

January 2018

Max Ferd. Richter
2016 Riesling Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett feinherb
Mosel, Germany

89 Points

From a mix of young and old vines just beneath the Wehlen sundial, this leads with cidery apple along with pungent hints of orange peel and an earthy suggestion of rutabaga. At just 9.5% alcohol, the sappy midpalate is even more delicate than that of this bottling's two Kabinett feinherb siblings, but the sense of sweetness is discreet and entirely supportive. This finishes with admirable persistence if not quite the clarity of complexity of Constantin Richter's best off-dry 2016s. But given the origin of the grapes and the high standards set in his present collection, I wonder whether I tasted the wine when it was at an awkward stage. (DS)