

# PRINZ

## Robert Parker ratings vintage 2014

I tasted just a few wines of the 2014 portfolio of Fred Prinz, but these were among the very best you can get from the Rheingau in this vintage. The Jungfer Kabinett is a drug, the Jungfer Spätlese another beauty on its way. The Rheingau Riesling is a stunning fine wine for an entry level wine, and the Grosses Gewächs bottlings will be great dry Rieslings with food in a couple of years. The ripeness, clarity and balance of Prinz's 2014s is just perfect and the dosage of residual sugar exactly what the wines from the higher altitudes and the slate soils of Hallgarten seem to need.

"Thanks to organic farming," supposes Fred Prinz (and many of his green colleagues as well), "our grapes ripen slightly earlier and remain healthy for a longer period."

In 2014, says Fred Prinz, "the weather was perfect between October 3 and 6. We had sun, wind and low humidity at summery temperatures." This was the time when his team picked the domaine's most important vineyard, except of a part in the Jungfer that is used for the Grosses Gewächs and except of the Hendelberg. The latter was picked on October 3 and 6 when the grapes were already very ripe and also contained some botrytis berries. Then came the big rain and Prinz finished the last 30% of the Hendelberg on the last day of the harvest, October 14. Although every second grape was dropped to the ground, Prinz's 2014 Hendelberg Riesling contains 15% to 20% of overripe and botrytised berries.

The predicates of the Jungfer Grosse Lage, however, are brilliant. Both wines, Kabinett and Spätlese were picked in this short period between October 3 and 6. From all the overripe and botrytised grapes, an Auslese was also selected (which I did not taste unfortunately), the 'lower' predicates are perfectly clear.

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2014 Prinz Riesling Jungfer GG

Rating: 91+

Drink: 2018 - 2027

The 2014 Riesling Jungfer GG shows a challenging quartzite purity on the nose followed by an intense, full-bodied, powerful, racy and complex palate with finesse and fruit intensity. Very promising.

2014 Prinz Riesling Kabinett Jungfer  
Rating: 92  
Drink: 2016 - 2030

Fred Prinz's 2014 Riesling Kabinett Jungfer displays an intense, clear and minerally branded bouquet of ripe white stone fruits, pineapples and some lemon peel flavors. The wine is beautifully round and juicy on the palate, highly elegant, piquant and perfectly balanced with a gorgeous sweetness. This is a lovely, riskless drug with just 8% alcohol and a stimulating salinity in the finish. This Jungfer is impossible to spit, you really have to drink it. If you are a true Riesling lover you'd better calculate one bottle per person, as this 2014 does not make you ask for anything else during the first hour.

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2014 Prinz Riesling Spätlese Jungfer  
Rating: 92+  
Drink: 2020 - 2030

Bottled with 9.5% alcohol, the sweet 2014 Riesling Spätlese Jungfer displays an exiting and inviting bouquet of flinty/smoky aromas of crushed stones intertwined with clear, ripe Riesling flavors. Highly elegant, sweet and piquant on the palate with a long, salty and extremely stimulating finish, this is another picture-book Riesling of the Prinz family domaine. This Jungfer Spätlese is still restrained and compact, but very complex and long. The wine should be at its best between 2020 and 2030. Highly recommended.

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2014 Prinz Riesling trocken GG Schönhell  
Rating: 92  
Drink: 2018 - 2028

From stony loess-loam soils, the 2014 Riesling trocken GG Schönhell displays a deep, pure and slightly flinty bouquet of fully ripe Riesling and healthy berries. Medium-bodied, piquant and delicately racy on the palate, this pure, elegant wine develops great intensity and impressive length, with a stimulating salinity and piquancy. Very promising and probably one of the top Rheingau Rieslings of the vintage.

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2014 Prinz Riesling trocken Hendelberg  
Rating: 90  
Drink: 2018 - 2022

The 2014 Riesling trocken Hendelberg (a "VDP Erste Lage" wine) has a clear and intense quince confiture and honey, mango, passion fruit and wholemeal bouquet with some spicy, flinty aromas on the nose -- indicating a higher botrytis share than usual, but also more diffusion and volatile aromas. Round, elegant and creamy on the palate, this full-bodied, slightly piquant and well balanced dry Riesling from the colored slate soils of the steep Hendelberg reveals high

fruit intensity, good length on the palate, and finishes with a stimulating salinity. Quite powerful and rather a pontiff than a ballet dancer.

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2014 Prinz Riesling trocken Rheingau

Rating: 89

Drink: 2016 - 2021

From loess and loam vineyards with a high percentage of quartzite, Fred Prinz's 2014 Riesling trocken Rheingau displays an absolutely brilliant, clear, refreshing aromatic and dense bouquet of white stone fruits and lemon flavors; there are also coolish crushed stones/quartzite flavors, which are so typical for so many Rheingau Rieslings. Light in alcohol (11.5%) but full of tension, character and mineral orange-peels, this is a very elegant, delicately fruity and expressive picture-book Rheingau Riesling -- with grip and a stimulating finish. Highly recommended.