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Max Ferd. Richter

**2015 Riesling Wehlener Sonnenuhr trocken Uralte Würzelechte Reben
Mosel, Germany**

90 Points

In lieu of “Auslese trocken” or “Grosses Gewächs,” the Richters elected to name this dry Riesling “Age-Old Ungrafted Vines,” and if, as alleged, the vines in question really are 120 years old, one can hardly consider that title hyperbole. Hints of wet stone and site-typical vanilla rise from the glass, although, intriguingly, this is another of several dry Wehlener Sonnenuhr bottlings from prominent growers this year that has a rather closed, austere presence and whose site identity I would certainly not have guessed blind. The feel is firmer than one anticipates from this site, though that impression goes hand in hand with an impressive sense of extract. The formidably persistent finish is dominated more by apple and citrus seed piquancy than by fruit flesh, though it’s also undeniably Mosel in its wet stone undertone. This should benefit from time in bottle, but don’t expect it to ever charm. (SR)


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