



IMAGE CREDIT: ADAM BRAZIER

Wines of Germany's Top of the Crops is back, by popular demand, for another year in 2019. A cornerstone of the Wines of Germany annual calendar, this competition aims to find some of the best wines from Germany and place them in front of the UK wine trade, press and consumers. The aim is to provide a snapshot of the German wine industry today – and to inspire the nation to try new wines.

On Thursday 28th February, nine key members of the UK wine trade met at Humble Grape on Fleet Street to select this year's Top of the Crops. This year, for the first time, four creative experts gathered after the blind tasting to select Germany's 'Coolest Wines' from the winning pool, based on each label and the stories behind those labels. Look out for the 'Coolest Wines' icon – a pair of sunglasses – to see which wines made the final five.

Left to right: Abigail Barlow, Annie Brooks and Adam Brazier

KEY

- Coolest Wines
- Best Independent merchant
- Best On-trade
- Best Multiple/Online retailer
- Best unrepresented

- Baden
- Franken
- Mosel
- Nahe
- Pfalz
- Rheingau
- Rheinhessen

FEATURED CATEGORIES AND EXPERT JUDGES:

BEST ON-TRADE
Jan Konetzki, Ten Trinity Square
Charlotte Prescott, Elystan Street
Gustavo Medina, Tate Britain

BEST MULTIPLE/ONLINE RETAILER
Jenny Smith, Oddbins
Imogen Bowen-Davies, Majestic
Mags Janjo, Roberson

BEST INDEPENDENT MERCHANT
Désirée Russo, Humble Grape
Joan Torrents, Pantry & Co
Christina Holzer, The Sampler

BEST UNREPRESENTED
All the above judges

GERMANY'S COOLEST
Abigail Barlow, Barlow & Co
Annie Brooks, Foodism Magazine
Iona Thomas and Adam Brazier, Graffiti Life

PINOT BLANC, COSMIC BEETLE, RHEINHESSEN 2018
Winery: Sander
Importer and Stockist: Vinceremos Organic Wines
RRP: £10.99 to £12.99

WHITE, DRY

Excellent value. Delicate palate, with plenty of red-berry and cherry flavours.

SAUVIGNON BLANC FUMÉ, PFALZ 2017
Winery: Oliver Zeter
Importer: Delibo Wine Agencies
Stockists: Butler's Wine Cellar, Connolly's, Starmore Boss, Field & Fawcett, Caviste and others.

WHITE, DRY

Aromatic nose, with grassy and floral notes. Good texture, with a touch of sweetness and elegant, tropical fruit.

SILVANER, ESCHERNDORFER LUMP, FRANKEN 2018
Winery: Horst Sauer
Importer: Boutinot
Stockists: Woodwinters Wines & Whiskies, Noel Young Wines
RRP: £21.00

WHITE, DRY

A powerful, well-balanced, floral and fruity wine with pleasant aromas and a long finish.

RIESLING, RHEINHESSEN 2017
Winery: Braunewell
Importer and Stockist: Lea & Sandeman
RRP: £12.95

WHITE, DRY

A good example of modern German winemaking. A dry, delicate and floral style.

RIESLING, RHEINGAU 2015
Winery: Bibo Runge
Importer: Delibo Wine Agencies
Stockists: Chamberlain Wines, Corkage, Luvians, Novel Wines, Hitchin Wine Co and others.
RRP: £18.00

WHITE, DRY

A complex wine, with notes of kerosene, bright acidity and a long finish. This wine will age well.

RIESLING, GRAUSCHIEFER 2017
Winery: Friedrich Altenkirch
Importer and Stockist: Genesis Wines
RRP: £14.70

WHITE, DRY

Bursting with grapefruit, quince and ripe fruits, with the unmistakable, typical minerality of shale soils.

RIESLING, RED SLATE, MOSEL 2017
Winery: Dr Loosen
Importer and stockist: ABS Wine Agencies
RRP: £13.50

WHITE, DRY

Powerful and full-bodied, with flavours of peach, apricot and red berries.

RIESLING, IN DER SANGEREI, MOSEL 2017
Winery: A.J. Adam
Importer: Boutinot
Stockist: Taylors of Tickhill
RRP: £27.00

WHITE, MEDIUM DRY

Aromas of stone fruit with light, floral notes, a hint of spice and a touch of mint. Bursting with peach flavours and a zesty citrus acidity with a long finish.

RIESLING SPÄTLESE, GUNTRUM OPPENHEIM, RHEINHESSEN 2017
Winery: Louis Guntrum
Importer and Stockist: ABS Wine Agencies
RRP: £18.85

WHITE, MEDIUM DRY

Fresh with bright lime and tight zippy minerality, with a touch of sweetness.

RIESLING KABINETT, VICTORIABERG, RHEINGAU 2018
Winery: Flick
Importer and Stockist: The Winery
RRP: £21.99

WHITE, SWEET

Complex, good value with refreshing acidity and notes of citrus and flowers.

RIESLING KABINETT, WEHLER SONNENUHR, MOSEL 2008
Winery: SA Prüm
Importer: Delibo Wine Agencies
Stockists: Last Drop Wines, Starmore Boss, Carruthers & Kent, Weavers of Nottingham, Wine Importers Edinburgh
RRP: 24.00

WHITE, MEDIUM DRY

Packed full of flavour, with a lovely rich style and complex aromas of apricot and honey. This wine will continue to age brilliantly.

RIESLING SPÄTLESE, BERNCATELER DOCTOR, MOSEL 2014
Winery: Dr H Thanisch Erben Müller-Burggraef
Importer: New Generation
Stockists: Dulwich Vintners, Hedonism Wines.
RRP: £45.50 to £48.50

WHITE, SWEET

A playful, well-balanced wine, with fine integration of fruit and floral flavours.

PINOT NOIR, PFALZ 2017
Winery: Villa Wolf
Importer and Stockist: ABS Wine Agencies
RRP: £12.90

RED, DRY

A classic, good value, easy-drinking Pinot Noir from the Pfalz.

PINOT NOIR, RHEINGAU 2016
Winery: Kloster Eberbach
Importer: Boutinot
Stockist: Wild & Lees
RRP: £24.00

RED, DRY

A light-bodied Burgundyesque Pinot Noir with smooth tannins, hints of subtle oak, bursting with cherries, red berries and wild strawberry.

RIESLING, QUEEN OF WHITES, NAHE 2016
Winery: Tesch
Importer and Stockist: Enotria & Coe
Trade price: £11.50

WHITE, DRY

A profile just waiting to be developed to its full potential, with notes of lime, lemon peel, green apple and kerosene.

RIESLING, HAUS KLOSTERBERG, MOSEL 2017
Winery: Markus Molitor
Importer and Stockist: Bibendum
Trade price: £12.53

WHITE, MEDIUM DRY

An off-dry wine with luscious flavours of apples, limes and sweet lemon juice.



RED, DRY

An intense wine with lots of layers. A mixture of red fruit and plums at first, which give way to hints of clove, pepper and oak, giving it a touch of smoke and added depth.



PINOT NOIR, PFALZ 2016

Winery: Petri
Importer and Stockist: Lea & Sandeman
Trade price: £11.95



RED, DRY

A good value Pinot Noir, with classic flavours of fresh raspberry and strawberry.



PINOT NOIR, TASTE THE DIFFERENCE, RHEINHESSEN 2017

Winery: Kloster
Importer: Moselland
Stockist: Sainsbury's
RRP: £8.00



WHITE, DRY

A nutty, apricot profile, this Pinot Gris is round and fruity with a long finish.



PINOT GRIS, MOSEL 2017

Winery: Stephan Steinmetz
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €5.38



WHITE, DRY

Pungent, yet delicate, with notes of lime, stone fruit and kerosene. This wine will age well.



RIESLING, OBER DEM KOKUSLOCH, MOSEL 2016

Winery: Cowell
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €8.50



WHITE, DRY

Nice development on the nose with floral and kerosene notes. Good flavours of lime and stone fruit on the palate.



RIESLING, BURG LAYEN, NAHE 2017

Winery: Schlossgut Diel
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €8.53



WHITE, DRY

Good balance between sweetness and acidity, this wine has classic flavours of stone fruit and citrus.



RIESLING, ROYAL HERB, MOSEL 2017

Winery: Trossen
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €7.35



WHITE, DRY

A delicate wine, with lemon, fresh acidity and a hint of lees. Bursting with floral aromas and fruit flavours.



PINOT BLANC, VOM LÖSS, PFALZ 2016

Winery and Importer: Reh Kendermann
Stockist: Waitrose
RRP: £7.99



WHITE, SEKT

An easy-drinking, grippy Sekt with plenty of stone fruit. Lovely notes of peach and apricot



SILVANER, BADEN NV

Winery: Kaiserstühler Winzergenossenschaft Ihringen
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €7.20



WHITE, DRY

An aromatic wine, with a floral nose and pleasant flavours of green apple.



RIESLING, WÜRZBURGER, FRANKEN 2017

Winery: Bürgerspital
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €5.95



WHITE, DRY

A concentrated flavour profile with a rich style. Pronounced apricot and lemon, and a touch of spice.



RIESLING, BRAUNEBERGER JUFFER GOLDKAPSEL, MOSEL 2017

Winery: Martin Conrad
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €11.80



WHITE, DRY

Fresh and bright with classic flavours of apple, lime and stone fruit.



RIESLING, EXKLUSIV, PFALZ 2018

Winery: Deutsches Weintor
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €3.25



WHITE, MEDIUM DRY

A classic Mosel Riesling with pretty floral notes and delicious honeyed stone fruit.



RIESLING SPÄTLESE, MERLER STEPHANSBERG, MOSEL 2017

Winery: Albert Kallfelz
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €8.60



WHITE, DRY

A perfect balance of rich fruit flavours of apple, peach and apricot, refreshing acidity and just a hint of minerality on the finish.



RIESLING, MOSEL 2018

Winery: Heinrichshof
Importer and Stockist: Majestic
RRP: £12.99



WHITE, SEKT

Layered with peach, apple and toast, this Sekt has a delicious crisp body with a long finish.



RIESLING, ESER CABINET, RHEINGAU 2012

Winery: Johannishof
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €17.50



WHITE, SWEET

Round aromatics, with pleasant fruit and sweetness in the body. A good value wine.



GEWÜRZTRAMINER SPÄTLESE, PFALZ 2018

Winery: Gebrüder Anselmann
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €4.69



WHITE, DRY

A spritzy wine with zippy acidity, this Riesling is light and refreshing with good balance. Excellent value.



RIESLING, BUNTSANDSTEIN, PFALZ 2018

Winery: Kirchner
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €5.21



WHITE, DRY

Rich in style with nice weight. Delicious notes of honey and stone fruit, with a nutty lees texture.



RIESLING, PRIMUS, MOSEL 2017

Winery: P Stettler & Söhne
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €7



WHITE, SWEET

Well-balanced between fruit and acidity, with pleasant notes of honeysuckle and stone fruit, and a fresh finish.



RIESLING KABINETT, KASELER DOMINIKANERBERG, MOSEL 2017

Winery: C Von Nell-Breuning
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €5.50



WHITE, DRY

A Riesling typical of Rheinhessen with clean, crisp floral freshness, well-balanced with plenty of lime.



RIESLING, 50 DEGREES, RHEINHESSEN 2016

Winery: JWG
Johannisberger Weinvertrieb
Importer: Freixenet Copestick
Stockists: Wine Cellar (Douglas), Castang Wines, Drinks Inc, Turton Wines, Fenwick, Slurp
RRP: £11.00



WHITE, SEKT

A balanced wine, with intense floral flavour and a great mousse.



RIESLING, LUDOVICO, MOSEL 2014

Winery: C Von Nell-Breuning
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €8.70



ORANGE, DRY

A really exciting wine with smooth flavours of caramel, nougat and vanilla. A great partner for food.



SILVANER, ORANGEWINE, RHEINHESSEN 2017

Winery: Reis & Luff
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €8.00



WHITE, DRY

A well-balanced wine with good levels of fruit and acidity. Pleasant peachy and citrus notes.



RIESLING, STRAIGHT, RHEINHESSEN 2017

Winery: Kraemer
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €4.10



WHITE, DRY

Charming and concentrated, with well-balanced acidity and floral notes.



RIESLING, ROTER HANG, RHEINHESSEN 2017

Winery: Wedekind
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €8.90



RED, DRY

Ripe red cherry, with accompanying savoury and earthy notes. Firm structure, with real texture and ripe tannins.



PINOT NOIR, AUS DEM KESSEL, BADEN 2015

Winery: Freiherr von Gleichenstein
Importer: Seeking
Ex-cellar price: €10