



VINTAGE 2019

Reviewed by [Stephan Reinhardt](#), Issue Date 13th of August 2020, [The Wine Advocate](#)

Weingut Eva Fricke 2019 Lorcher Krone Riesling Trockenbeereauslese Rating: 100

The 2019 Lorcher Krone Riesling Trockenbeereauslese offers a concentrated, very intense bouquet of fresh pineapple and candied lemon aromas intermixed with notes of sage, lavender, black bread, black pepper and rubbed lime rind. Very sweet and intense on the palate but at the same time piquant and racy, this is a perfectly lifted and refreshing TBA with a lot of terroir expression. It is an incredibly frisky, salty and textured sweet wine like only very few TBAs you can find today. Again, I don't pick up much sulfur here. Tasted in May 2020. Extremely rare. Drink Date: 2030 - 2080.

Weingut Eva Fricke 2019 Lorcher Kapellenberg Riesling Trockenbeereauslese Rating: 99

The 2019 Lorcher Kapellenberg Riesling Trockenbeereauslese offers a bright and highly finessed yet concentrated raisin and candied lemon aroma intertwined with notes of mandarin, pineapple, waffle with confectioner's sugar and cooked strawberries. Round and intense but also finessed and delicate on the palate, this TBA is hugely refined and even salty, amazingly clear and bright and finishes with piquant, highly stimulating salinity and finesse. A fantastic Rheingau TBA from quartzite soils. Tasted in May 2020.

Weingut Eva Fricke 2019 Lorcher Schlossberg Riesling Beerenauslese Rating: 97

From a mix of green, golden, overripe and violet berries picked in the second half of September, the 2019 Lorcher Schlossberg Beerenauslese is concentrated and precise on the spicy nose that comes along as precise as an ice wine, with concentrated yet fine fruit and a touch of honey. Bottled with 11.1 grams per liter of total acidity, this is a laser sword on the palate—highly piquant and concentrated but fresh, pure and finessed, with a salty-mineral, grippy, beautifully piquant and salty finish. This is an extraordinary, very stimulating BA that was bottled in early April this year. Tasted in May 2020. Drink Date: 2030 - 2070 .

Weingut Eva Fricke 2019 Lorcher Schlossberg Riesling Rating: 96

The 2019 Lorcher Schlossberg Riesling comes from a warm plot of old vines that were planted between the late 1930s and 1950s on slate and quartzite. The bouquet reveals an intense, clear, flinty and herbal bouquet of crushed rocks, perfectly ripe, yellow-fleshed fruits and a touch of caramel. Salty-piquant and highly refined on the palate, this is a generous yet crystalline, precise, sustainably salty and stimulatingly grippy Riesling that was bottled with 28 grams per liter of unfermented sugar and 13% alcohol just five days before I tasted it at the end of May 2020. This is a great Rheingau Riesling that can age for many years (and should be).



Weingut Eva Fricke 2019 Lorchhäuser Seligmacher Riesling

Rating: 95

The 2019 Lorchhäuser Seligmacher Riesling offers a very clear, deep, concentrated and very intense bouquet of ripe, domestic stone fruits and finely crushed stones and herbs, even volcanic rocks. Round and juicy on the palate, with perfectly ripe, lush and concentrated fruit but also remarkable finesse, this is a generous, intense and sustainable Riesling. It didn't ferment to fully dry and stopped with 17 grams per litre of unfermented sugar and about 13% alcohol. Mouth filling, generous and complex but elegant, pure and refined, it has core of firm fruit and stimulating salinity on the finish. A great wine to be served now or in 10 or 20 years. I cannot imagine this charming beauty will ever go through a valley. Tasted five days after the bottling in late May 2020. Drink Date: 2025 - 2045.

Weingut Eva Fricke 2019 Lorcher Krone Riesling Auslese

Rating: 95

Picked at the same time as the Krone trocken, the 2019 Lorcher Krone Riesling Auslese contains the overripe raisins that were discarded for the dry cru. The Auslese opens with a highly refined raisin and lemon aroma with very fine slate and chalk notes on the pure and elegant nose. On the palate, this is highly delicate and refined yet lush and digestible Auslese without any of those flinty sulfur notes that mask so many Mosel Auslesen during their very early youth. The sweetness is perfectly balanced with the stimulating piquancy and salinity of the Krone terroir. The greatest compliment for this wine is that you can't hold it on your palate but have to swallow it immediately. Picked on the 28th of September and bottled in early April with 8.1% alcohol and 122 grams per liter of residual sugar. This is a highly digestible Auslese whose positive selection was used for the historic and stellar TBA. Tasted in May 2020. Drink Date: 2020 - 2060.

Weingut Eva Fricke 2016 Pinot Noir Rosé Brut Nature

Rating: 94

Disgorged in October last year, Eva Fricke's 2016 Pinot Noir Rosé Brut Nature is a terrific sparkling wine with unrivalled finesse and delicate fruit. The wine is weightless and frisky, presenting Champagne-like finesse and elegance. Pale in its colour, this sparkling Pinot from the Rheingau displays delicate, fresh fruit aromas of spicy red cherries, red and black currant and raspberries intertwined with highly refined and nutty brioche notes. The palate is round and fruity, pure and dry, with a fine grip and a long, round and aromatic finish. Eva Fricke's 2016 Pinot Noir Rosé Brut Nature is one of the finest sparkling wines I have tasted this year. Nine months after the disgorgement, this is the perfect moment to enjoy it, yet the wine will surely keep for another 5-10 years. Tasted from lot C.17.17. in July 2020. Drink Date: 2020 - 2028

Weingut Eva Fricke 2019 Kiedrich Riesling Trocken

Rating: 92

Bottled five days before I tasted it at the end of May this year, the 2019 Kiedrich Riesling Trocken opens with an excitingly stony, flinty, lemony and characterful bouquet with orange aromas and fine brioche notes. Silky, lean and elegant on the palate, this is a pure and refined Riesling with remarkable finesse, energy and piquancy on the finish. It is very clear and light-footed yet complex and with a grippy finish. This is a classic with a touch of Mosel finesse and lightness. Very stimulating. Drink Date: 2020 - 2035



Weingut Eva Fricke 2019 Rheingau Riesling Trocken

Rating: 91

The 2019 Rheingau Riesling Trocken offers a clear, flinty, stunningly intense, ripe and concentrated but refreshing lemony bouquet with delicate flinty aromas. Medium to full-bodied, this is an intense yet frisky, perfectly round and balanced Riesling with ripe, piquant, well-integrated acidity that is not really soft but truly ripe and fine, even playful. In fact, the wine has 8.8 grams per liter of total acidity with 8.9 residual sugar, but that's just analytics. This is a gorgeous wine with stunning extract yet a moderate 12.2% alcohol. Bottled at the end of March, tasted at the end of May 2020. Drink Date: 2020 - 2030

Weingut Eva Fricke 2019 Rheingau Riesling Verde

Rating: 90

Picked before the middle of September and bottled with 10.6% alcohol and 16 grams per liter of unfermented sugar, the 2019 Rheingau Riesling Verde opens with a very clear, bright, pure and aromatic bouquet that is perfectly ripe as well as refined in its flinty notes. Lean, filigreed and graceful on the palate, this is round, elegant and delicate, like a Mosel Riesling. What beautifully lush fruit combined with the crystalline terroir character of the middle Rheingau. Tasted in May 2020. Drink date: 2020 - 2040.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also hit Eva Fricke terribly. She exports nearly 75% of her annual production, predominantly to the US, yet this year shipping wine has been extremely difficult so far. However, 2019 is a great vintage for Eva Fricke, and she shouldn't have any problems selling the vintage, which is exceptional in quality but rather low in quantity. Eva Fricke has never offered better wines than today. What ripeness, roundness and energy her 2019s have! Some wines are made for eternity, namely the two TBAs, Kapellenberg and Krone, and the BA from the Schlossberg—her very first TBAs and Bas—which are incredibly good and among the finest I have tasted from these categories this year. "We sorted the raisins again and again to produce something like a perfect TBA, since this has not been my domain so far," Eva commented when she presented her wines in my home office at the end of May. "However, last year I had to try it, and I have been aiming for exceptional quality because otherwise it wouldn't have made sense to produce TBA for me. It is a lot of work and risk, and this should pay off." The result: Eva's TBAs touched my soul. They were not just perfectly selected but so vital, energetic and digestible; they are a consolidation of everything I adore about the 2019 vintage for ripeness and concentration paired with finesse and elegance and this unrivalled precision, energy and tension! I didn't manage to spit out either of the TBAs since I knew they would never ever touch my palate again. The production is ridiculously low, and the small bottles will be sold out far too soon, no matter the price, which had not yet been fixed in May. The downside, Eva explained, is that "with the reduced crop and the additional loss through sunburn, we faced the smallest yield ever. Our loss was 60% in Lorch and 20% in the upper Rheingau—in total 20,000 bottles. The financial consequence for us is evident. As the past three years show, climate change is obvious; we will have to learn to deal with it technically, and we need to redefine and adjust all our business planning profoundly." But Riesling aficionados have more to buy here than the rare and expensive noble sweet wines. Namely, the wines that didn't ferment to fully dry are exciting, too.

The medium-sweet Lorcher Schlossberg and the medium-dry Lorchhäuser Seligmacher are both spectacular and have everything on board for decades to age. Both have the potential to become Rheingau legends in 20 and still even in 30 years. Warmth and sufficient water in the soil had



ensured rapid growth in 2019, and the flowering season began around the 12th of June. This is extremely early but still 14 days later than it should have bloomed in 2020! The summer months of June and July were very hot and dry and sometimes led to drought stress. In combination with the high yields of 2018, Eva thought it would be advisable to cut grapes from the vines at the end of June, especially to relieve old and young plants in order to avoid emergency ripening. However, adversity came in the form of sunburn in the third week of July, when temperatures climbed to over 40 degrees Celsius. "As early as 10 in the morning, it looked as if someone had been walking through the vineyards with a Bunsen burner, especially in the southwest-facing sites, whether in Lorch or Kiedrich," Eva recalls. "We suffered a good 20% loss here, having previously relieved the vines of around 15% of their crop." In the end, a yield of only 32 hectolitres per hectare remained on average, especially since the rain that started on October 8th had led to further selections. At that time, the bulk of the harvest was already in the cellar, and it could only be great. "The 2019 fermenting musts were indescribably aromatic, and the wines have an energy never seen before," says Eva. "No idea what the reason really was. September was great, after small rain showers in August let the vines breathe a sigh of relief. Because of the temperature differences during the day and night, we always had dew in September mornings. The air was indescribably clear and fresh. In Burgundy, our colleagues could even see the Mont Blanc," remembers Eva, who started the harvest around September 13th and 14th. Incidentally, the yields were extremely low in the Seligmacher, Schlossberg and Krone where, according to Eva, only 60% to 70% of the normal crop could be harvested. The wines from these sites—all of them insanely concentrated and endowed with great vitality and energy—then became Eva's very best. Especially the Lorchhäuser Krone shines in the Auslese category and also in the TBA category, for which only the very best berries were used after repeated selection. The "dry" Krone was not ready at the end of May, because one barrel was still fermenting, as well as one for the Lorch village wine, which was also still missing. "It seems that our vines get stronger with every additional year of organic farming. We observe that the moon constellation, and the differences are showing in the wines—more expressive and clearer than ever before," says Eva, who is convinced that she has harvested "the best vintage ever." Her wines are currently not imported to the US. Readers who are interested in her wines should contact the domain.

Lorcher Riesling trocken, Lorcher Krone Riesling trocken and Melange Riesling trocken from vintage 2019 were bottled later and therefore not tasted in May, ratings will follow.