



Mosel Fine Wines

"The Independent Review of Mosel Riesling"

By Jean Fisch and David Rayer

Weingut Clemens Busch

(Pünderich – Terrassenmosel)

Rita Busch proves at ease with the Estate's 2016 vintage: "We have been growing organically since quite a while now and have developed a little bit of experience with outbreaks of peronospora. The one in May and June of 2016 was however particularly intense and we had to work as hard as ever to keep the disease under control. In the end, it did not prove to be of any issue. The remainder of the growing season proved remarkably good, so that the harvest proved an easy affair as the fruit remained clean. We started on September 27 with a negative selection and finished on November 3. Everything was possible on the dry side. Unfortunately, the lack of botrytis did not allow us to make any Auslese. Overall, we love the vintage very much. The wines show much early charm. They are very pure and elegant. While lower in acidity than the 2015s, they still have great vibrancy."

The Estate produced its usual range of wines right up to a full range of 2016er GG on the dry side and right up to Spätlese GK on the fruity side. It also recently released its first dry Riesling Réserve from 2014 (which are aged for 24 months on their lees before being bottled) as well as its 2015er set-up of late bottled GGs from the Fahrlay Terrassen, Felsterrassen and Raffes. It also recently released two experimental wines, an orange wine called "O" and a "vin nature" styled wine called (Alter) Native, bottled un-filtered with only minimal added SO₂.

There is no beating around the bush. Clemens Busch produced its possibly best collection of wines ever. The basic dry Riesling are of outstanding quality, the 2016er GGs prove remarkably stylish with moderate alcohol levels and the fruity wines show great playfulness as well as depth and complexity. In particular the beautifully elegant 2016er Marienburg Rothenpfad GG and the stunning Marienburg Kabinett would be our pick from the collection. In addition, the Estate released some amazing 2015er late-bottled GGs: The 2015er Fahrlay Terrassen may well be the finest dry Mosel Riesling of the vintage. Moreover, the Estate 2014er Réserve bottlings show as amazing presence and depth as the Dr. Loosen GG Réserve. Lastly, the "vin nature" and orange wine will please lovers of these respective styles. There is almost too much to choose from at Clemens Busch this year. Bravo!

NB: The 2016er Riesling Trocken vom blauen Schiefer as well as the three 2016er late bottled GGs (Fahrlay Terrassen, Felsterrassen and Raffes) and the Réserve bottlings were not ready for tasting. They will be reviewed in the coming year.

2015er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Fahrlay Terrassen Riesling Trocken GG	01 17	95
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The 2015er Pündericher Fahrlay Terrassen Trocken GG is made from late-harvested fruit in a prime terraced part of the blue-slate Fahrlay sector. It underwent an extended maturation on its lees and is only commercially released now (fall 2017), i.e. two years after the harvest. This offers a gorgeous nose of candied grapefruit, lemon and aniseed herbs. The wine is superbly elegant and refined on the palate and leaves a stunning feel of herbs and fine spices in the long, refined and delicately silky finish. The elegance and finesse of this wine are simply remarkable. This is without doubt one of the very finest dry Riesling made in the Mosel in 2015. It is that impressive! 2020-2030

2015er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Raffes Riesling Trocken GG	03 17	94+
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The 2015er Pündericher Marienburg Raffes GG is made from late-harvested fruit in a prime terraced part of the grey-slated Falkenlay sector. It underwent an extended maturation on its lees and is only commercially now (fall 2017), i.e. two years after the harvest. This develops a stunning nose of candied grapefruit, laurel, chalky minerals and fine spices. The wine is beautifully zesty, focused and precise on the palate and leaves a stunningly clean and tart feel in the long and elegant finish. This is a stunning dry Riesling in the making. 2020-2035

2014er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Fahrlay Riesling Trocken Réserve	22 16	94
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The 2014er Pündericher Marienburg Fahrlay Trocken Réserve was left on its gross lees for 24 months before being bottled (hence the AP number from 2016). It develops a stunning nose of pear, mirabelle, greengage, fine herbs and spices. The wine proves wonderfully silky yet nicely zesty on the palate and leaves an intense and mineral feel in the long and suave finish. This hugely impressive Riesling merges finesse, some power and depth. What a great wine in the making! Lovers of bigger dry Riesling with however great finesse should plunge upon this effort! Now-2024

2016er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Spätlese GK	12 17	94
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The 2016er Marienburg Spätlese GK is made from a selection of partially botrytized fruit. The wine develops a beautifully pure and juicy feel of white peach, grapefruit, apricot blossom and chalky minerals. The wine is beautifully balanced and leaves a stunningly fruity feel with herbs and spices in the long and superbly vibrant and focused finish. This is a gorgeous, light-weighted Auslese GK styled Riesling in the making. 2026-2046



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2016er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Rothenpfad Riesling Trocken GG	19 17	94
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The 2016er Pündericher Marienburg Rothenpfad Trocken GG develops a beautiful nose of grapefruit, mirabelle, white and yellow peach and fine spices. The wine is stunningly well balanced on the palate and leaves a superb feel of grapefruit zest, herbs and spices in the hugely long finish. The elegance and finesse of the after-taste is paired with a high level of aromatic intensity and great presence. This is simply stunning. 2026-2046

2016er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Trocken GG	18 17	93
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The 2016er Pündericher Marienburg Trocken GG delivers a gorgeous nose of mirabelle, grapefruit, cinnamon and earthy spices. The wine is beautifully balanced, with good grip, but also elegant and not overpowering presence on the palate. The finish is superbly long and lives from a great tension between zesty grapefruit, creamy pear and herbs. This is a beautiful dry Riesling in the making! 2026-2046

2016er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Falkenlay Riesling Trocken GG	17 17	93
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The 2016er Pündericher Marienburg Falkenlay Trocken GG delivers a ripe nose of grapefruit, quince, infused pear and herbs. The wine develops a satisfyingly creamy feel on the palate, where fresh grapefruit mingles with fine spices and juicy pear. The finish is intense and almost powerful but retains stunning balance. This is a great dry Riesling in the making. 2021-2036

2016er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Kabinett	10 17	93
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The 2016er Pündericher Marienburg Kabinett develops a stunning and delicately creamy nose of fresh herbs and spices. The wine offers the presence of a Spätlese on the palate, and is beautifully well balanced and zesty. It leaves a racy and very pure feel in the long and creamy finish. This is a gorgeous delicately Spätlese-styled Riesling with great aromatic purity and raciness. 2021-2036

2016er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Riesling Spätlese	11 17	93
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The 2016er Pündericher Marienburg Spätlese develops a complex nose of grapefruit, mirabelle, herbs, laurel and slate. The wine is delicately creamy and superbly pure on the palate and leaves a hugely aromatic and nicely zesty feel in the long and juicy finish. 2026-2046

<u>2014er</u>	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Rothenpfad Riesling Trocken Réserve	21 16	93
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The 2014er Pündericher Marienburg Rothenpfad Trocken Réserve was left on its gross lees for 24 months before being bottled (hence the AP number from 2016). The wine develops a beautiful nose made of mirabelle, juniper berry and white minerals. It proves nicely balanced and gorgeously silky and animating on the palate and leaves a pure feel in the long, intense and delicately warm finish. The delicately zesty and creamy after-taste is driven by fine spices and herbs. Now-2024

2016er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Fahrlay Riesling Trocken GG	20 17	92+
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The 2016er Pündericher Marienburg Fahrlay Trocken GG develops a gorgeous nose of grapefruit curd, pear, earthy spices and dried herbs. The wine proves full-bodied on the palate, with creamy fruits and herbs leading to an intense and powerful feel in the long finish. This big, bold and hugely impressive wine only needs a few years to fully shine. 2021-2036

<u>2015er</u>	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Marienburg Felsterrassen Riesling Trocken GG	02 17	92
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The 2015er Pündericher Marienburg Felsterrassen GG is made from late-harvested fruit in a prime terraced part of the grey-slate Falkenlay sector. It underwent an extended maturation on its lees and is only commercially released now (fall 2017), i.e. two years after the harvest. This offers a beautiful nose of candied grapefruit, mirabelle, fine herbs and spices. The wine develops great silky yet zesty presence on the palate and leaves a clean juicy feel in the long and refined finish. This is beautifully made with big presence and aromatic depth. 2020-2030



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2015er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Nonnengarten Riesling Fass 29	09 17	92
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The 2015er Pündericher Nonnengarten Fass 29 is a dry Riesling (with 4 g/l of residual sugar) from this classified vineyard on a terroir of iron-rich slate. The wine develops a beautiful nose of white peach, grapefruit, mango, pineapple and herbs. It is superbly elegant and playful on the palate and leaves a gorgeous feel of fine herbs in the long and delicately spicy finish. The balance is simply superb here. 2025-2040

2016er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Riesling Kabinett	09 17	91
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The 2016er Pündericher Kabinett comes from the west-facing part of the Marienburg situated behind the village (and not classified as Grosse Lage). It develops a gorgeous nose of gooseberry, grapefruit, mirabelle and herbs. The wine proves nicely zesty and crisp on the palate and leaves a pure and clean feel in the long and juicy finish. This is a gorgeously zesty and playful rendition of Kabinett. 2021-2036

2016er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Riesling Trocken vom grauen Schiefer	14 17	91
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The 2016er Pündericher Trocken vom grauen Schiefer comes from the grey-slate sectors in the Pündericher Marienburg. This offers a beautifully complex nose of white peach, mirabelle, coconut and fine herbs. The wine proves gorgeously pure, refined and delicately creamy on the palate and leaves a smooth and nicely tickly feel in the long and elegant finish. This is a gorgeous wine with true "grand vin" character in the making. 2019-2026

2015er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Riesling Trocken vom blauen Schiefer	25 16	90
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The 2015er Pündericher Trocken vom blauen Schiefer comes from early pickings in the blue-slate sector (Fahrlay) of the Pündericher Marienburg and was bottled late, at the end of 2016. It offers a beautiful nose of pear, melon, herbs and spices. Despite a moderate 11.5% of alcohol, the wine develops good presence on the palate and leaves a beautiful feel of grapefruit, pear and fine herbs in the long and zesty finish. There is still quite some tartness coming through in the after-taste, making us opt to only start drinking this wine in a year or two, when the tartness will have mellowed away. 2019-2025

2016er	Clemens Busch	Pündericher Riesling Trocken vom roten Schiefer	15 17	90
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The 2016er Pündericher Trocken vom roten Schiefer comes from the iron-rich sectors of the Pündericher Nonnengarten and Pündericher Marienburg. It proves rather reduced and only gradually reveals its beautiful scents of grapefruit, mirabelle, yellow peach, star fruit, pear and fine spices. The wine is nicely smooth and delicately juicy on the palate and leaves a juicy and nicely integrated, tart feel in the finish. This only needs a year or two to shine. 2019-2026

2015er	Clemens Busch	Riesling Trocken O	(No AP)	90
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The 2015er Riesling Trocken O (O stands for orange) is an un-filtered dry Riesling from the grey-slate sectors of the Marienburg, which saw three months of skin-maceration and extended aging in cask (it was only bottled in late 2016). A whiff of volatile acidity quickly gives way to fascinating scents of apricot blossom, fine herbs and spices on the nose. The wine is nicely firm and delicately tannic (as one would expect) on the pleasant palate and leaves a nice and remarkably juicy feel in the long finish. 2020-2025+

2016er	Clemens Busch	Riesling Trocken	16 17	89
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The 2016er Estate Riesling Trocken comes from the Estate's secondary vineyards (Pündericher Goldlay, Pündericher Rosenberg and the east-facing part of the Pündericher Marienburg) as well as declassified fruit from its "Grand Cru" vineyards. This offers a beautiful nose of pear, mirabelle, grapefruit and white peach. The wine is nicely smooth and delicately zesty on the palate and leaves a great feel of herbs and spices in the long finish. This is a gorgeous effort with real "grand vin" character despite being only a "mere" Estate Riesling. Now-2023



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2015er	Clemens Busch	Riesling Trocken (Alter) Native	(No AP)	89
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The 2015er (Alter) Native is a dry Riesling from grey-slate sectors of the Marienburg which was bottled un-filtered and with only minimal added SO₂. It offers a beautiful nose of grapefruit curd, fresh cooking apple, mint and herbs. The wine proves slightly sharp and tart on the palate but leaves a clean and direct feel in the long, nicely precise and delicately smooth finish. Precise flavors of almond, star fruit, grapefruit and cooking apple leave one with an elegant and balanced feel in the after-taste. Now-2020+

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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