Published on robertparker.com, 12/29/23

2022 Binger Scharlachberg Riesling trocken **Rating: 94**

From the famous vineyard facing south and seeing the Nahe from red colored quartzite soils, the 2022 Binger Scharlachberg Riesling Trocken displays a vivid yellow-golden color and opens with an intense and elegant bouquet of ripe fruits intertwined with less reductive and more open fruit aromas, which makes this a stylistically rather Alsatian Riesling (if something like that does actually exist). Round, refined and elegant on the palate, this is a pure, saline and mineral Riesling with the characteristic drive and tension but also finesse and elegance that makes the Scharlachberg a unique wine also amongst dry Rieslings. This is Riffel's finest 2022, and it belongs to the very best Rieslings I have tasted from the Nahe that difficult year. Mind, though, that the Scharlachberh is a Rheinhessen site just overlooking but not belonging to the Nahe, even though it would have been a typical Nahe Riesling. 12.5% stated alcohol. Natural cork. Tasted in October 2023. Drink Date 2023 – 2048

2019 Binger Scharlachberg Riesling Auslese 105° **Rating: 93+**

The intensely golden-yellow colored 2022 Binger Scharlachberg Riesling Auslese 105° (there is another one picked at 116° Oechsle) offers a clear, intense, flinty-scented bouquet of ripe, well-concentrated and healthy Riesling berries intertwined with sharp and flinty quartzite notes. Dense and lush on the palate, this is a round and sweet yet also savory and saline Auslese with precise and crystalline acidity but quite rich texture. This is a mouth-filling, rather baroque Scharlachberg Auslese that needs at least a decade to refine. The finish is intense and long. Very promising. 8% stated alcohol. 375-milliliter bottle. Screw cap. Tasted in October 2023. Drink Date 2035 – 2060

2022 Binger Scharlachberg Pinot Noir trocken **Rating: 93**

The 2022 Binger Scharlachberg Pinot Noir opens with a precise, dense and fresh sour cherry and black berry aroma intertwined with flinty notes. Wonderfully pure, intense and terroir-driven (south-facing, steep site with red-colored quartzite soils and Pinot clones from Dijon) on the iodine-scented nose, this is a medium to full-bodied, lush and elegant, very fruity but refined and silky-textured Pinot with very fine tannins and game aromas toward the finish (so pair it with wild boar or roe deer). This is a mouth-filling, complex and structured Pinot with a long, dense and intense yet refined and tensioned finish. This is a superb first Pinot from one of Rheinhessen's finest Riesling sites. 12.5% stated alcohol. Natural cork. Tasted in October 2023. Drink Date 2023 – 2035

2022 Binger Kirchberg Riesling trocken **Rating: 93**

From a cooler site facing east toward the Rhine River and on yellow colored quartzite soils, the 2022 Binger Kirchberg Riesling Trocken opens with a concentrated, pure and stony bouquet with sharp mineral, saline as well as ripe and concentrated yet rather discreet, bright and spicy Riesling aromas. Round and elegant on the palate, this is a playful, lush and fine Riesling with vivacious mineral and saline acidity and a pure, firm, mineral and linear finish. The acidity is mouth-tickling, intense and tight, and it is also provided with finely dusty tannins. This is another superb 2022 Binger Riesling from Riffel, and it will further improve with bottle age. 12.5% stated alcohol. Natural cork. Tasted in October 2023. Drink Date 2026 – 2044

2022 Binger Osterberg Riesling trocken **Rating: 93**

Riffel's 2022 Binger Osterberg Riesling Trocken comes from old Mosel clones planted on clayey marl soils. Accordingly, the wine opens with a clear, intense and refined, rather coolish and elegant bouquet of ripe, white fruits intermingled with some calcareous notes. Silky on the first palate, this is a full-bodied, lush and elegant Riesling with remarkably fine acidity. There are lemon and saline notes on the still young but long, intense, textural and promising finish. This is a superb Riesling from an extraordinarily warm and dry vintage. Bottled dry and with a moderate 12.5% stated alcohol. Natural cork. Tasted in October 2023. Drink Date 2025 – 2039

2022 Binger Scharlachberg Riesling Kabinett **Rating: 93**

The 2022 Binger Scharlachberg Riesling Kabinett is very clear and precise on the reductive nose that combines elegant and flinty purity with intense, ripe fruit aromas. Lush and savory on the palate, this is a pure, saline and crystalline Kabinett form one of the finest sites in all of Rheinhessen. It is a beautiful wine yet, in my eyes, not the best expression of this terroir that can do Spätlese and higher predicates and even great dry Rieslings. However, the finish is long and complex here. 8% stated alcohol. Screw cap. Tasted in October 2023. Drink Date 2028 – 2048

2020 Binger Scharlachberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese **Rating: 92**

The amber colored 2022 Binger Scharlachberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese opens with a concentrated and intense yet less refined bouquet that delivers raisined and stewed stone fruit aromas yet still less of the Scharlachberg features. Viscous and very concentrated on the almost oily palate, this is a very sweet, ripe and spicy TBA that is too reminiscent of stewed fruits (or confiture) than of Scharlachberg. The finish, however, is fresh, fine and also salty to some extent, but it will take many years for the terroir to integrate the sweet fruit. At the moment, this is just a respectable sweet wine that doesn't give a nod to its origins. 6% stated alcohol. 375-milliliter bottle. Natural cork. Tasted in October 2023. Drink Date 2035 – 2055

2022 Chardonnay Réserve **Rating: 92**

Aged in barriques, the yellow-golden 2022 Chardonnay Réserve opens with a pure, refined and elegant yet also intense, yeasty, flinty and even saline-scented bouquet of ripe fruit aromas and finely crushed sones. Silky and lush on the palate, this is a full-bodied, round, elegant, persistently saline and finely tensioned Chardonnay with delicate, finely grained tannins and crystalline-saline acidity. There are ripe and elegant fruit aromas on the aftertaste. This is a very elegant and balanced Chardonnay in the international style but with a Binger finish. 13% stated alcohol. Diam cork. Tasted in October 2023. Drink Date 2023 – 2031

2022 Binger Kirchberg Riesling Kabinett **Rating: 92**

From a cooler site on yellow colored quartzite soils, the 2022 Binger Kirchberg Riesling Kabinett opens with a clear, sharp and precise bouquet of crushed rocks and salts as well as bright Riesling fruit. Round, lush and savory on the palate, this is a light but charmingly juicy Kabinett that shouldn't be wasted when drunk young but cellared for about a decade. Seriously, this Kabinett has huge talents but won't show its true class earlier. Highly recommended. 8.5% stated alcohol. Screw cap. Tasted in October 2023. Drink Date 2031 – 2050

2022 Binger Rosengarten Riesling **Rating: 91**

From a warm site with soils that are shaped by the glacial age that left gravel as the predominant soil rich in nutrients, Riffel's 2022 Binger Rosengarten Riesling opens with a charmingly round and aromatic nose with ripe and warm but elegant fruit aromas intermingled with a delicately flinty quartzite nuance. The wine is round and elegant on the palate, and it is not fully dry but also not sweet, particularly on the refined and elegant finish that is saline, fresh and rather dry. The wine has delicately nervous but finely grained mineral acidity and would be accepted by most wine drinkers as dry (delicious) Riesling from beautiful Rheinhessen. Organic viticulture. 12% stated alcohol. Natural cork. Tasted in October 2023. Drink Date 2023 – 2042

2022 Binger Riesling Quarzit trocken **Rating: 89**

The 2022 Binger Riesling Quarzit Trocken is clear and quite intense on the nose, showing ripe and concentrated fruit aromas intermingled with sharp and refreshing quartzite tones that give this dry Riesling its specific twist. Lean and linear on the palate, this is a bone-dry and puristic yet fine and elegant Riesling with no makeup at all. The finish is nicely intense and fresh, and the wine is stimulating, especially served with a meal. 12% stated alcohol. Screw cap. Tasted in October 2023. Drink Date 2023 – 2032

2022 Binger Spätburgunder "Mariage" **Rating: 88**

The 2022 Binger Spätburgunder "Mariage" opens with a clear and intensely aromatic, elegant, refined yet pretty smoky aroma of ripe cherries, hints of toast and chocolate as well as cold fermenting fruit notes (four days of cold maceration). Round and silky on the palate, this is a medium-bodied, fresh, finessed and elegant, remarkably balanced Pinot with fine and crunchy tannins and a clear, refreshing finish. Moderate in alcohol and very digestible, preferably after two or three more years of bottle aging, this is an authentic, well-made Pinot from vines about 20 years old. The inaugural 2003 vintage was the wedding wine of Carolin and Erik Riffel and has been produced since then, always sourced from the same parcel next to the Scharlachberg, where the vines root in quartzite and loess soils. Riffel planted the large, loose-grape Freiburg clone 12L and reduces the juice for the Mariage by 30% (saignée) to get the right concentration. The must was fermented with 30% whole clusters and aged in old barriques for six months. Bottled only slightly filtered in late August this year with 12% stated alcohol. Diam cork. Tasted in October 2023. Drink Date 2025 – 2033