

Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Schlosskellerei C. von Schubert

(Mertesdorf – Ruwer-Trier)

Carl von Schubert admits that 2015 proved a huge (positive) surprise: "The summer proved very hot and dry and September started off with quite some rain. If you had asked me in September where I thought the vintage was going, I would have told you that a ripe and rich vintage like 2003 or 2005 was in store. But things turned out completely differently. The sugar levels remained moderate: The bulk of our harvest lies at around 85-90° Oechsle and the wines have great presence and even some cassis freshness. We started our Riesling harvest on October 5 with some Vorlese, followed by the fruit for our Kabinett and Spätlese. In second half of October, we were then able to make some fine Auslese and even a BA from the little botrytis but above all from air-shriveled grapes. Overall, it is a great vintage, which proves already very accessible now and which gave us good yields at 45 hl/ha, certainly if compared to the last two vintages."

The von Schubert Estate joined the VDP Mosel / Grosser Ring as of the 2015 vintage (see the Mosel Perspective on the VDP Mosel in the Issue). This has led to some modifications to the portfolio of dry and off-dry wines as it needed to conform to the rules of the VDP (see our article in Issue No 26 for a detailed explanation on the rationale and specifics of the VDP classification). The Estate's three single vineyards (Abtsberg, Herrenberg and Bruderberg) were classified as Grosse Lage, this means the following adaptations:

- Dry Riesling: The portfolio includes an Estate (Maximiner Grünhäuser) Trocken, an Abtsberg and Herrenberg (without the indication Trocken but fermented to legally dry levels) as well as two GGs (Abtsberg and Herrenberg).
- Off-dry wines: The portfolio of off-dry wines is now composed of an Estate (Maximiner Grünhäuser) Feinherb and the two to three Superior bottlings (the Bruderberg Superior is not produced every year).

The range of fruity-styled wines remains unchanged and will in principle always include a Bruderberg Kabinett. In 2015, the range of fruity-styled wines was topped by two Auslese "Fuder Nr." and a BA from the Abtsberg. As a result of joining the VDP, the Estate has also earmarked bottlings of Abtsberg Kabinett and Abtsberg Spätlese for this year's Auction.

The Estate booked a huge success with the 2015 vintage. The wines have quite some internal intensity from high levels of dry extract (even the Kabinett would qualify as Spätlese in some vintages) but show great telltale cassis-infused minty flavors and superb elegance in the finish. The high acidity levels add vibrancy to the wines and make them into modern versions of the Estates 1990s. The sweet spot are the fruity-styled Spätlese and Auslese wines but the dry and off-dry wines are huge successes in their own right as well. In summary: This is a major vintage for the Estate and all lovers of Maximin Grünhaus should plunge onto these wines!

NB: The Abtsberg and Herrenberg GG will be reviewed in the October Issue and the two auction wines in the special Auction report to be issued in advance of the Auction.

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 31	14 16	95+
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Harvested at approx. 110° Oechsle, this offers a gorgeous and vibrant nose of pear, grapefruit, quince, cassis and mint. The wine is gorgeously zesty and smooth on the palate, with lively scents of grassy herbs and cassis providing a superb freshness in the long and mineral finish. This is a racy expression of Auslese which should age beautifully well. We would not be surprised if it ultimately even exceeds our high expectations when reaching maturity. 2025-2045

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 24	12 16	95
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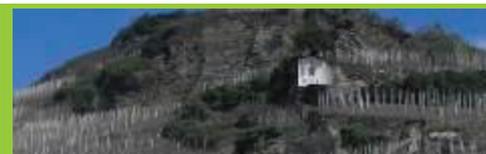
This offers gorgeous scents of peach and herbs on the nose. Star anise, ginger and coconut join the flavors on the creamy yet racy palate and leave a superbly racy, cassis and mint-infused feel in the long finish. What a beauty! 2025-2050

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Beerenauslese	13 16	94+
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Harvested at approx. 140° Oechsle, this offers a gorgeous and pure nose of dried pear, pineapple, mint and grapefruit. The wine is delicately smooth and oily on the palate, with great fruity scents bringing a direct honeyed feel of dried date and raisin in the long and sweet finish. This needs some time to develop its inner balance and focus but should prove a great elegant expression of BA at maturity. 2025-2045

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Auslese	10 16	94
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This offers some grapefruit, melon, pear and minty herbs on the nose. The wine has some creamy pear at first which gives way to racy cassis and spices. The finish is elegant and to die for as mouth-watering minerals play with one's senses. This will enter its maturity window in a good decade and will then prove a great expression of "feine Auslese." 2025-2040



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2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese	17 16	93+
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Harvested at 93° Oechsle, this offers a rather reduced nose of spices, herbs and cassis. The wine is gorgeously elegant and fresh on the palate and leaves a stunning feel of herbs and zesty citrusy fruits in the long and mouth-watering finish. This is a superb effort with great upside potential. 2025-2045

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Auslese	11 16	93
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This offers a nose of coconut, cassis and slate as well as some ripe pear and some cream on the overall zesty palate. The finish is rich and inviting and proves nicely long in a delicately and "Feine Auslese" style. 2025-2045

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Kabinett	07 16	92
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Harvested at 86° Oechsle, this offers a rather smooth Spätlese-styled nose of pear, cassis, ginger, star anise, flowers and flinty slate. The wine is on the rich and round side on the palate (by Kabinett standards of this Estate) but already hints at the elegance and finesse to come. This offers a long and beautifully refined nose of herbs and spices. The overall structure is still rather reduced and backward and we expect this beauty to only truly shine at maturity. So patience is required! 2025-2040

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Bruderberg Riesling Kabinett	16 16	92
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Harvested at less than 83° Oechsle, this little beauty of a Kabinett offers a delicately ripe nose of ginger, star anise, grapefruit and creamy pear. The wine is quite present on the palate, with zesty acidity giving this rather intense wine raciness and elegance. The finish is airy, fruity and truly Kabinett in style. While still on the shy side at the moment, this is set to turn into a beauty with bottle age. 2025-2040

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Abtsberg Riesling Superior	23 16	91+
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This offers a gorgeous nose of cassis, herbs and spices. The wine is racy but also beautifully elegant and smooth on the palate with great lightness and airiness coming through in the intense finish. This is a beauty in the making. 2018-2025+

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Spätlese	09 16	91+
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This offers an attractive even if slightly smooth yet fresh nose of melon, cassis, minty herbs and slate. The true vibrancy of the wine comes through on the palate where zesty acidity brings a gorgeous playful side to the experience. The finish is mouthwateringly zesty and long. We would not be surprised if this ultimately turns out even better than expected. 2025-2040

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Bruderberg Riesling Superior	25 16	91
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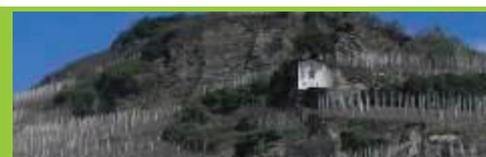
The Bruderberg Superior will be exclusively sold via a large German retailer this year. It offers a gorgeous nose of white peach, white minerals, cassis, herbs and spices. The wine is nicely present and lively on the palate and leaves a long feel in the finish. This is plain gorgeous. 2018-2030

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Fass Nr. 3 K&U	03 16	91
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This cask for a well-known German importer and retailer was made from ripe fruit and fermented to off-dry levels. The wine offers a gorgeous nose of herbs and spices as well as cassis, pear and melon. It proves superbly tickly on the palate and a touch of creaminess brings the right balance to the zesty feel in the long and gorgeous finish. 2018-2030

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Kabinett	06 16	91
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Harvested at a moderate 85° Oechsle, this offers a gorgeous and delicately smooth nose of cassis, pear and herbs. The wine is superbly racy and intense on the palate and leaves a fascinatingly smooth and racy feel in the long finish. This is plain gorgeous in a remarkably intense style. 2025-2040



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2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Superior	22 16	90
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This offers a rather closed nose of herbs and spices. The fruity side driven by lemon, grapefruit, cassis and pear only comes through on the crispy palate but is already fully present in the long finish. This is well made but needs time to develop. 2018-2025+

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Riesling Abtsberg	19 16	90
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This wine (fermented to legally dry levels) offers a dead-gorgeous nose of cassis, white peach and mint. The wine is nicely crispy and even somewhat sharp at the moment on the palate but leaves a gorgeously clean and fresh feel in the long finish. This light beauty needs time to develop in the bottle but should turn into quite a great wine. 2020-2030

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Herrenberg Riesling Alte Reben	04 16	89
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This special cask bottled for a German retailer was fermented to legally dry levels (without it being indicated on the palate). This wine offers a gorgeous nose of pear, cassis, herbs and spices. The wine is round and nicely sharp on the palate and leaves a clean and fully dry feel in the finish. The wine will benefit from some bottle aging in order for the touch of tartness in the finish to integrate. 2018-2025

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Riesling Herrenberg	05 16	89
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This wine (fermented to legally dry levels) offers some nice pear, cassis, smoke and slate. The wine is elegantly made with great freshness and finesse. The finish is fully dry, deliciously zesty and nicely tart. This is a gorgeous von Schubert dry wine in the making but one which will need bottle age to integrate its vibrancy and fruitiness. 2020-2025+

2015er	von Schubert	Weissburgunder Schloss Grünhaus	31 16	89
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The wine made in second year new Fuder offers a gorgeous nose of melon, white flowers and slate. The oak is not noticeable and only adds a little depth to the beautifully balanced on the palate. A touch of power comes through in the long and ethereal finish, which would make us opt to enjoy this sooner than later. Now-2018+

2015er	von Schubert	Pinot Blanc Schloss Grünhaus	30 16	88+
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Made in traditional oak, this offers a gorgeous nose of white flowers, white peach, pear, melon and herbs. The wine is nicely bodied on the palate and leaves a slightly tart and delicately zesty feel in the long finish. This only needs a year to develop and integrate. 2017-2020

2014er	von Schubert	Spätburgunder Schloss Grünhaus	32 16	88+
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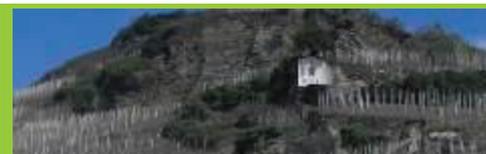
This offers a beautiful nose of Morello cherry, cassis and cooked strawberry as well as spices. The wine is nicely fresh and elegant on the palate with only a hint of bourbon vanilla in the background but not affecting the structure of the wine. The finish offers more elegance and direct fruits and spices. This is nicely made in a comparatively elegant and fresh style. We would give this wine a few years to mellow away the touch of oak. It could then even surpass our positive expectations! 2018-2023+

2015er	von Schubert	Maximin Grünhäuser Riesling Trocken	18 16	88
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This offers a gorgeous nose of cassis, melon, mint and herbs. The wine is light and refreshing on the palate, where good acidity provides focus and vibrancy to the airy finish. This is plain gorgeous and a great example of crisp dry Ruwer Riesling! Now-2020+

2013er	von Schubert	Pinot Sekt Rosé Brut	24 15	88
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This partridge-eyed Sekt was made from the Estate's Spätburgunder grapes. It offers a delicate nose of raspberry and slate-infused smoke. The wine is nicely crisp and fresh on the palate, with lightness and elegance characterizing the finish. This is well made in a direct style. 2016-2018



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A touch of reduction gives way to grapefruit, smoked herbs and spices on the nose. The wine is nicely balanced on the palate and the finish is fresh and direct, with a touch of power coming through in the after-taste. Now-2023+

2015er	von Schubert	Riesling MAXIM	21 16	87
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This offers a gorgeously simple nose of flint stone, grapefruit peel and other citrusy fruits. The wine is direct and easy on the palate and leaves a nice and elegant feel of peach, earthy herbs on the palate and in the finish. Now