combines fruit and spice with an energising lightness. On the nose, a hint of Mon Chéri meets dried hibiscus blossoms. This is complemented by earthy and smoky notes, a touch of toast and a delicate hint of cardamom. On the palate, it is slender and juicy, underpinned by a lively, fresh acidity.

The fruit is clear and precise, with the spicy nuances blending in seamlessly. The oak ageing remains discreetly in the background, supporting the wine without stealing the show. Everything comes together harmoniously: fruit, terroir and ageing are in perfect balance – elegant rather than loud, light-hearted rather than opulent, yet with plenty of substance.

**DR. BÜRKLIN-WOLF (PFALZ)**  
**2025 WACHENHEIMER**  
**SCHLOSSBERG, RIESLING 1G**



**Bettina Bürklin-von Guradze:** Even over 100 years ago, the Schlossberg was an integral part of the major wine auctions in the Palatinate. So today, the circle is complete once again. Our Schlossberg lies high above Wachenheim at the foot of the Wachtenburg, like an amphitheater, and benefits greatly from the coolness of its location. Old vines give us concentrated, finely crafted wines with enormous aging potential.

**Caro Maurer:** A wine in a class of its own, highly distinctive and very classic. The bouquet is dominated by cool herbal aromas: a delicate lemon balm infusion and dried herbs feature far more prominently than the fruit. These are complemented by earthy undertones, a subtle phenolic note and white tobacco. Taken together, the impression is one of calm, complexity and surprise – more reminiscent of a Chardonnay than an archetypal Riesling. On the palate, the wine combines ripeness and freshness in a fascinating way.

It is well-balanced, with a pleasantly tart, spicy depth. The fruit deliberately remains in the background, allowing the spice, silky texture and crisp acidity to take centre stage. Thus, the wine relies less on superficial charm and more on substance, terroir and a quiet, enduring presence.

# LEGENDARY PRICE RECORDS

AT THE VDP.NAHE WINE AUCTION IN BAD KREUZNACH

*2020 PETTENTHAL, Riesling GG*  
*in double magnum from Weingut Keller: at €16,100 net*  
*(€20,116.95 gross), it achieved the record price at a*  
*VDP auction for a bottle of dry wine.*



**14,994 euros (gross)** for a wine of the century:  
1921 Schloss Böckelheimer Kupfergrube  
Trockenbeerenauslese from the Staatliche  
Domäne Niederhausen-Schloss Böckelheim.

*2015 Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling*  
*Trockenbeerenauslese in magnum from the*  
*Dönnhoff Winery, with a hammer price of*  
**€18,000 net (€22,491 gross), the most**  
*expensive wine ever at a VDP wine auction*  
*in Bad Kreuznach.*





**VDP. DIE PRÄDIKATSWEINGÜTER**  
NAHE

**VDP.Die Prädikatsweingüter Nahe e.V.**

Soonwaldstraße 10a | 55569 Monzingen

info@vdp-nahe.de | [www.vdp-nahe.de](http://www.vdp-nahe.de)



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**Brochure design, text by Dr Stefan Pegatzky and Caro Maurer – Master of Wine**

*Dr. Stefan Pegatzky is a wine journalist and writes regularly for FINE – Das Weinmagazin, Weinwirtschaft and Meiningers Sommelier, as well as his own bilingual website: [www.sur-la-pointe.com](http://www.sur-la-pointe.com)*

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