



# Handford

W I N E S



130 Year Old Foudre Barrels – Winegut Wittman

## **Handford Wines Germany 2021 Pre-Release Offer**

### **“Rieslings To Be Cheerful”**

# Contents

Germany 2021 .....	3
Vintage Report.....	3
The Market.....	4
How the Offer Works.....	4
Rheingau.....	5
Schloss Johannisberg.....	5
Mosel-Ruwer-Saar .....	6
Joh. Jos. Prüm .....	6
Fritz Haag.....	7
Schloss Lieser .....	8
Peter Lauer .....	9
Marcus Molitor (2020 Vintage) .....	10
Nahe .....	11
Dönnhoff .....	11
Rheinhessen .....	13
Weingut Wittman .....	13

# Germany 2021

## Vintage Report

Unlike the hot and dry vintages of the three previous years, 2021 proved to be a much cooler affair. Whilst this had the wonderful effect of slowing down ripening, frequent rain made it extremely challenging for many vintners. In the Mosel and Ahr regions, the rising level of the rivers even caused some flooding. Then, in September, the rain ceased and warm, sunny days and cool nights provided excellent ripening conditions and must weights flourished. High-quality grapes were harvested, satisfying producers and promising good wines with less alcohol than previous years, but no less aroma.

But, the growing conditions varied wildly across the country, even wildly across regions. Winemakers in the Mosel and Nahe regions were especially excited about the vintage.

The Mosel's prime south-facing vineyards were particularly favoured in the significantly cooler and wetter wine year. While some wineries faced total loss due to fungal diseases, others brought in an outstanding harvest. Joh Jos Prum started harvest nearly a full month later than 2020 and revisited parcels multiple times in order to get the grapes at their best ripeness levels.

Nahe was one of the only wine regions lacking abundant rainfall this year, with several winegrowers bringing water to their vineyards in October. The vintage is described as a "late bloomer", with a warm and dry September allowing grapes to ripen. At Dönnhoff, the harvest even lasted into November, but with some outstanding wines being produced.

Rheingau wine producers were initially concerned with downy mildew and high grape acidity, but sunny September brought about a turning point. With good quality wines in the cellar, vintners were "all in all satisfied" with the vintage. Riesling especially benefited from the later harvest.

Rheinhessen, Germany's largest winegrowing region, hit a stroke of luck this vintage as budburst happened later than usual and were spared the night frosts in April. The late start to the harvest in mid-September produced a very appealing vintage.

## **The Market**

The vintage may have been cool, but the market is hot. We've had to really push suppliers but, even then, many of the wines here we only have a couple of cases to sell, so we may need to allocate.

## **How the Offer Works**

Prices are quoted per case of 6 (unless stated) in bond (i.e. duty free) at London City Bond. Wines may be stored by us or transferred in bond. Most wines will be shipped in the autumn of 2022 for onward delivery. When you choose to receive wines the duty (currently £13.39 per case of 6) and V.A.T. on the total value (inc. duty) must be paid prior to delivery.

Transfer under bond and delivery to the UK mainland are free for orders over £500 (in bond value). Otherwise delivery charged at £20.00 per delivery per address. Wines may be collected from 105 Old Brompton Road. Storage with us at LCB is currently £1.08 per case (up to 12 bottles) per month inc. VAT. (£0.54 up to 6 bottles)

Please note that some wines are on very strict allocation and you may not always receive everything you request.

# Rheingau

## Schloss Johannisberg

Wine has been made at Schloss Johannisberg for over 1200 years but this is an estate that refuses to stand still. It was in 1720 that the estate was replanted exclusively with Riesling and in 1775 it is credited with the creation of Spätlese. In addition, in 1787 they made the first ever Riesling Auslese and then in 1858 the first Eiswein.



**Schloss Johannisberg Gelblack Riesling Trocken 2021 Rheingau £85.00**

**Schloss Johannisberg Gelblack Riesling Trocken 2021 Rheingau (Single Magnum) £35.00**

“Amazing quality for an entry-level wine from a challenging vintage. Although this is only just beginning to open up, the delicate stone-fruit aromas are already enticing. Excellent ripeness on the wonderfully generous and creamy palate, then almost seamless harmony at the long, silky finish.” 92 Points, James Suckling

**Schloss Johannisberg Bronzelack Riesling Trocken 2021 Rheingau £120.00**

“What a wide spectrum of ripe-fruit aromas this serious and delightful dry Rheingau riesling has! They range from a diversity of citrus, through persimmon to fresh pineapple and apricot. Concentrated, very elegant and focused on the medium-bodied palate, with tons of wet-stone minerality at the long, very filigree finish. Drink or hold.” 94 Points, James Suckling

**Schloss Johannisberg Rotlack Riesling Kabinett 2021 Rheingau £120.00**

“The 2021 vintage was certainly challenging for dry riesling, but for Kabinett it was excellent. This is a very exciting, barely off-dry Riesling with a stunning interplay of racy acidity, fine peach fruit, lemony freshness and a hint of savoury at the very long wet-stone finish.” 94 Points, James Suckling

**Schloss Johannisberg Grünlack Riesling Spätlese 2021 Rheingau £185.00**

“The complex nose of sliced pear, white peach and white currant with delicate floral notes pulls you into this very juicy and vibrant Spätlese that leaps and bounds over your palate. Then comes the radical minerality at the very focused, long and pristine finish.” 96 Points, James Suckling

**Schloss Johannisberg Silberlack Riesling Trocken GG 2021 Rheingau £245.00**

“This is like staring into a deep chasm, yet the discreet mirabelle fruit gives that austere, bone-dry style enough charm to make it really compelling. Enormous crushed-rock minerality, with delicate spice and just a hint of oak on the compact yet sleek palate. This is an uncompromising expression of the Rheingau’s “back to the roots” movement that reveals its greatness at the extremely long and precise finish. Drinkable now, but best from 2025.” 97 Points, James Suckling

# Mosel-Ruwer-Saar

## Joh. Jos. Prüm

For this famous Mosel estate, one of Germany's finest, 2021 is very much a flashback to cooler years. Despite the challenges of the weather, the Prüms have produced some of the most exciting wines we have tried from there. They are 'classic' – in other words, not too ripe and we get crystalline wines with great energy. Taut, poised and have impeccable balance and, while they can be approached young, they are best left for a few years.



Weingut Joh. Jos. Prüm

### **Joh. Jos. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett 2021 Mosel**

**£145.00**

The Sonnenuhr shines this year. In warm years, an overlay of ripe fruit can mask the subtleties of a vineyard's terroir, but the cool season in 2021 allowed this magical vineyard to express all its nuances. The fruit is a little denser and cushions the vibrant juicy acidity, giving it a soft edge, and the wine is rounder as a result; there is an elegant, delicate vein of smoky saline slate flavours compressing the other elements into a fine elongated finish. Drink 2023 - 2050 bottles and 2028 - 2055 magnums

### **Joh. Jos. Prüm Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese 2021 Mosel**

**£135.00**

The soils in the Zeltinger Sonnenuhr are poorer than in next-door Wehlen, and although there is a distinct similarity in style, the wine is always a little stonier and more austere than its more famous neighbour. This is smoky and steely, with a finely wrought spicy mineral core, lean angular citrus fruit and a very long pure finish. Drink 2027 - 2045

### **Joh. Jos. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese 2021 Mosel**

**£160.00**

We've hit the sweet spot here: there's not a hair out of place in this beautifully-judged, supple wine. It is inviting and floral, lemony and cool, fresh and smoky with a silky density that lifts it above the other wines, and the finish is saline and pure. If you ever wondered why the Wehlener Sonnenuhr is one of the world's most famous vineyards, try this and you will understand. Drink 2030 - 2050

### **Joh. Jos. Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese 2021 Mosel**

**£185.00**

Delicate and pure, effortlessly elegant. Full of juicy yellow fruit, fine smoke and dark slate flavours, and there's an easy inevitability to the silky long finish. Drink 2032 – 2055.

## **Fritz Haag**

Wilhelm Haag started in the late 1950s, crafting beautiful wines from the Juffer, and its heart, the Juffer-Sonnenuhr, where vines are clustered on a dauntingly steep and rocky slope around the sundial. His younger son Oliver took over the family estate in 2005, whilst older son Thomas bought Schloss Lieser. We can speculate that competition between the two has driven them both into the ranks of the very best winemakers in Germany. Oliver's wines have an understated subtlety that becomes increasingly apparent as the wines age.



**FRITZ HAAG**

### **Fritz Haag Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr GG 2021 Mosel**

**£190.00**

Made from grapes in the heart of the vineyard, clustered around the sundial where the microclimate is warmer, and the vines much older. It is bright, fresh and ethereal, with gentle floral citrus fruit, and a dark, vanishingly fine persistent silky finish. Drink 2027 – 2040

## **Schloss Lieser**

If you're looking for energy, precision and character, look no further than the wines of Thomas Haag. It doesn't hurt that they age supremely well, reflect their terroir brilliantly, and are quite delicious. Thomas Haag's career is one of the great success stories of the Mosel. His pedigree is impeccable, starting with learning at the feet of his father, Wilhelm Haag, who made Weingut Fritz Haag great. Thomas' wines are about energy, precision and character,



### **Schloss Lieser Wehlener Sonnenuhr GG 2021 Mosel**

**£185.00**

It's all there, but you have to wait. Always an angular wine, it is particularly taut this year, with fine-grained juicy slate flavours and racy lemony acidity. It is unfettered energy, ethereal, soaring and pure, and will need at least five years in bottle before it can be approached. Drink 2027 – 2040



Thomas Haag at the Lieser Niederberg Helden vineyard

## **Peter Lauer**

Winemaker Florian Lauer decided to have as little adverse impact on the environment as he can. His fertiliser is organic, sourced from local cattle and horse farms, and he has upgraded his agricultural machines to be as light as possible to avoid soil compaction. In the cellar, only wild yeasts are used, and the wines are not fined. His corks are carbon neutral, and he does not use capsules – further reducing his carbon footprint.



Florian's primary goal is for his wines to reflect the place where the grapes were grown. As such, he vinifies each parcel with different soils separately, even from within the same vineyard. To taste them is to see just how transparent a wine can be. It helps that he has very old vines of up to 100 years, and as you would expect, the wines are vibrant, pure and very exciting.

### **Peter Lauer Kupp Fass 18 GG 2021 Saar**

**£160.00**

Always the most serious of the Peter Lauer GGs. There is of course a lean, unusually intense stony element, but this is balanced by a tight knot of pure fruit, fresh and green, poised to unfold. Gradually the cool smooth saline minerality builds to a crescendo, finishing on a long fine juicy note. Quite a-maz-ing. Drink 2027 – 2040



Peter Lauer Winery, Ayl with Florian Lauer, Winemaker

## **Marcus Molitor (2020 Vintage)**

Now one of the most important privately owned estates in Germany, Marcus Molitor works historic Grand Cru sites up and down the Middle Mosel. Molitor is the only German winemaker to receive 100pts for a dry Riesling in the Mosel, and all wines are extremely well scored, making these wines key collector items, that benefit from long term storage.



**\*\* Please note: These wines are from the 2020 vintage. \*\***

### **Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spatlese Gold Capsule 2020**

**£125.00**

The 2020 Riesling Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese is pretty reductive on the ripe and concentrated nose that shows a ripe and fine, even coolish Riesling aroma intertwined with refreshing lemon juice and broken slate notes. Lush, sweet and saline on the palate, this is a crystalline, pristine, very elegant and beautifully balanced, irresistibly salivating with a mouth-watering finish. 95pts Wine Advocate

### **Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Auslese \*\*\* Gold Capsule 2020**

**£450.00**

The 2020 Riesling Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Auslese \*\*\* (Golden Capsule) opens with a highly delicate and filigreed bouquet with beautifully clear nuances of apricot and very fine slate on the deep and complex, beautifully refined and precise nose. On the palate, this is a tender, highly finessed and saline Auslese with a concentrated but balanced and seamless texture. Quite sweet still but utterly refined and noble, this delicate, saline and crystalline Auslese doesn't show anything like power or confiture but celebrates its elegance, finesse and definition. A fabulous, pristine Auslese. 99pts Wine Advocate

### **Erdener Pralat Auslese \*\*\* Gold Capsule 2020**

**£1495.00 (3)**

Molitor's golden-yellow coloured 2020 Riesling Erdener Prälät Auslese \*\*\* (Golden Capsule) indicates perfect botrytis that has concentrated perfectly ripe and zesty Riesling fruit with citrus fruit notes. On the palate, this is a highly concentrated, zesty and spectacular fresh Prälät given its warm terroir adjacent to the Mosel River. Dense and fleshy yet also crystalline and savory, the 2020 Prälät Auslese is carried by acidity that comes onto the palate like a laser to cut this rich and concentrated Riesling into very thin slices. This wine is incredibly precise and piquant and wakes up all the senses, even far after midnight. The finish is iodine, even salivating and super precise yet still nervous and striving for calm. Not at its peak yet, but it's once again a fabulous Prälät made to age for decades and more. 99pts Wine Advocate

# Nahe

## Dönnhoff

2021 is, after a long time, once again a classic vintage, something Cornelius Dönnhoff has not had in this century, but for his father Helmut, a harvest in late October and November was still common. The harvest began in the last week of September and lasted until the second week of November, when the nights had long since returned to a sensitive cool.



Must weights were low, but the grapes were still ripe, even though acids were very high. The results of the vintage are outstanding, especially with Dönnhoff, especially with the Grosses Gewächs and the Auslese category.

### **Donnhoff Estate Riesling Dry QbA 2021 Nahe**

**£75.00**

Predominantly from volcanic soils, the 2021 Riesling Trocken is super clear, fresh and flinty on the precise and reductive nose that shows ripe but focused fruit with white peach and apricot aromas. Light and highly stimulating on the palate, this is a salty, crisp and grippy Riesling with juicy fruit and the mineral expression of the Nahe. 91pts, Wine Advocate.

### **Dönnhoff Tonschiefer Dry Slate Riesling 2021 Nahe**

**£90.00**

The 2021 Riesling Tonschiefer is from slate soils in Oberhausen (Leistenberg and Hermnshöhle) and offers a clear, intense and salted bouquet of crushed rocks and white stone fruits. Supple yet light and fresh on the palate, this is a piquant and finely tannic, stimulatingly salty Riesling with lush fruit on the finish, which is still a bit edgy but only as rugged as the landscape around Oberhausen. 92pts, Wine Advocate.

### **Dönnhoff Oberhäuser Leistenberg Riesling Kabinett 2021 Nahe**

**£95.00**

The 2021 Oberhäuser Leistenberg Riesling Kabinett is a pure, precise and coolish, piquant and slatey Riesling with lemon chutney and fermented green pepper notes. Lush, piquant and stimulating fresh, this is an intense, saline and crystalline Kabinett with gorgeous fruit and aging potential. 93pts, Wine Advocate

**Dönnhoff Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Spätlese 2021 Nahe****£210.00**

From the southeast-facing part of the vineyard, the 2021 Niederhäuser Hermannshöhle Riesling Spätlese is very clear, pure and flinty on the concentrated nose. Sweet, refined and very elegant on the palate, this is a weightless, saline and filigreed, playful Spätlese with great balance and delicacy. Not dramatic but quiet and in beautiful balance. 95pts, Wine Advocate

**Dönnhoff Felsenberg Felsentürmchen Riesling GG 2021 Nahe****SOLD**

Dönnhoff's 2021 Felsenberg GG is pure, bright and flinty on the deep, intense and iodine nose that also reveals phenolic complexity. Full-bodied but refined and elegant on the plate, this is a balanced and light-footed, rich and dense Felsenberg with juicy fruit and crystalline acidity, whereas the tannins step back compared to the Höllenspfad im Mühlenberg. The finish is rich yet refined and saline, with delicate lemon bitters and lush fruit. Although the 2021 is already charming, the wine needs some years on the bottle to show all its complexity and finesse without its youthful charm. This is not an austere wine that needs to soften its edges; it's already dangerously good or even too good to cause patience. But the wine will reward those who can wait. 96pts, Wine Advocate

# Rheinhessen

## Weingut Wittman

Wittmann is based in Westhofen, the heart of southern Rheinhessen, surrounded by some of the region's best vineyards. The Wittmans are not exactly newcomers to the area, having made wine here since 1663, and perhaps this gives them a sense of responsibility for the soils in their vineyards: they were pioneers in adopting organic methods in 1990.



A conversion to biodynamics followed in 2004, and Philipp Wittmann reports that his wines now have more character and depth. The estate makes wine from a number of varieties, but predominantly Riesling. Most holdings are in Westhofen, but they also have vineyards in Nierstein.

**Weingut Wittmann Aulerde GG 2021 Rheinhessen** **£220.00**

Vines planted in the late forties give a poised, balanced wine with a juicy core of green fruit and bright lemony acidity, broadening a little on the intense, slightly earthy finish. Drink 2026 - 2038

**Weingut Wittmann Kirchspiel GG 2021 Rheinhessen** **SOLD**

Situated just above the Aulerde in a shallow east-facing amphitheatre which catches the first sun, the soil is mostly limestone with some loam. The wine is poised and melting, with fresh green pepper and elegant ripe acidity, and is defined by its minerality, which starts discreetly and builds to a cool saline crescendo. Beautifully balanced and seductive. Drink 2030 - 2042

**Weingut Wittmann Brunnenhäuschen GG 2021 Rheinhessen** **SOLD**

Brunnenhäuschen faces south, and gets a lot of sun, but a cooling west wind prevents the grapes from ripening too quickly, and is thus harvested after the cooler Kirchspiel vineyard. Iron-rich soils give a creamy density, there are spicy and smoky elements, elegant raspberry and citrus fruit and a rich vibrant salty finish. Drink 2030 – 2042. Only a half-case available.

**Weingut Wittmann Morstein GG 2021 Rheinhessen** **SOLD**

The coolest vineyard in the line-up, with clay soils on a rocky limestone base, consistently produces the estate's most powerful wine. It is floral and bright, full of succulent citrus and yellow fruit, with a crystalline minerality growing in intensity as it glides elegantly to a long, gentle finish. Positively ethereal. Drink 2030 - 2045