

Tasting Report, vintage 2020

GROSSES GEWÄCHS (GGs) - dry

2020 SCHONFELS GG, N° 11 – 98 An amazing dry white that takes you very close to the edge of a precipice and gives you a breathtaking thrill along the way. I love the unique nose of curry powder and curry leaf. Great concentration and structure, the fine tannins exactly matching the profoundly mineral acidity. Wonderful, salty finish with enormous tension. Drinkable now, but best from 2023.

2020 FEILS GG, N° 13 – 96 This ravishingly beautiful, ripe GG has tons of ripe pear, quince and melon. Generous and mouth-filling, but very silky and polished, this builds to a major-key crescendo finish. Delicate herbal freshness holds it back from tipping over the top. Drink or hold.

2020 KUPP GG, N° 18 – 95 Complex nose of wet ferns, wild berries and smoke. As cool and still as it is deep in the woods, this concentrated, tightly wound wine is just beginning to open up. Very classic, stony finish with noble austerity. Drinkable now, but best from 2023.

GROSSE LAGE (GLs) – harmonious dry

2020 NEUENBERG GL, N° 17 – 95 Still a bit shy, the peach and apricot aromas of this dry riesling steadily expand in the glass. However, that doesn't prepare you for the major concentration and structure on the palate, or the very long finish with its intense wet-stone minerality. Drinkable now, but best from 2022.

2020 UNTERSTENBERG GL, N° 12 – 94 Brimming with stone fruit and ripe melon with just a whiff of smoked bacon. Powerful and well-structured, but the generous fruit dominates until you reach the bold, mineral finish, which is pretty dry. Drink or hold.

GROSSE LAGE (GL)– off-dry

2020 KERN GL, N° 9 – 96 I love the nose of leaves and flowers that are dripping with rainwater after a tropical storm. Great interplay of power and freshness, ripeness and delicacy, tropical fruit and fine-grained minerality through the very long finish. Drink or hold.

2020 STIRN GL, N° 15 – 95 So fresh and floral, this is already so effusive and joyful, the juiciness seeming to float weightlessly on the mid-palate, but its anchored by plenty of fine tannins that precisely match the full wet-stone character. Mountain-stream freshness at the totally vibrant finish. Great aging potential! Drink or hold.

GROSSE LAGE – fruity

2020 KUPP Kabinett (Auction) N° 5 – 95 A noble Kabinett with super-fine stone fruit and notes of fennel, rhubarb and kumquat. At once concentrated, juicy and racy, with a perfectly integrated touch of sweetness. Diamond-bright, crystalline finish. Drink or hold.

2020 KUPP Kabinett N° 8 – 93 Very cool and reserved with mint and basil notes, this is a very elegant Kabinett with plenty of wet-stone minerality and a long, super-clean finish with only a hint of natural grape sweetness. Drink now.

VILLAGE (AYL)

2020 Ayl, N° 2, extra dry – 92 Tart pear, white peach and a hint of gooseberry makes this sleek and slightly austere dry riesling both very fresh and expressive. Intensely lemony finish. Drink or hold. Screw cap.

2020 Ayl, N° 25, dry – 93 Beautiful nose of sliced pear with hints of rose and freshly baked bread. Very racy and focused on the medium-bodied palate with a diamond-bright, mineral finish. Drink or hold. Screw cap.

2020 Ayl, N° 6 (Senior), dry to off-dry – 94 Tons of wild-herb aromas, plus a note that reminds me of the red-fleshed vineyard peach, this medium-bodied dry riesling is simultaneously so juicy and so precise. Serious elegance for a village wine, then a very long, crystalline finish. Drink or hold.

2020 Ayl, N° 1, dry to off-dry – 93 Welcome to a tropical paradise on the Saar, where mango and pineapple are on the menu. Warm, round and generous with moderate acidity for this category, this would probably appeal to a lot of pinot gris/grigio fans! Drink or hold. Screw cap.

2020 Ayl, N° 4, off-dry – 93 With its nose of yellow and summer flowers, this sleek dry riesling is a very striking wine. Super refreshing and you can almost hear the bees buzzing! Drink or hold. Screw cap.

2020 Ayl, N° 3, off-dry – 95 An amazing village wine with intense yellow-grapefruit and lime-zest aromas. Serious concentration, but so cool and precise, the apricot ripeness and herbal freshness exactly matched. Very long, pure finish with tons of slate character! On paper this is medium-dry, but for us its easily dry enough. Drink or hold. Screw cap.

2020 Ayl, Kabinett N° 87 – 92 The effusive, spring-meadow nose pulls you into this super-crisp Kabinett that's dangerously refreshing. There must be a bunch of unfermented grape sweetness in here, but you barely feel it, because of the driving acidity. Drink now. Screw cap.

REGIONAL (SAAR)

2020 Saar, N° 16, dry – 91 Full apple, pear and white-peach aromas, plus a hint of floral honey pull you into this juicy dry riesling that's both crisp and playful, with delicate slate notes at the lively finish. Drink now. Screw cap.

2020 Saar, BARREL X, off-dry – 91 Full ripe-apricot nose and a juicy, rather full palate with lively acidity and some natural spritz make this easy to enjoy. Then, at the finish, a pronounced mineral note is neatly underlined by a touch of fine tannin. Drink now. Screw cap.



Tasting Notes by Stuart Pigott, July 4th, 2021