



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Van Volxem

(Wiltingen – Saar)

Roman Niewodniczanski is bold and direct with his assessment of his 2016 vintage: "This is the finest vintage I have ever made, and this despite the fact that the year started with quite some pressure in late spring. We had to multiply the preventive treatments by hand, and we really worked our socks off and came unscathed through. At the end the yields were more or less what we expected at the beginning. The summer proved ideal and gave us beautifully clean grapes. Despite this, we went three times through each vineyard to make sure we got only the best fruit for our desired wines. We started the harvest on October 3 and finished it by November 5. A major advantage in 2017 was that we were finally able to use our new cellar facilities above the Saarfelser vineyard. Overall, the 2016 wines provide so much drinking pleasure, with fruit and elegance to boot. I just love the vintage!"

The Estate produced its usual portfolio of wines right up to a full set of GGs as well as an Auslese from the Altenberg. It has added a dry-tasting Riesling at the entry of its portfolio called VV: "I want a wine which proves more accessible also when young," Roman explained, before adding, tongue in cheek, that VV stands obviously for Van Volxem but also for "Viel Vergnügen" (lots of pleasure). On the fruity side, the Estate added a Kabinett from its parcels in the Bockstein.

On the news side, the Estate has planted a first stretch (totaling 3.5 ha) of its holdings in the Ockfener Geisberg (you can learn more on the revival of this great vineyard in Mosel Fine Wines Issue No 28 – Jun 2015).

We can only agree with Roman: This is the Estate's finest vintage so far. The dry Grand Cru bottlings are as good as ever, with the Gottesfuss a strong candidate for the finest dry Riesling of the whole region and one of the finest in Germany. These wines share great finesse and elegance but also a touch of shyness at this early stage: They need some aging to fully deploy their incredible inner charm. What proves truly remarkable is the high quality of the "lower" part of the dry range, with the Wiltinger and the Schiefer Riesling offering amazing value in their category. Last but not least, the Estate has produced some superb bottlings of Kabinett and Spätlese from its holdings in the Bockstein. Lovers of mouth-watering and playful fruity wines need to get Van Volxem on their radar screen. What a collection!

2016er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Gottesfuss Riesling Alte Reben GG	18 17	95
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The 2016er Wiltinger Gottesfuss Alte Reben GG is a dry Riesling made from very old un-grafted vines. It offers a hugely elegant feel of grapefruit, lime, gooseberry, herbs and thyme. The wine is beautifully focused yet superbly playful on the palate and leaves a stunning feel of herbs and spices in the elegant finish. The after-taste seems endless as more subtle flavors of lime, star fruit, herbs and pear make for a great feel in the long finish. This is a simply stunning dry Riesling in the making! 2021-2036

2016er	Van Volxem	Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Alte Reben GG	19 17	93+
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The 2016er Kanzemer Altenberg Alte Reben GG develops a delicately creamy nose with infused pear, lemony elements, star fruit, dried herbs and a hint of melon. The wine is hugely backward on the palate but already hints at greatness to come as ripe, fine herbs and ripe acidity make for a wonderful interplay right into the delicately powerful finish. The after-taste is smooth and beautifully balanced. 2021-2036

2016er	Van Volxem	Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Auslese	23 17	93
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This offers a glorious nose of yellow peach, apricot, honey and fine herbs. The wine is smooth and sweet on the palate but great honeyed flavors come through in the elegant and long finish. This will prove a hugely magnificent dessert wine at maturity. 2031-2056

2016er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese	21 17	93
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The 2016er Ockfener Bockstein Spätlese delivers a gorgeous and precise nose of almond, white peach, tangerine and fine herbs, all wrapped into a refreshing touch of whipped cream. The wine is admirably playful and smooth on the palate and leaves a juicy passion fruit driven feel in the playful and zesty finish. The finish seems endless. This is a superb Spätlese with great fruity character in the making. 2026-2046

2016er	Van Volxem	Scharzhofberger Riesling P GG	17 17	93
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The 2016er Scharzhofberger P GG is a dry Riesling made exclusively from fruit out of the prime and cooler Pergentsknopp sector (hence P) within the Scharzhofberg. It proves remarkably backward and only gradually reveals deep complex scents of herbs, lemony elements, pear and white flowers. The wine proves beautifully smooth and elegant on the palate, where ripe pear, a hint of melon and fine spices emerge from the glass. The finish is superbly elegant and smooth. This will need some time to develop aromatically and gain in focus. But the wait will be well worth it. This is a smashing and remarkably focused and elegant rendition of Scharzhofberger P in the making, one which may not be as "loud" as some past efforts but much more refined. 2021-2036



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2016er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Volz Riesling GG	12 17	92+
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Volz refers to a former single-vineyard classified in the highest category on the taxation maps in the 19th century and which is part of the Wiltinger Braunfels today. This offers a gorgeous nose of pear, grapefruit zest, fine herbs and spices. The wine proves gorgeously smooth and refined on the palate and leaves a beautifully clean and fresh feel of herbs, grapefruit, pear and minerals in the long finish. 2019-2026

2016er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett	28 17	92
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The 2016er Ockfener Bockstein Kabinett is still marked by notes of spontaneous fermentation and only gradually reveals gorgeous passion fruit, pear, grapefruit and fine spices. The wine is beautifully balanced on the palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of mirabelle, passion fruit, white peach and papaya in the long and mouth-watering finish. This is a great Kabinett in the making! 2026-2046

2016er	Van Volxem	Scharzhofberger Riesling GG	14 17	92
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The 2016er Scharzhofberger GG develops a delicately ripe nose of grapefruit, white flowers, herbs, fine spices and minerals. The wine develops beautiful presence and elegance on the focused and zesty palate. Delicately smooth fruit kicks in towards the finish, making for a great, playful and multi-layered expression of dry Scharzhofberger. Far from being big, this plays on finesse and precision. 2021-2036

2016er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Riesling	10 17	91+
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The 2016er Wiltinger Riesling is fermented to dry levels from the Estate's holdings in the Braunfels. It develops a dead gorgeous even if still backward nose of white peach, pear, a hint of candied grapefruit and some fine dried herbs. The wine proves delicate and hugely precise on the palate, yet it is packed with gorgeous flavors of passion fruit, star fruit, pear, apricot blossom and aniseed herbs. The finish is all silk, finesse and loaded with great balanced flavors of fruits and minerals. This proves an absolutely huge success for this "mere" Village bottling: It would not go amiss among the finest of Grand Cru Riesling. This is easily the finest Wiltinger (and previously Wiltinger Braunfels) ever made by Van Volxem. What an amazing success in a hugely refined and elegant style. 2019-2031

2016er	Van Volxem	Riesling Alte Reben	11 17	91
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The 2016er Riesling Alte Reben is made from very old often un-grafted vines in lesser-known vineyards owned by the Estate, including in the Wiltinger Klosterberg (where it owns a parcel planted with 120 year-old vines), the Wawerner Ritterpfad and the Kanzemer Sonnenberg. This offers a beautifully smooth and lively nose of grapefruit zest, pear, star fruit and fine herbs. The wine is nicely elegant on the hugely elegant palate packed with flavors of passion fruit, pear and herbs. The finish is pure silk and leads to a deep, complex and playful feel in the finish. The after-taste proves delicately tart and driven by a refreshing touch of grapefruit. This is the finest rendition of Riesling Alte Reben we have ever tasted. 2022-2031

2016er	Van Volxem	Wawerner Goldberg Riesling GG	13 17	91
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The 2016er Wawerner Goldberg GG provides a slightly big nose of yellow peach, pear, grapefruit, passion fruit and fine herbs. The wine develops good elegant presence on the palate, with pear, minerals and earthy spices driving the aromatic profile. The finish is nicely playful and refined. 2019-2026

2016er	Van Volxem	Wawerner Ritterpfad Riesling Kabinett	20 17	91
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The 2016er Wawerner Ritterpfad Kabinett develops a gorgeous nose of greengage, almond, grapefruit, herbs and fine spices. The wine develops a beautiful feel of fresh herbs and fine spices underpinned by succulent ripe acidity on the palate. The finish is juicy, elegant and nicely playful. 2021-2036

2016er	Van Volxem	Riesling Kabinett Rotschiefer	09 17	90
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The 2016er Kabinett Rotschiefer is made from the Estate's holdings in Wawern and in the Wiltinger Kupp. This offers a beautiful ample nose of papaya, grapefruit, pear, sage and brown sugar. The wine is beautifully elegant and juicy on the palate, where almond cream, pear and a hint of tangerine provide for a succulent experience. The finish is nicely off-dry and playful. 2019-2026+



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2016er	Van Volxem	Saar Riesling	01 17	90
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The 2016er Saar Riesling is made from "younger" (i.e. less than 25 years old) vines from the various holdings of the Estate in the Saar. This offers a gorgeous nose of pear, vineyard peach, brown sugar and dried herbs. The wine is beautifully delineated and focused on the palate but it leaves a juicy feel of herbs and fine spices in the long finish. The after-taste is pure pleasure and elegance. This is a gorgeous wine which proves already quite approachable now but will remain superbly enjoyable over the coming years. Now-2026

2016er	Van Volxem	Riesling Schiefer	05 17	89+
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The 2016er Schiefer Riesling is a dry wine made from younger vines from Estate holdings as well as from fruit sourced from local growers under long-term contract. It develops a subtle nose of mirabelle, greengage, apple, pear and star fruit, all wrapped into some classy spices. The wine is beautifully delineated and precise on the palate, with passion fruit, herbs and spices giving it a nicely tickly acidity. The finish is superbly light, precise and beautifully balanced. This is a gorgeous effort with great freshness and character and offers an amazing presence and complexity for a "mere" entry level Riesling. Now-2026

2016er	Van Volxem	Weissburgunder Windvogt	22 17	88
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The 2016er Weissburgunder Windvogt is made from fruit harvested in a privileged sector of the Wawerner Ritterpfad and fermented in young oak barrique from the French region of the Limousin. It offers a very nice nose of fresh herbs, fine spices, yellow peach and star fruit. The wine is nicely smooth on the palate, where attractive and well-integrated oak elements add depth to the wine. These are joined by passion fruit and honey with further airing. The finish is soft, smooth and quite complex in a delicately ample but very satisfying and juicy style. Now-2021+

2016er	Van Volxem	Weissburgunder	15 17	88
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The 2016er Weissburgunder is essentially made from grapes harvested in Wawern and fermented in used German oak casks. This yellow-colored wine develops a beautiful nose of yellow peach, star fruit, apricot blossom and fine spices. It is nicely smooth and silky on the palate and leaves a stylish feel in the long finish. The wine is smooth, nicely balanced and direct. Now-2023

2016er	Van Volxem	Riesling VV	08 17	88
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The 2016er Riesling VV is a dry-tasting Riesling (with 12 g/l of residual sugar) made from equal parts from Estate holdings essentially in the Bockstein and from fruit sourced from Saar growers under long-term contract. It offers a delicately smooth yet vivid nose of passion fruit, pear, mango, herbs and spices. The wine proves nicely delineated on the palate with hugely focused and precise flavors of passion fruit, herbs and smoke lead the pace. The finish is delicately zesty, with ripe acidity and nice mouth-watering properties. This is a beautiful Riesling made in a dry-tasting and elegant style. Now-2026

About Mosel Fine Wines

[Independent publication](#) on Mosel Riesling (and beyond!) with reports on vintages, Estates and wines at maturity.

Covering every year up to [1,000 wines from the current vintage](#) from all leading Estates of the region, of which the best make it into the Issues.

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