

## Robert Parker vintage 2017 + 2018

2018 was much better regarding the yields (seven to eight fuder barrels per hectare instead of the allowed 12.5). The wines are already accessible and very attractive because the acidity is rather mild and the fruit is perfectly ripe. Hermann offered me several 2018s to taste during my visit in March when they had just been bottled or were about to be bottled. What a promising first impression of this vintage that was even earlier than 2017 and brought other challenges, namely drought in younger vineyards that are used for basic wines. The often ungrafted old vines didn't suffer that much, reports Hermann, who in particular points out the good water supply in Piesport where he by now holds 0.5 hectares in the Goldtröpfchen. In particular, the predicates are outstanding in both vintages at Dr. Hermann, which is no surprise at all. In all predicate categories, he is one of the Mosel's outstanding performers. Two of his TBAs—Prälat and Herzlei, both 2017s—even come close to perfection, which is also the case for the 2017 Erdener Treppchen Beerenauslese and the 2017 Ürziger Würzgarten Auslese Long Gold Cap. However, if you should ever have a chance to get your hands on the 2017 Ürziger Würzgarten Kabinett, you should immediately take as many cases or bottles as you can. It's hard to find a better Kabinett in the Mosel Valley than this. Another highlight of my tastings is the 2018 Erdener Herzlei Riesling Spätlese Alte Reben (Gold Capsule) from Hermann's oldest vineyard that is populated with 125-year-old vines. Quantities are rare here, so readers who are interested shouldn't hesitate. What can we expect in the highest predicate categories, Mister Hermann? "One BA from the Goldtröpfchen and five TBAs, of which two were selected in the Erdener Treppchen and each one in the Ürziger Würzgarten (which, in early June, was only at 5.4% alcohol), the Kinheimer Hubertuslay and certainly the Erdener Prälat.

