

WEISSENBERG RIESLING 2013

Change of label with the 2013 vintage

-
wine remains the same

The wine formerly labeled as VS Weissenberg Riesling (Kabinett) with the word Kabinett, last in 2010 on front label and then on the back label for 2011 and 2012, will just be VS Weissenberg Riesling (single vineyard reserve selection) starting with the 2013 vintage.



The 2013 Weissenberg Riesling clearly is a great value fruity style, single vineyard Riesling.

Why the change?

As elaborated upon in many presentations, the words “Kabinett” and “Spätlese” provide more confusion than explanation. Some recognize them as sweetness measures, which is incorrect, some associate a particular style of wine which is equally incorrect. The initial idea to provide an assessment of ripeness of the fruit as an indicator of texture has also failed as top producers exceed the minimum ripeness requirements for these categories by far while others barely exceed the minimum requirements, hence there are \$10 Kabinett and \$45 Kabinett depending on producer.

With the 2013 vintage VS has moved away from using the ‘Kabinett’ and ‘Spätlese’ terms on its wine labels altogether. Every wine made at VS including the HD Riesling technically qualifies for ‘Spätlese’ and the reserve bottlings like ‘Weissenberg’, ‘Nitor dry’ and ‘Apollo dry’ are generally based on fruit selections that would qualify for Auslese. So still calling these wines “Kabinett” or “Spätlese” is not helpful.

Instead, the style of the wine is clearly indicated by “dry” on the label where appropriate and the retail prices reflect the richness provided. The higher the price, the riper the fruit used for the wine.

The Riesling Weissenberg provides a typical reflection of sweeter style Mosel wine worthy of the single vineyard designation and represents a great value as the awards and medals received confirm.

Furthermore, VS now produces only one sweeter style reserve bottling called “Weissenberg” after the top vineyard site where the wine originates. With the 2011 vintage the Weissenberg Spätlese had been discontinued. VS still produces an Auslese designated wine from the same vineyard as a richer alternative bordering the style of a dessert wine.

The development in Germany to provide more designations like “Classic”, “Selection” and “feinherb” by the government and “Grosses Gewächs”, “Erstes Gewächs”, “Erste Lage” etc. by the VDP makes things, in our opinion, even more complicated.

VS has decided to make things simpler:

All wines outside of Auslese and dessert wines will be labeled as “Qualitätswein” with a style indication “dry” if the wine is not fruity. The inspiration for this comes from the super tuscans such as ‘Sassicaia’ and ‘Ornellaia’ which are labeled vino de tavola, while they are clearly not just table wines.