

Rathdowne Cellars ~ German Riesling 2009 Offer

GERMANY Vintage 2009 is a startlingly super Riesling vintage, if a recent tasting of wines in Germany is anything to go by. A combination of ripeness with retained, relatively high acidity are cited as the defining parameters of the 2009 in the main riesling regions of Mosel, Rheingau, Nahe, Pfalz and the Rheinhessen. 2009 is defined as a year of long ripening and good structure. But volumes are down across the board. Some have said 2009 is as good as 2007. By comparison 2008 was not so warm, on average. There is enough ripeness in 2008 but the acidity is crispier and more pronounced. The wines are perhaps less concentrated than the 2009s – Sally Easton, MW

Please note that in many cases less than 10 dozen of the top wines have been imported into Australia

Wine/Description	Vintage	Volume	Price Each	Case Price	Requested Bottles
<u>GEORG BREUER - RHEINGAU</u>					
GEORG BREUER 'GB' SAUVAGE RIESLING	2009	750ML	\$ 33.00	\$ 28.00	
The tart and persistently alkaline (legally trocken) 2009 Riesling GB Sauvage preserves a sense of primary juiciness and lift that render it invigoratingly refreshing even if it is on the lean and aggressively bright side. Furthermore, this 11.5% alcohol Riesling delivers a pleasantly tingling sense of interaction between citrus and mineral elements. I would plan to enjoy it over the next 2-3 years					
GEORG BREUER BERG ROSENECK	2009	750ML	\$ 96.00	\$ 82.00	
Predictably firm and bright, the Breuer 2009 Rudesheimer Berg Roseneck Riesling offers salty and zesty finishing invigoration along with alkaline and fruit pit notes. This finishes blazingly and strikingly mineral as well as buoyant, if undeniably austere. I would plan on revisiting it within 4-5 years to reconsider whether there will be good reason to hold it for longer. 89/100 erobertparker.com					
GEORG BREUER BERG SCHLOSSBERG	2009	750ML	\$ 140.00	\$ 120.00	
At 11.5% the lowest in alcohol Breuer single-vineyard wine in many years, their 2009 Rudesheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling evinces aromas of green tea, lily-of-the-valley, narcissus, and fresh lemon. Infectiously juicy, invigoratingly bright, and persistently, intriguingly floral and herbal, this buoyant Riesling offers further fascination in its finishing deposit of crushed stone, salt, and suggestively crystalline mineral nuance, all vibrantly interacting with citrus and flowers. Polished in texture even if lean in terms of body fat, acidity, and mineral adamancy, it should be worth following for at least 6-8 years and might prove more ingratiating in personality after a few years in bottle. 91/100 David Schildknecht					
Enticing aromas of apricot, sweet lime and toasted pine nuts. Firm pineapple flavor with a steely, salty minerality on the rather austere palate. In spite of its enormous concentration, this displays excellent poise. This very long wine is one of the finest dry rieslings of the vintage. 94/100 Joel B. Payne					
<u>WITTMANN - RHEINHESSEN</u>					
Wittmann '100 Hugel' Riesling	2009	750ML	\$ 27.00	\$ 23.00	
Wittmann Estate Pinot Gris	2009	750ML	\$ 37.00	\$ 32.00	
Wittmann Kirchspiel Grösses Gewächs	2009	750ML	\$ 110.00	\$ 94.00	
Quite deceptive, starts off softly, softly with the merest hint of an herbaceous note, in a lush sort of way. The abundance of fruit is as impressive as in 2008, but the element of minerality seems to have come slightly more to the fore for 2009. This year I have picked vineyard peaches, apricots, grapefruit and oranges as the most prominent contenders out of an overflowing fruit basket, but a finely tuned acidity helps to contain any notions of overripeness. Crunchy, almost chewy, with some delicate herbal notes delivering the coup de grace on an exceptionally long and complex finish. 19/20 Jancis Robinson.com					
Wittmann Morstein Grösses Gewächs	2009	750ML	\$ 115.00	\$ 98.00	
Just as in 2008 I perceive a hint of caramel, probably the expression of fruit ripened to perfection. It seems sheer folly to list individual fruit contributions, as there are so many, suffice to say that the trap of exuberant tropicality has been avoided. Despite an abundance of fruit the Morstein is very fresh, zesty and lively. Juicy acidity paired with a salty minerality add another dimension, and for once terms like substance, depth, concentration and endless finish seem inadequate to sum up the sheer class of this wine. 19/20 Jancis Robinson.com					
Stately aroma of wild peach, honeydew melon and sweet lime. The intense papaya flavour is perfectly balanced by salty minerality on the velvety palate. Boasts serious weight and lingers on the finish with uplifting spice. A long-distance runner, this is one of the great dry rieslings of the vintage. 94/100 Joel B. Payne					
<u>HEYMANN LOWENSTEIN - MOSEL</u>					
HEYMANN LOWENSTEIN SCHIEFER TERRASSEN RIESLING	2009	750ML	\$ 46.00	\$ 39.00	
A certain amount of reduced/sulphur compounds but there's a seriousness of intent here and this finishes dry. 16/20 Jancis Robinson.com					
HEYMANN LOWENSTEIN VON BLAUEN SCHIEFER RIESLING	2009	750ML	\$ 60.00	\$ 51.00	
The Heymann-Lowenstein 2009 Riesling Vom Blauen Schiefer (part of which originates in the Uhlen) offers more concentrated and complex herbal piquancy and pungency than the corresponding Schieferterrassen bottling, with a similar wet stone undertone and overall cooling, refreshing aromatic and flavor personality. Close to 13% alcohol results in a very faint sense of finishing warmth, in which regard I might well, given equal opportunity, reach for a glass of that ostensibly lesser sibling first. One gains here, however, a glossy texture. I would plan on savoring this over the coming 3-5 years. erobertparker.com					
HEYMANN LOWENSTEIN RÖTTGEN RIESLING	2009	750ML	\$ 79.00	\$ 68.00	
Peach and persimmon with smoky impingements of black tea, crushed stone, and citrus zest dominate the nose and quite sumptuous palate of Heymann-Lowenstein's 2009 Winner Rottgen Riesling with a deep, subtly toasted nutty richness and hints of fruit pit piquancy adding depth in a long finish, avoiding any sense of warmth and mustering considerable lip-smacking, saliva-inducing sense of refreshment and enticement to take the next sip. I would anticipate being rewarded by following this for at least the better part of the next decade. eRobertparker.com					

<u>DÖNNHOFF - NAHE</u>					
Dönnhoff Estate Riesling	2009	750ML	\$ 38.00	\$ 33.00	
"Citrus zest, perceptibly dry, with a hint of integral, defining taut/salty edge. Fresh, balanced weight and good length". – Sally Easton, MW					
Dönnhoff Oberhauser Leistenberg Riesling Kabinett	2009	750ML	\$ 46.00	\$ 39.00	
Very spritzig indeed. Light and not much nose. Very very light and with real freshness – Saar style. It would make a great aperitif. Whistle clean and very delicate. 17/20 Jancis Robinson.com					
Dönnhoff Tonschiefer Riesling	2009	750ML	\$ 50.00	\$ 43.00	
Intense nose. Really quite impressive! Great sinewy bone-dry stuff with lovely fruit too. 17/20 Jancis Robinson.com					
Dönnhoff Nederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Spätlese	2009	750ML	\$ 120.00	\$ 102.00	
Lift and interest on the nose with great exuberance. Lots of richness! Amazing length. Bitter grapefruit with a hint of passion fruit. It's all on the finish! 18/20 Jancis Robinson.com					
Dönnhoff Oberhäuser Brücke Riesling Spätlese	2008	750ML	\$ 115.00	\$ 98.00	
Creamy, quite explosively mineral on the nose. Lovely purity and history in this wine. So communicative. Everything in balance. Just wonderful stuff. Not that sweet. You're not really conscious of the sugar level because it just seems to be in balance. 18/20					
Dönnhoff Hermannshöhle Riesling Grösses Gewächs	2009	750ML	\$ 130.00	\$ 110.00	
Full and generous nose of all fruit that's yellow, with only a minor supporting role left for spontaneous fermentation aromas. On the palate this is still very tight, but very compact and with a super concentration of yellow fruit and minerality at the core. Whereas the 2008 took its edge from the acidity, the 2009 relies on a subtle touch of bitterness to perfect its balance. 18.5/20 Jancis Robinson.com					
Dönnhoff Dellchen Riesling Grösses Gewächs	2009	750ML	\$ 120.00	\$ 105.00	
Yellow fruit aromas straining at the leash and not to be contained by herbaceous notes of fermentation for much longer. Not tempted by the exotic ways, the expression of fruit is clearly local - ripe yellow plums and apricots. A touch spicity, but with the crystallinity of a perfectly defined eaux-de-vie rather than the power of a cognac. The balance is so harmonious that it's almost inadequate to mention the separate parameters of acidity, fruit, body and minerality. Its great concentration is only surpassed by its elegance and finesse. 19/20 Jancis Robinson.com					
Dönnhoff Dellchen Riesling Grösses Gewächs	2009	1500ML	\$ 250.00	\$ 210.00	
Dönnhoff Oberhäuser Brücke Eiswein 375ml	2009	375ML	\$ 440.00	\$ 375.00	
Rich golden yellow. Passion fruit, licorice and a floral touch on the nose. Pineapple and honey give way to an extremely spicy acidity on the crisp, mineral-driven palate. Well-balanced, vivid eiswein with an almost salty minerality on the very long finish. 95/100 Joel B. Payne. Steven Tanzer's International Wine Cellar.					
<u>GUNDERLOCH - RHEINHESSEN</u>					
GUNDERLOCH PINOT GRIS	2009	750ML	\$ 29.00	\$ 25.00	
GUNDERLOCH 'FRITZ' RIESLING	2009	750ML	\$ 18.00	\$ 15.00	
GUNDERLOCH 'JEAN BAPTISTE' RIESLING KABINETT	2009	750ML	\$ 30.00	\$ 26.00	
Usually a mix of Rothenberg and Pettenthal vineyards Lemon citrus, off dry fruity attack, with near-dry palate perception. Apple, nice balance, with good fruit purity. Refreshing, elegant, easily drinkable. – Sally Easton, MW					
GUNDERLOCH NACKENHEIM ROTHENBERG GROSSES GEWACHS	2009	750ML	\$ 120.00	\$ 105.00	
GUNDERLOCH NACKENHEIM ROTHENBERG SPÄTLESE	2009	750ML	\$ 55.00	\$ 47.00	
GUNDERLOCH NACKENHEIM ROTHENBERG AUSLESE 375ML	2009	375ML	\$ 49.00	\$ 42.00	
GUNDERLOCH NACKENHEIM ROTHENBERG GOLDCAP 375ML	2009	375ML	\$ 90.00	\$ 77.00	
<u>DR LOOSEN - MOSEL</u>					
DR L RIESLING	2009	750ML	\$ 24.00	\$ 20.00	
DR LOOSEN BERNKASTELER LAY KABINETT RIESLING	2009	750ML	\$ 38.00	\$ 33.00	
The Loosen 2009 Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Kabinett generously doles out mint, lime, cark cherry and cassis, its effusive aromatics being complimented by a pure, luscious, light, yet subtly creamy palate performance and lip-smackingly juicy, stone-tinged finish. This beauty is likely to deliver for two decades. 90/100 David Schildknecht					
DR LOOSEN WEHLENER SONNENUHR KABINETT RIESLING	2009	750ML	\$ 42.00	\$ 36.00	
Slightly Sauvignon-like scents of spruce resin, cassis, vanilla, and fresh apple in the nose of the Loosen 2009 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett migrate to a bright, light, refreshing palate. There is a slight shroud of fermentative residues, but otherwise, this is just what the Doctor ordered, and if it isn't especially complex – and cannot stand comparison with its 2008 counterpart – it should certainly mature comfortably for at least the next 15 years by which time the sense of sweetness will have backed off some. erobertparker.com					
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