



Highlights from the Press – Zilliken 2022

James Suckling

“Stuart found 2022 to be excellent for dry-style wines, with Zilliken in Saarburg on the Saar making the best dry Rieslings in the winery’s history. The shining star among them was the 2022 Zilliken Rausch Diabas Riesling, which simultaneously has great aromatic tension (think bergamot, Amalfi lemon and floral honey), yet is wonderfully graceful and silky on the palate.” *October 2023*

View from the Cellar — Reviewed by John Gilman—

“I was fortunate to be able to taste some of the Zillikens’ very finest bottlings from the vintage and every single one of them was outstanding. The lineup this year included a relatively rare Grosses Gewächs bottling from the family’s small parcel of vines in the Bockstein vineyard in the village of Ockfen.” *August 2024*



Zilliken “Butterfly Riesling” 2022

[90] *James Suckling*

Attractive nose of yellow apple and ripe citrus with some herbal nuances. Juicy and animating on the medium-bodied palate with a bright acidity and good herbal freshness at the crisp finish. *October 2023*

[89] *Decanter*

An off-dry style with soaring acidity, this wine is crisp, refreshing, and priced for everyday consumption. Bright grapefruits, crushed chalk and white florals mark the bright aromas of this wine. A tingling, acid-driven palate navigates across candied citrus, bright grapefruit pith, spicy white pepper, and a petrichor minerality that brightens the finish. *April 2024*

[88] *Mosel Fine Wines*

It has an appealing and aromatically ripe nose of tangerine, William’s pear, yellow peach, greengage, anise, and a hint of apricot. The wine proves nicely light-weighted and balanced on the zesty and comparatively straight palate. The residual sugar is already very well packed into the structure and the finish is nice and dryish. This is a very good aromatic yet fresh dry-tasting Riesling. *June 2023*

[87] *Wine Enthusiast*

Offers aromas of green peach, with flavors of lime and gooseberry. It offers loads of acidity behind the dried green-herbal accents. *May 2024*



Zilliken Saarburg Riesling Trocken Alte Reben 2022

[94] *James Suckling*

Very cool and youthful nose of a garden dripping after a summer rainstorm, then, with some aeration, complex spicy notes develop. Intensely mineral on the sleek and compact palate that’s barely medium-bodied. Stunning length at the very precise wet stone finish. *October 2023*

[93] *Decanter*

The Zilliken house style is one known for balancing elegance with intensity, and that is evident in this Alte Reben or very old vine Riesling, with vines dating from 60-130 years old. Gloriously aromatic, this Trocken soars with beautiful white florals and candied lemon notes, underlined by subtle spice and salty sea air. The palate is beautifully balanced, verve, and complex, with the throughline of green mangoes, white pepper, juicy Meyer lemon pulp, and a note of candied orange peel. It is gorgeously generous and layered. *April 2024*

[92] *Wine Enthusiast*

An elegant, floral, dry white showing jasmine and apricot flavors, with a silky texture and an intense mineral core. The long finish features smoky notes with hints of tropical fruits. Juicy yet refined. *May 2024*

Continues

[91] Mosel Fine Wines

Offers a beautifully elegant and complex yet still discreet nose of almond cream, vineyard peach, Conference pear, bergamot, violet, anise, minty herbs, and lavender. The wine is delicately playful and intense on the animating palate. It proves very focused and still tight at the moment, yet the finish is very long and crystal clear. The after-taste is already slightly broader and very intense. *June 2023*



Zilliken Saarburg Riesling Kabinett 2022

[93+] View from the Cellar

The wine delivers a beautifully complex aromatic constellation of pink grapefruit, tart orange, wild yeasts, a refined base of slate, elder flowers, discreet botanicals, bee pollen and a touch of mint in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, filigreed and fullish, with a lovely core of fruit, delicate sweetness, lovely minerality, bright acids and a long, complex and dancing finish. This is a beautiful wine that is already quite delicious. *Reviewed by John Gilman. August 2024*

[92] James Suckling

Effusive nose of fruit salad, then comes the beautifully balanced, off-dry, light-bodied palate where the crisp acidity makes this seem much drier than it really is. Long very clean finish with delicate herbal and mineral notes. *October 2023*

[89] Wine Spectator

Sunny and warm, with a fresh mix of spiced apple, apricot and lemon pulp flavors. Shows impressive integration on the medium-weight palate, with hay and floral details, plus a flash of bitter pithiness. This white's tangy acidity reins in the open-knit palate. *June 2024*

[89] Mosel Fine Wines

Offers a very aromatic and appealing nose of fresh orchard fruits, juniper, William's pear, gooseberry, chamomile, smoke, and herbs. The wine is delicately smooth and juicy on the nicely playful and aromatic palate. The finish is all about stone fruits and yellow flowers, on the light and easy-going finish. The aftertaste shows a nice fresher kick of lemon and candied grapefruit. *June 2022*



Zilliken Ockefener Bockstein Riesling Kabinett 2022

[94] James Suckling

The sliced pear fruit and tremendous mineral freshness really makes this light and extremely clean Riesling Kabinett stand out. Long super-crisp finish with so much delicate herbal complexity. And yes, somewhere in there is quite a bit of natural grape sweetness, but you barely feel it. *October 2023*

[91] Mosel Fine Wines

Offers an aromatic smoky nose of herbs, aniseed, William's pear, gooseberry, tangerine, blood orange, and spices. The wine is very juicy and coats the palate with orchard and yellow fruits. It is round and still on the sweet and creamy side, yet the finish already shows more precision and freshness as zesty elements come through. The finish is very spicy and elegant. This is a superb Kabinett. *June 2022*

[89] Wine Enthusiast

Mouth-watering flavors of glazed apple, apricot and quince paste are expressive and well spiced in this off-dry version. Creamy and rich on the chiseled finish. *May 2024*

Continues



Zilliken Bockstein Riesling GG 2022

[94] *James Suckling*

In spite of the abundant white tree fruit aromas and a certain generosity, this is a very cool and precise wine with terrific garden herb freshness at the structured and zesty long finish. Excellent aging potential. *Reviewed by Stuart Pigott September 2023*

[93] *Wine & Spirits*

A dashing modern wine from this historic estate. The Saar's Bockstein Grosse Lage has textbook blue Devonian slate in a cool corner of the tributary. This bone-dry wine offers pithy, tart citrus flavors of Meyer lemons, with layered acidities to cut through the rounder mid-palate of any dish. *March 2024*

[92+] *View from the Cellar*

The wine offers up a young and complex bouquet of lemon, bread fruit, a beautiful base of slate minerality, wild yeasts, elder flowers, a touch of petrol, gentle mossiness and a top note of lime peel. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and filigreed, with a fine core of fruit, lovely mineral drive and grip, zesty acid sand a long, complex, impeccably balanced and very elegant young finish. There is an inherent delicacy to the 2022 Bockstein GG that is relatively rare for these grand cru dry Riesling bottlings and which augurs very well for the wine's positive evolution in bottle. *Reviewed by John Gilman. August 2024*

[92] *Wine Enthusiast*

Precise, with acidity gallantly flowing, lending focus and bringing out lots of spice and mineral notes up front, while flavors of orchard blossom and white raspberry emerge midpalate. Shows complexity and harmony, though it becomes a bit taut on the finish, not yet showing its full potential. *May 2024*

[91] *Mosel Fine Wines*

It starts off with a quite herbal and smoky nose, which gradually gives way to cool and earthy notes of anise, herbal tea, greengage, stone fruits, and wet stone. The wine proves focused on the comparatively lean and zesty palate. The finish is still tart and racy, and will need a couple of years to mellow away its herbal side. Yet potential is there for this refined and elegant wine to shine at maturity. *September 2023*



Zilliken Rausch Riesling GG 2022

[97] *The New Wine Review*

Lavish aromas of ripe yellow cherry and pink grapefruit contrast deep layers of struck flint, salt and steel in this finely filigreed dry Riesling. It's a lean, breathless wine but intensely penetrating too, darting and dashing along spears of lime and white-peach flavors. A nervous, spine tingling wine in youth, it's a steely, stunning expression of the Saar that's electrifying young but likely to gain depth and richness for the next few decades. *January 2024 – Reviewed by Anna Lee C. Iijima*

[95] *James Suckling*

A masterpiece of filigree! Very delicate and subtle with a spring meadow freshness, this has stacks of white peach and yellow apple fruit. Wonderfully elegant this sleek beauty dances its way over your palate. Very racy, wet stone finish, but without the pointed acidity to which the Saar tends. *Reviewed by Stuart Pigott September 2023*

[94] *View from the Cellar*

The bouquet hopping from the glass in a complex blend of fresh lime, tart orange, cress, a lovely foundation of grey slate minerality, lavender, wild yeasts, citrus peel and incipient notes of Rausch smokiness in the upper register. On the palate the wine is bright, full-bodied, focused and complex, with a rock-solid core of fruit, superb mineral undertow and cut, bright acids, superb balance and a long, precise and vibrant finish. *Reviewed by John Gilman. August 2024*

[93] *Mosel Fine Wines*

It offers a very pure, delicate, and flowery nose of white flowers, minty spices, almond cream, wet stone, bergamot, and fine herbs. The wine is superbly juicy and delicate on the airy and light-weighted palate. The finish has great tension as zesty and cooler elements join the party. The aftertaste is all about smoke and green herbs, with a fine touch of tartness still in need of integration. This is a superb dry Riesling in the making. *September 2023*

[91] *Wine Enthusiast*

A well-rounded Riesling, with notes of ginger framing the core of crisp pear, lime and kumquat fruit. This combines ripeness with elegance, driven by vibrant acidity that stays persistent and focused on the inviting finish. *May 2024*

Continues



Zilliken Rausch Riesling Kabinett 2022

[95] *Decanter*

A wonderful Kabinett from Zilliken's steep Rausch vineyards, with ripe peach and juicy Meyer lemon pulp aromatics, is a perfect marriage of ripe fruits and yellow flowers. A brilliantly balanced palate of juicy candied lemons, linear minerality and soaring acids. A gorgeous weight carries the intensity of ripe sugars, sweet notes of elderflower and perfectly complementary acidity sings beautifully in this wine.

April 2024

[95] *James Suckling*

Here are all the flowers of the summer with the bees and butterflies buzzing and hovering over them. Then comes a wonderfully tropical palate in spite of the light body, which is really remarkable. Long, very complex finish in which the smoke, floral and licorice character is tightly interwoven. October 2023

[93] *Mosel Fine Wines*

A fruity-styled wine harvested in several parcels of the vineyard on different days. It has a flinty and superbly aromatic nose of vineyard peach, William's pear, candied grapefruit, a hint of apricot and mango, almond cream, and plenty of spices. The wine also has very aromatic and juicy flavors of ripe fruits (clearly playing into Spätlese category). It leaves a more precise and focused feel in the very long and pure finish. This is a Spätlese in all but name and is truly impressive. June 2023

[90] *Wine Spectator*

An opulent, concentrated version, with silky texture to the flavors of apricot preserves, ripe peach and preserved citrus rind. A fresh burst of lemon and dried thyme provides nice contrast and vividness, along with a dusting of fleur de sel and slate notes, white tea tannins bring structure. June 2024

Zilliken Rausch Riesling Auslese 2022

[94] *Mosel Fine Wines*

It offers a restrained yet already beautifully complex nose of pineapple, yellow flowers, passion fruit, candied grapefruit, orange blossom, William's pear, and quince jelly. The wine is superbly creamy and juicy on the sweet and smooth palate. The finish is full of yellow and honeyed fruits with great concentration yet the typical Saar lightness and precision. This very elegant and delicate Auslese is a splendid wine. September 2023



Zilliken Rausch Riesling Diabas 2022

[96] *James Suckling* — Top 100 Wines of Germany 2023 (#79)—

What a wonderfully graceful and silky dry Saar Riesling this is! Fantastic tension of bergamot and floral honey aromas with the wet stone minerality and delicate Amalfi lemon character. Barely medium-bodied, but such a long, extremely focused and filigree finish. October 2023

[94+] *View from the Cellar*

The bouquet is bright and impressively complex, offering up scents of lime, sweet grapefruit, a complex base of slate minerality, beautiful Rausch botanicals, citrus blossoms, wild yeasts, lime peel, a touch of mossiness and gentle smoky top notes. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and impeccably balanced, with a lovely core of fruit, great mineral drive and cut, a marvelous tug between ripe fruit, slate minerality and a whisper of sweetness, great acids and a long, complex and vibrant finish. This is a brilliant wine!

Reviewed by John Gilman. August 2024

[93] *Decanter*

Wonderfully rich, this Diabas Riesling is done in the Feinherb style and names for the Diabase volcanic bedrock in certain parts of the vineyard. Ripe peaches and cream aromatics, lemon drop candies, and white flowers transition to a palate that balances ripe stone fruits. Creamy nectarine and honeyed apricot flesh are lifted by crushed stone and cardamom spice. Sweet fruit is brilliantly balanced against the basalt mineral character. April 2024

[90] *Wine Enthusiast*

Pure but with slight sweetness, showing crunchy green apple and lemon-lime flavors matched to dried green herbal accents. Stony slate details show on the piercingly fresh finish. May 2024

Continues

AUCTION WINES



Zilliken Rausch Riesling Kabinett 2022

[96] *James Suckling*

What amazing elegance and finesse this Riesling Kabinett has! Finesse and filigree in spite of the excellent ripeness. Very juicy Yamanashi white peach fruit and minty freshness are married to strident wet stone minerality on the sleek and light-bodied palate. Stunning freshness at the very long and clean finish. *October 2023*

[89] *Wine Enthusiast*

This Kabinett switches on the treble, showing clarity to the peach, lemon, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg flavors. Opulent in texture and lively. *May 2024*

Zilliken Saarburger Rausch Riesling Auslese 2022

[96] *James Suckling*

Fabulous floral honey, dried apricot and fig aromas. Rich and texturally complex, but also finely nuanced. Serious structure and power at the compact and lively finish that makes a serious statement. Excellent aging potential. *October 2023*
