



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Van Volxem

(Wiltingen – Saar)

Roman loves his 2017 vintage: "The wines shine through their purity and crystalline minerality. They have good physiological ripeness underpinned by quite some acidity. These are made for the long-term. What proved critical for our success was that we started our harvest early to retain elegance and freshness, and sorted all our grapes. This was necessary as not all the botrytis which came after the rains in September was of sufficient quality. In fine, we were able to harvest everything right up to BA levels. We relied on the early botrytis to make our noble-sweet selections. The harvest started on September 22 and we were already finished by mid-October, i.e. very early even by modern standards. The fact that we could work our whole harvest at our new facilities overseeing the Saar greatly facilitated our work. The only downside of the vintage are the yields: Like everybody else, we were hit by frost, which cost us half our yields. But the quality is outstanding."

The Estate produced its usual portfolio of wines right up to a BA from the Scharzhofberger. In addition, it also produced some wines which were possible in 2017, namely a dry Saarbuerger and a Spätlese from the Wiltinger Kupp.

The Van Volxem Estate dished up a superb collection of wines in 2017 which shines in all stylistic directions. The decision to start the harvest somewhat earlier paid off. The stars are the three GGs from the Scharzhofberger Pergentsknopp, the Wiltinger Gottesfuss and the Wiltinger Vols, which are superbly balanced and intense. However, as so often, the Estate excels at producing smaller wines in large quantities. The Saar Riesling, the Riesling Alte Reben and Wiltinger Riesling offer stunning quality for comparatively little money. Also, lovers of Weissburgunder must put the Estate's Windvogt on their buying list. This is now easily the finest Weissburgunder of the Mosel.

NB: The Scharzhofberger BA and the Saarbuerger Trocken were not tasted.

2017er	Van Volxem	Scharzhofberger Pergentsknopp Riesling GG	20 18	94
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The 2017er Scharzhofberger Pergentsknopp GG, only referred to as Scharzhofberger P on the main part of the label, is a dry Riesling made exclusively from fruity out of this prime and cooler sector (hence P) within the Scharzhofberg. This starts off with a rather ample and ripe nose made of herbs, spices and above all minerals and quite some smoky elements. The wine proves delicately ample and ripe on the palate, but the aromatics are superbly lifted up by some ripe acidity in the long finish. The after-taste is beautifully tart, chalky and full of promise. This great wine only shows a fraction of its potential at this stage. It may well only emerge from its shell in 5-10 years. But it will prove a cracker after that. What an impressive effort! 2024-2037

2017er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Gottesfuss Riesling Alte Reben GG	19 18	93+
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The 2017er Wiltinger Gottesfuss Alte Reben GG is made from very old un-grafted vines. This offers a gorgeous even if completely reduced nose of herbs, oak spices and some discreet notes of lemon, pear and greengage. The wine is nicely smooth, yet fully racy on the palate and leaves a beautifully clean and pure feel of herbs and spices in the finish. The after-taste is all about intense, laser-sharp precision. This gorgeous wine has quite some upside potential. 2022-2037

2017er	Van Volxem	Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Auslese	24 18	93
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The 2017er Kanzemer Altenberg Auslese was harvested at 115° Oechsle from partially botrytized fruit. It proves still rather shy on the nose, which is marked by melon, honey, pineapple, apricot, and fine herbal elements. The wine unfolds the full smooth and creamy structure of an Auslese GK on the palate, where more melon blends nicely with some grapefruit and herbs. The finish is suave, complex, racy and beautifully persistent. 2027-2047

2017er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Kupp Riesling Spätlese	26 18	93
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The 2017er Wiltinger Kupp Spätlese was harvested at just above 90° Oechsle. It offers a beautifully creamy nose made of pear, grapefruit, aniseed herbs, spices and still quite some smoke. The wine develops the full presence and intensity of an Auslese on the gorgeously playful palate and leaves a long spicy feel of ripe fruits and minerals in the still slightly sweet finish. This only needs a decade or so to fully shine! 2027-2047

2017er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Volz Riesling GG	13 18	93
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The 2017er Wiltinger Volz GG comes from the similarly named former single-vineyard classified in the highest category on the taxation maps in the 19th century and which is part of the Wiltinger Braunfels. This offers a gorgeous even if still hugely reduced nose made of greengage, herbs and spices, but above all minerals. The mineral side also defines the palate, which lives at this stage from its structure more than its flavors. The balance and precision in the lemon and mineral-infused finish is remarkable. This needs a couple of years to fully blossom. 2022-2032+



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2017er	Van Volxem	Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Alte Reben GG	17 18	92
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The 2017er Kanzemer Altenberg Alte Reben GG is made from over 50 year-old vines in the western part of the main hill. This offers a nice and delicately smooth nose made of herbs, fine spices, greengage, mirabelle and smoky slate. The wine proves rather ample yet structured on the palate, where some ripe notes of camphor, mirabelle, quince, barbeque herbs and fine spices are lifted up by some zesty and firm acidity. It leaves one with pure yet ripe feel in the finish. The after-taste is hugely persistent and marked by great zest and spices. The fruity side of the wine is still completely hidden in the structure but, believe us, this will emerge ... even if only in a few years. 2022-2032+

2017er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Spätlese	22 18	92
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The 2017er Ockfener Bockstein Spätlese was harvested at approx. 88° Oechsle. It offers a rather reduced nose made of pear, litchi, star fruit, aniseed herbs and delicately earthy spices. The wine develops the full fruity intensity of an Auslese on the palate and leaves a juicy yet still slightly sweet feel of fruits and herbs in the long finish. This will gain in presence and complexity with some bottle age. 2027-2047

2017er	Van Volxem	Wawerner Goldberg Riesling GG	14 18	92
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The 2017er Wawerner Goldberg GG offers a ripe and delicately ample nose made of brown sugar, star fruit, greengage, bergamot, wet stone and herbs. The wine proves delicately fruity and elegant on the palate and leaves a nicely crisp and juicy feel in the zesty finish. This proves still rather backward but should develop nicely with some bottle age. 2022-2032

2017er	Van Volxem	Ockfener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett	25 18	91
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The 2017er Ockfener Bockstein Kabinett was harvested at approx. 85° Oechsle from vines still trained on single pole in the central part of the vineyard. It proves still quite reduced and only gradually reveals ripe scents of pear and spices. The wine is nicely juicy and playful on the palate and leaves an almost dry-tasting feel in the medium long but very persistent finish. 2024-2032

2017er	Van Volxem	Scharzhofberger Riesling GG	23 18	91
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The 2017er Scharzhofberger GG comes from the central and eastern parts of the vineyard. This offers a gorgeous nose of wet stone, lemon zest, grapefruit, a hint of white flower and lots of minerals and smoke. The wine is nicely tart and spicy on the palate and leaves a pure and clean feel of pear, aniseed herbs and chalky minerals in the long and zesty finish. 2020-2032

2017er	Van Volxem	Riesling Alte Reben	12 18	90+
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The 2017er Riesling Alte Reben is made from very old (and 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. It offers a ripe nose of camphor, pear, mirabelle, wet stone, minerals, flint stone and earthy spices. The wine unfolds a smooth ripeness pepped up by some firm racy acidity on the palate. The finish is all about smoke, minerals and some ripe fruits. It will need quite some time to develop its inner balance but should then prove quite a remarkable, fully dry-tasting Riesling at maturity, in particular if the acidity integrates into the smooth structure. 2022-2032

2017er	Van Volxem	Saar Riesling	01 18	90
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The 2017er Saar Riesling is made from "younger" (i.e. less than 25 years old) vines from the various holdings of the Estate in the Saar. It offers a beautifully reduced nose of lemon zest, greengage, grapefruit, wet leaves, smoke and herbs. An herbal and lemony side drives the flavors on the hugely racy palate. The finish is also driven by zesty elements of grapefruit, fresh herbs and minerals which make for a full dry-tasting after-taste. This proves a beautifully pure expression of Saar Riesling but one which will please lovers of acid-driven wines. Now-2027

2017er	Van Volxem	Wawerner Ritterpfad Riesling Kabinett	21 18	90
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The 2017er Wawerner Ritterpfad Kabinett develops a beautiful nose of pear, white flowers, Provence herbs and some whipped cream. It proves nicely racy on the medium-bodied palate and leaves a pure and attractive feel of pear and herbal elements in the racy and mouthwatering finish. 2027-2037



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2017er	Van Volxem	Weissburgunder Windvogt	28 18	90
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The 2017er 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 Limousin. The wine proves beautifully playful and focused on the nose as it reveals scents of candied lemon, pear, herbs and spices. A slightly phenolic side emerges on the palate which gives the wine body. But again, a playfully zesty side comes through in the long and elegant finish. A delicate and enticing touch of nut adds depth to the after-taste. This gorgeously focused yet complex expression of Weissburgunder will prove hugely enjoyable over the coming decade. Now-2027

2017er	Van Volxem	Wiltinger Riesling	10 18	90
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The 2017er Wiltinger Riesling comes from the Estate's holdings in the Braunfels. It proves still rather backward and only gradually reveals backward scents of camphor, earthy spices, greengage, herbs and smoky slate. A firm kick of acidity cuts through the delicately creamy and ripe palate and brings focus to the powerful finish. The after-taste is all about zest and fine spices, with the acidity and some tartness still in need of integration. This racy brother of a full-blown GG will particularly appeal to lovers of more assertive expressions of Saar Riesling. 2020-2032

2017er	Van Volxem	Riesling VV	09 18	88
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The 2017er Riesling VV was made from equal parts from Estate holdings essentially in the Bockstein and from fruit sourced from Saar growers under long-term contract, and was fermented down to 12 g/l of residual sugar. It offers a beautiful nose of pear, lemon zest, herbs and spices. The wine is delicately smooth yet nicely focused on the direct and fruity palate and leaves a clean and juicy feel of pear sorbet and slate elements in the salty finish. This is happily satisfying in a direct and dry-tasting style. Now-2027

2017er	Van Volxem	Weissburgunder	15 18	88
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The 2017er Weissburgunder comes essentially from grapes harvested in Wawern and was fermented in used German oak casks. This offers a rather reduced nose of camphor, pear, mirabelle, herbs and spices. The wine is ripe but an elegant touch of candied lemon brings a nicely playful side on the palate. One is left with an elegant even if powerful feel in the long finish. Now-2022

2017er	Van Volxem	Riesling Kabinett Rotschiefer	11 18	87
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The 2017er Kabinett Rotschiefer is made from the Estate's holdings in Wawern and in the Wiltinger Kupp. It offers a rather direct and slightly ripe nose of almond, greengage, star fruit, brown sugar and smoke, with a touch of tangerine peel floating around in the background. The wine is gorgeously direct and delicately fruity on the surprisingly palate, where it unfolds its flavors of fruits and spices with Spätlese intensity. The finish is direct, broad and nicely playful. Now-2027

2017er	Van Volxem	Riesling Schiefer	05 18	86
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The 2017er Schiefer Riesling is made from younger vines from Estate holdings as well as from fruit sourced from local growers under long-term contract. It proves rather shy on the nose and only releases vague scents of ripe lemon, aniseed herbs and smoky elements. The wine is sharp and hugely focused on the light-bodied and quite zesty palate and leaves a clean and crisp feel in the medium-long finish. This rather direct and dry expression of Riesling Schiefer should prove quite enjoyable over the coming years. 2019-2022+

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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