

T H E
W I N E R Y

November Tasting *Maida Vale* 19.11.24
featuring Gerrit Walter

Tonight we are joined by Gerrit Walter from the Mosel valley in Germany. To celebrate the important part Gerrit's wine has played at The Winery over the past decade and a half, the entire line-up is given over to his range. Sparkling Riesling Sekt, Weissburgunder (Pinot Blanc), two dry Rieslings, a sweet Riesling Kabinett and his two Spätburgunders (Pinot Noir).

sparkling

Riesling Sekt Brut, Walter (Mosel/Germany)

20.99

Gerrit was an intern with us in the summer of 2009 and went back home to help with the harvest before heading back to Geisenheim, the top Wine University in the country. Gerrit clearly did his homework at Uni and at his various internships here at The Winery and with Jochen Dreissigacker, one of the modern winemaking stars of Rheinhessen. It's easy to understand why Gerrit's parents, Alfred and Alexa, gave him free rein in the family cellar shortly after his graduation. Here is his generous, mouth-filling Sekt - 100% Riesling. Ripe and opulent: the perfect opener for an evening.



white

Weissburgunder trocken 2023, Walter (Mosel/Germany)

16.99

Whilst dry Riesling forms the overwhelming majority of Gerrit's output, he also makes some Weissburgunder (Pinot Blanc). Most is grown on the Weisserberg (*white hill*), the continuation of the Briedeler Herzchen, the imposing, steep vineyard on the opposite bank of the Mosel from the village. 90% is raised in stainless steel tanks for freshness, the remaining 10% in old wooden fuder (oak casks). Creamy and fresh. A hint of peardrops.

Riesling trocken 2022, Walter (Mosel/Germany)

11.99

This is the wine – a veritable, durable hit! Gerrit's excellent dry Mosel Riesling has been a fixture on The Winery shelves for almost 15 years. It is our top-selling dry Riesling and one of our top-selling whites regardless of origin. For many, it has been their introduction to the magic of dry Riesling. Benchmark, crisp, racy Mosel Riesling, packed with minerals drawn from perilously steep, slate vineyards overlooking the river and the village of Briedel between Pünderich and Zell.

Gerrit has been running his family's winery in the Mosel valley and working the beautiful, dangerous slopes for over a dozen years. It's still very much a family winery. They have avoided expanding much so they can handle all the work in the vineyards and cellar themselves. Gerrit's father and mother are still involved - we often bump into his father Alfred on a tractor working in the vines. Gerrit and his wife Julia now have two young children - their son Hannes likes to help with the bottling. It's a very efficient winery: when we send our orders, Gerrit pings us the next day to say the pallets are ready. Amazing. And his wines just get better and better, no matter what the weather throws at him.

Briedeler Riesling trocken 2023, Walter (Mosel/Germany)

(Magnum 45.99) 18.99

Germany is Riesling's spiritual home. Within Germany, the Mosel is considered 'Riesling Central' - a stunningly beautiful, steep-sided river valley that loops from Luxembourg through Trier up to Koblenz where it joins the Rhine.

Riesling is something of a helter-skelter ride in your mouth. The play of ripeness with the exhilarating lift of fresh acidity is something that can't be found in other wines. It's the definition of minerality: the sense of the geology the vines are grown on expressing itself in the finished wine – stony, slatey, almost salty.

continued

white continued

The Briedeler (formerly called Spätlese trocken) is from older vines, harvested later. The grapes have a longer maceration time before fermentation with wild yeasts and longer lees contact before bottling. All this adds up to a fuller, broader, more complex wine.

fruity (you could try this after the reds, if you prefer)

Marienburg Riesling Kabinett 2023, Walter (Mosel/Germany) (Magnum 43.99) 18.99

Back in the 1960s and 70s, the Mosel was best known for off-dry and sweet Rieslings, enjoying enormous success, particularly overseas - in the UK, USA and Japan. Fashions changed and growers increasingly fermented their wines out to drier styles. When Gerrit worked at The Winery in 2009, he said he was still making a small quantity of sweet wine just for his grandmother. A decade and a half on and Kabinett (*aka 'Kabi'*) has become something of a trend - albeit on a small scale - with Gerrit and his contemporaries. They refer to it as "*Winzer Limonade*" (wine-growers' lemonade). It is low in alcohol, gently sweet, grapey, with lovely fresh acidity and is very easy to drink. Just ask our colleague Nelly, who adores the Kabinett style. The Marienburg is an upscale Kabinett, from the highly-regarded Pündericher Marienburg vineyard, in the next village upstream, a village made famous by Clemens Busch whose wines also feature on our shelves (next pallet is on its way btw). Gerrit's fancy Kabi has depth and complexity and will age effortlessly for 30-40 years. *If you like this you might also like the Schäferlay Riesling Spätlese.*

red

Spätburgunder trocken 2023, Walter (Mosel/Germany) 16.99

Like many along the Mosel valley, although 95% of his wine is Riesling, Gerrit also makes a small amount of Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir). Gerrit has always been very interested in Pinot Noir and was particularly keen to taste as much red Burgundy as possible while he interned with us back in 2009. He was so obsessed with Pinot that he asked for a new French oak barrel for his 19th birthday. It is fair to say that the wine he made with it back then was a teeny bit oaky. 15 years on, he has been making this bright, fresh Spätburgunder in a big old 1,200 litre barrel and two old barriques (depending on the size of the harvest) with no discernible oak flavour. The 2023 is open and surprisingly floral.



Weisserberg Spätburgunder 2021, Walter (Mosel/Germany) 31.99

Weisserberg (*white hill*) is Gerrit's top Spätburgunder bottling with more concentration and weight. It's from a one hectare parcel of Spätburgunder he bought around the time he was with us. He uses old oak, to avoid the oak flavours dominating. Only 400 bottles were made in 2021. Hints of violets and peach in the nose. Silky, smoky, textured Pinot Noir.

LUNAR CALENDAR OBSERVERS – today is a **Flower Day**.

Our next tasting will be at **The Winery Fulham** on **Tuesday 3rd December**.

New arrivals – Cosimo Taurino from Puglia, the heel of Italy, Cantina di Casteggio and impressive sparkling wines by La Versa from the Oltrepò Pavese south of Milan. Sancerre by Didier Raimbault. Chablis by Stéphanie Mosnier. Mature Riesling (2002, 2008, 2010) by Querbach from the Rheingau.

We just came back with a vanload from the southern Rhône; Château de la Gardine Châteauneuf-du-Pape & Rasteau; from Provence, Bandol by Château Vannières; we also scooped up some Champagne from Louis Casters on our way back up to Calais.

In transit – from Spain, Desconcierto Rías Baixas Albariño and Bolet Cavas. Clemens Busch from the Mosel. On the boat from California, long-awaited Hafner. Lots of Burgundy, lots of Bordeaux. Great Beaujolais; Anne-Sophie Dubois Fleurie and introducing her boyfriend Sylvain Martel's Juliéna. More Champagne – François Secondé & Verrier. From Italy, Cascina Le Doti Barbaresco, Cavallotto Barolo and La Colombina Brunello. Brace, brace brace!

Join us for our Monthly Tastings
The Winery, 4 Clifton Road, London W9

www.thewineryuk.com

mailinglist@thewineryuk.com

The Winery, 797 Fulham Road SW6 5HD

info@thewineryuk.com