

Jancis Robinson

For the most recent vintage released, 2008, we can be quite happy with the results. There are always complaints from the critics about too many wines being awarded the coveted grand cru status but fortunately 2008 turned out to be more favourable for the white great growths than had at first been expected. In most cases there was a higher level of acidity than in 2007, bringing back freshness and elegance. Producers with a preference for the 'full bodied is beautiful' style found conditions a little more difficult and sometimes it showed, when the occasional over-employment of malo resulted in a bit of flab. On the red front, 2007 was a great year for Spätburgunder, which is reflected in my marks. Maybe some people will accuse me of partisan patriotism but it's the simple truth: German Pinot Noir at its best is world class.

Keller, Westhofener Morstein Riesling Grosses Gewächs 2008
Rheinhessen 19.5 Drink 2010-21

At first quite closed, then developing an intriguing combination of spicy and flinty aromas; marinated pears with a sprinkling of cinnamon/nutmeg, complemented by a smoky minerality; almost a touch earthy in the best possible taste; the finish keeps growing in intensity and is very, very long. How does one describe perfect harmony? (MS)

Keller, Westhofener Kirchspiel Riesling Grosses Gewächs 2008
Rheinhessen 18.5 Drink 2010-21

Spontaneous fermentation aromas give way to an overwhelming array of vineyard peaches, mangos and satsumas; very generous and ripe fruit keeps expanding without transgressing into overload; finely polished acidity, mineral finish; very long (MS)

Keller, Dalsheimer Hubacker Riesling Grosses Gewächs 2008
Rheinhessen 19 Drink 2010-21

Rather than opulent in its fragrance, this convinces with a more refined combination of spices and yellow fruit; on the palate this exhibits a perfect balance of local and exotic fruit (ripe apples, juicy pears, grapefruit, oranges), spice (nutmeg) and a mouthwatering acidity; great structure, complexity and length. (MS)

Keller, Westhofener Abtserde Riesling Grosses Gewächs 2008
Rheinhessen 18.5 Drink 2010-21

Nettles, elderflower and fennel make this quite a green affair; on the palate this is definitely an earthier style with some green elements, less opulence and a slightly bitter pith element on the finish; a different style with more herbaceous tendencies, but before anybody thinks I did not like this, it is the most elegant of the Keller Grosse Gewächse. (MS)