



Reviewed by Stephan Reinhardt, Issue Date 31th of January 2020, The Wine Advocate

EVA FRICKE SCHLOSSBERG Riesling I Rating QbA 94P

From partly ungrafted vines that are at least 80 years old, the 2018 Lorcher Schlossberg Riesling is fascinatingly pure, fresh and flinty on the spicy, almost peppery and crunchy nose with its intense lemon, lime zest, herbal, radish, mustard and sweet fennel seed as well as floral notes. What lovey fruit concentration! Lush and generous on the palate, this is a beautifully intense and elegant, rich and persistently salty Riesling with a very long and linear finish. A great wine! 11.5% alcohol. Tasted from AP 8 19 in June 2019.

EVA FRICKE SCHLOSSBERG Spätlese I Rating 94P

The 2018 Lorcher Schlossberg Riesling Spätlese is coolish, precise and flinty on the more reductive and lime-scented nose than its Klosterberg sibling. Lush yet crystalline and salty-piquant on the palate, this is a generous, enormously lush and super sexy Spätlese with succulent fruit that covers your palate. There are 90 grams of residual sugar, but there is nothing left but gorgeously ripe Riesling fruit from rocky slate. A fabulous Spätlese bottled with 8% alcohol. Tasted from AP 9 19. You can drink it now, but don't be sad if there is nothing left in 20+ years.

EVA FRICKE KLOSTERBERG Riesling I Rating Auslese 94P

From 100% healthy but late-picked grapes (3rd week of October) Fricke's 2018 Kiedricher Klosterberg Riesling Auslese is precise and piquant on the nose, wonderfully concentrated, with lemon, grapefruit and woodruff aromas as well as super ripe white-seed fruit aromas. On the palate, this is a dense but enormously piquant and mineral-structured Auslese that is rich but not so rich that you can't swallow it in big amounts. A fabulous wine to be served in six to 10 years. What grip and mineral tension here!

EVA FRICKE KRONE Riesling QbA I Rating 93P

The 2018 Lorcher Krone Riesling Trocken offers a deep and concentrated lemon bouquet intermixed with chalky notes of crushed stones and salty minerals on the remarkably fine nose. On the palate, this is a dense, lush and intense, very complex and salty-mineral Krone with crystalline acidity, lots of finesse and a frisky character. A gorgeous, highly finessed and tensioned wine with good grip and aging potential. Very digestible (35 milligrams of free SO₂). Bottled with 12.5% alcohol. Tasted from AP 7 19 in June 2019.

EVA FRICKE MÉLANGE Riesling QbA I Rating 92+P

Fermented until the end of April 2019 with up to 13.8% alcohol (plus nearly 6 grams of residual sugar), the 2018 Rheingau Riesling Trocken Mélange offers a deep, intense, lemon and mango-scented, subtly mineral and concentrated bouquet that needs a lot of aeration to get rid of its reductive "sponti" aromas. On the palate, this is a full-bodied, tight and lush, well-structured and refreshing dry Riesling with a creamy texture and a long and intense, tightly mineral and very persistent finish. An impressive wine that needs a year or two to show its beauty. The body volume of 13.8% alcohol sounds more dramatic than it really tastes. The Mélange—a blend of loam, sand and gravel soils of the Hattenheim



Schützenhaus and the Kiedrich Sandgrub (lieu-dit Kalbspflicht)–is Eva Fricke's favorite wine of the vintage. Tasted from AP 14 19 in June 2019.

EVA FRICKE SELIGMACHER Riesling QbA I Rating 92+P

From vines up to 120 years old, the 2018 Lorchhäuser Seligmacher Riesling offers an intense and open bouquet of super ripe and dried white seed and raisin fruits intermixed with flinty, crystalline and mineral stony slate notes, even lemon aromas after a while in the glass. Round, lush and generous on the palate, this tight and salty-mineral, precise and fresh Riesling develops a long and tensioned, piquant and salty finish. Bottled with 12 or 13 grams of residual sugar and 11% alcohol. Tasted from AP 6 19 in June 2019.

EVA FRICKE LORCH Riesling QbA I Rating 91P

Flinty as always, the 2018 Lorch Riesling trocken offers intense and perfectly ripe lemon scents with notes of crushed stones, floral aromas and herbs. Just beautiful! On the palate, this is a rich and intense, quite powerful but still crystalline and firmly structured Riesling with a pretty linear course on the palate. The finish is long and intense and also aromatic, with good grip and mineral tension. An impressive wine again. 12.5% alcohol. Tasted from AP 4 19 in June 2019.

EVA FRICKE WISPERWIND Riesling QbA I Rating 91P

Ripe and flinty fruit aromas with sweet herbal and floral notes on the nose of the 2018 Lorcher Riesling Wisperwind lead to an intense and fruity, firmly structured and grippy palate. Charmingly sweet and lush but serious and firm, it has a long and vital finish. A very promising wine. 11.5% alcohol. Tasted from AP 13 19 in June 2019.

EVA FRICKE KLOSTERBERG Riesling Spätlese I Rating 90+P

Picked in the third week of October and stopped on its way to becoming a Kiedricher trocken, the 2018 Kiedricher Klosterberg Riesling Spätlese offers a fine, piquant and spicy bouquet of perfectly ripe (or overripe) Riesling aromas with crushed slate and fermented pepper. Piquant and lush on the palate, this is a concentrated, very intense and sweet-piquant Spätlese on a digestible Auslese level. Excellent quality with grip and aging potential. Bottled with 10% alcohol plus about 60 grams of residual sugar. Tasted from AP 15 19 in June 2019.

EVA FRICKE VERDE Riesling QbA I Rating 90P

Clear and fresh on the precise and reductive-styled nose, with apple, leafy and coolish lime notes, Eva Fricke's 2018 Rheingau Riesling Verde is a gorgeous lithe wine: fresh and citric on the palate yet lush and intense, with mouth-filling fruit and a stimulating phenolic grip. A beautiful summer drink even in winter! 11% alcohol and tasting dry. Tasted from AP 16/19 in June 2019.

EVA FRICKE MELLIFLUOUS Riesling QbA I Rating 90P

From later-picked grapes with an even higher level of ripeness than the Verde, Eva Fricke's 2018 Rheingau Riesling Mellifluous offers a ripe and intense yet still fresh and piquant bouquet with lovely lime, lemon and yellow-skinned apple aromas. Lush, round and pretty intense on the mouth-filling



palate, with a vivacious yet playful and delicate acidity, this is a remarkably persistent and well-structured Riesling with good length and grip. Just 11.5% alcohol but pretty rich and complex. Tasted from AP 11 19 in June 2019.

EVA FRICKE KIEDRICH Riesling QbA | Rating 89P

Ripe and concentrated, even baked bright fruit aromas on the nose of the 2018 Kiedrich Riesling Trocken reflect the warm vintage. However, there is a refreshing spicy-mineral and lemon-fresh aroma in the background too. On the palate, this is a full-bodied, juicy and tightly structured Riesling with crystalline acidity and a long and salty but also powerful and grippy finish. However, this is not a broad or clumsy wine but a Rheingau classic from an unusually warm vintage. 12.5% alcohol. Tasted from AP 5 19 in June 2019.

EVA FRICKE RHEINGAU Riesling QbA | Rating 88+P

Produced entirely from their own grapes, Eva Fricke's 2018 Rheingau Riesling Trocken displays a bright, fresh, round and fruity bouquet with lemon and bright floral aromas. The palate is intense and concentrated, tightly structured and reveals racy acidity even in that terribly warm year. 12% alcohol. Tasted from AP 2 19 in June 2019.

Eva Fricke is going Burgundy. In fact, she not only travels to Burgundy occasionally, due to her pure passion for Pinot Noir, she also goes Burgundy on her wine labels. While the legal information is put on the back label, the front label only shows what's really important: the name of the region (Rheingau), the village (either Kiedrich or Lorch) or the single vineyard (i.e., Krone, Schlossberg or Seligmacher) and, if it comes to the (German) predicates, the term Spätlese or Auslese. Like this, German wine labels are very easy to understand. For example, Kiedrich contains nothing but Riesling, and the Riesling originates only from Kiedrich. A Kiedrich is always classified as quality wine from the Rheingau. If it was a sweet wine, you would see an added predicate too. As long as there is no predicate given, the wine is either dry (trocken) or at least kind of dry (which means it tastes dry even with some grams of residual sugar due to low pH levels). With the 2017 vintage, Eva has installed a new wine: Verde, an off-dry Riesling tribute to Portugal's Vinho Verde. The firstling is lovely—not only in summer but anytime. Eva's former Riesling Off Dry kept its style (which is more dense and concentrated compared to Verde) but got a new name that plays with its inherent touch of sweetness: Mellifluous. The 2017 vintage brought a heavy hailstorm to the middle Rheingau in early August that reduced the yields dramatically in some parts. However, in April, Eva already lost 30% of the potential yields in Lorch due to spring frost. In summer she started applying biodynamic methods in the vineyards, which have been farmed organic since 2011. Since June and July were warm and forced the maturation of the grapes, the heavy hailstorm on August 1st destroyed grapes and the canopy wall almost completely, most of all in Hallgarten, Hattenheim and Kiedrich, where Eva bewailed another loss of 30% of the grapes. After the rain, a new round of plant protection was necessary. Many hours were invested into the canopy management to guarantee good aeration in the grape zone. The harvest started in September 19th with Pinot Noir, so relatively late. Although the grapes were much healthier than expected, I find more traces of botrytis in Eva's wines than in the previous vintages, but that's the character of the vintage rather than a change of style. If you like her Riesling because of the racy purity and crystalline minerality, you should opt for her Rieslings from the upper Rheingau—i.e., the wines from Lorch and Lorchhausen. Or try the 2018s, which Eva calls "a great vintage." The wines are nuanced, deep, complex and dense and balanced by miraculous acidity. These are terrific terroir wines based on entirely healthy grapes. Although 2018 was 2.8 degrees Celsius warmer than the long-term average temperature, the wines combine their perfect ripeness with precision and mineral freshness. In the upper and lower Rheingau, there was no rain between June to September. 2018 saw the earliest budbreak (seven days earlier compared to the long-term average), flowering (-17



days), veraison (-21 days) and harvest (-24 days). Like in 2015, drought caused belated physiological ripeness. "We didn't pick the best grapes before October, after some very welcome rain showers," said Eva, who never had a longer harvest period before. Whereas the grapes for their sparkling wine were already picked in mid-August, the harvest was not finished before the end of October. Eva can be happy to have so many old vines, up to 70 years old. Also, due to the rainfalls in winter, only the youngest vines suffered from drought. In the end, I don't know which vintage I prefer. I didn't taste both vintages side by side, as there were several months between both tastings. I was impressed by Eva's 2017s, but the more generous 2018s come very close, though they are different in character, perhaps a little bit less concentrated. In both vintages, Eva Fricke has proven that she is one of the region's outstanding wine producers.