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2006 Heribert Kerpen Bernkasteler  
Bratenhofchen Riesling Spatlese

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**RATING:** 89 points

**PRODUCER:** Heribert Kerpen

**FROM:** Bratenhofchen Bernkastel  
Kues, Middle Mosel,  
Mosel Saar Ruwer,  
Germany

**VARIETY:** Riesling

**DRINK:** -

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$26

**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
Oct 2008

[Find It Online](#)

Faintly alkaline and wet stone aromas mingle with the site-typical ripe cherries on the nose of Kerpen's 2006 Bernkasteler Bratenhofchen Riesling Spatlese. A butter-cream and incipiently caramelized tone and slick of honey on the palate by no means preclude a pure, clear, fresh expression of black cherry with hints of mint. A reprise of the alkaline note adumbrated in the aroma gives this an interesting but slightly austere finish, which the generous inner-mouth character would not have led me to expect. It would be good to be able to revisit this wine, but I expect it will be capable of 12-15 years' positive evolution.

Martin Kerpen and his vines had a hard act to follow after their successes in 2005 but were more than up to the task, confirming the hypothesis that these always excellent wines have crossed a new quality threshold. Still, the last place I would have imagined 2006s keeping pace was in the range of trocken.

Importer: Terry Theise Estate Selections, imported by Michael Skurnik Wines, Inc., Syosset, NY; tel. (516) 677-9300

-David Schildknecht

2006 Heribert Kerpen Graacher Domprobst  
Riesling Auslese (1 Star)

[Add to Print List](#)

**RATING:** 92 points

**PRODUCER:** Heribert Kerpen

**FROM:** Domprobst Graach,  
Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
Ruwer, Germany

**VARIETY:** Riesling

**DRINK:** -

**ESTIMATED COST:**

**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
Oct 2008

From another cask that while far from new, still gives an aura to wines, Kerpen's "one-star" 2006 Graacher Domprobst Riesling Auslese delivers caramel, resin, mocha, and vanilla in a low-toned, rich, soothing suggestion (sticking with musical metaphors) an orchestra without fiddles. This sedate, lingering Auslese is not marked by fresh fruit, but a sense of wet stone slate character emerges in its finish. It maintains to a remarkable degree the buoyancy, elegance, and clarity of the best wines of this vintage. Look for at least 20 years of interesting evolution here, and wouldn't it be fascinating to serve this on the same occasion as Kerpen's dry Domprobst?

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-David Schildknecht

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2006 Heribert Kerpen Riesling Auslese  
 Wehlener Sonnenuhr (1 Star)

Add to Print List

**RATING:** 90 points  
**PRODUCER:** Heribert Kerpen   
**FROM:** Sonnenuhr Wehlen,  
 Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
 Ruwer, Germany  
**VARIETY:** Riesling  
**DRINK:** -  
**ESTIMATED COST:** \$40

**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
 Oct 2008

The Kerpen "one-star" 2006 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese is dominated by salted caramel with a (for a rich Auslese) strikingly distinct note of wet stone as well. The malted, caramelized depth here is reminiscent of the corresponding Domprobst, but today, at least, this misses the fascination or elegance of that wine. There is abundant energy by way of ripe acidity, and I expect to witness this Wehlener displaying further facets even over the relatively short run. It's almost as though this wine is suffering slightly from "middle child syndrome." Certainly though, it is impressively long and concentrated, and one could return to it anytime over the next 20 years.

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-David Schildknecht

2006 Heribert Kerpen Riesling Auslese  
 Wehlener Sonnenuhr (2 Star)

Add to Print List

**RATING:** 93 points  
**PRODUCER:** Heribert Kerpen   
**FROM:** Sonnenuhr Wehlen,  
 Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
 Ruwer, Germany  
**VARIETY:** Riesling  
**DRINK:** -  
**ESTIMATED COST:** \$58

**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
 Oct 2008

The "two star" 2006 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese is loaded with caramelized nectarine, vanilla cream, and mocha, with the same saline cast as its single-starred sibling, but now with the uncanny sense of lift and elegance that accrued to the "no-star" member of the family. Practically luminous in finish, this is irresistible today, and will be worth following for 20-25 years.

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-David Schildknecht

2006 Heribert Kerpen Riesling Kabinett  
 Wehlener Sonnenuhr

Add to Print List

**RATING:** 90 points  
**PRODUCER:** Heribert Kerpen   
**FROM:** Sonnenuhr Wehlen,  
 Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
 Ruwer, Germany  
**VARIETY:** Riesling  
**DRINK:** -  
**ESTIMATED COST:** \$17-\$23

**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
 Oct 2008



Kerpen's 2006 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett on the other hand does indeed evince delicacy. "Don't ask why my sweet wines managed this sort of delicacy in 2006," says Kerpen. "I don't know. But something about my cellar techniques must have been well suited to botrytis, because the wines aren't laden down with it." Apple blossom and vanilla aromatics usher in a perfect picture of Sonnenuhr slate, apple, nut oils, and vanilla on the palate. The finish is wafting, but far from erratic or short-lived. It sticks to the theme announced on the label and just keeps playing. This excellent value should be worth following for 12-15 years.

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-David Schildknecht

2006 Heribert Kerpen Riesling Spatlese  
 Wehlener Sonnenuhr

Add to Print List

**RATING:** 90 points  
**PRODUCER:** Heribert Kerpen   
**FROM:** Sonnenuhr Wehlen,  
 Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
 Ruwer, Germany  
**VARIETY:** Riesling  
**DRINK:** -  
**ESTIMATED COST:** \$27

**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
 Oct 2008

The Kerpen 2006 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spatlese features vanilla cream, praline, baking spices, and hints of caramel in an elegant, rich but refined, highly recognizable expression of this great site. Soothing, wafting length makes this an ideal candidate for solo comfort wine, but it will probably have more to say as the sweetness backs off over time, and should be worth holding for at least 12-15 years.

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Importer: Terry Theise Estate Selections, imported by Michael



Skurnik Wines, Inc., Syosset, NY; tel. (516) 677-9300

-David Schildknecht

2006 Heribert Kerpen Riesling Spatlese  
Wehlener Sonnenuhr (1 Star)



**RATING:** 92 points

**PRODUCER:** Heribert Kerpen

**FROM:** Sonnenuhr Wehlen,  
Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
Ruwer, Germany

**VARIETY:** Riesling

**DRINK:** -

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$29

**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
Oct 2008



Kerpen's "one star" 2006 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spatlese reflects a selection from higher-elevation parcels and preserves more fresh fruit as well as projecting greater refinement and elegance; polish and textural creaminess; and fresh fruit clarity, than the "no star" version. Prominent brown spice and vanilla, a hint of cask, and hints of fruit pit bitterness all lend complexity, and this finishes with lovely lift and length. No doubt it would be worth following for 15-20 years.

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-David Schildknecht

2006 Heribert Kerpen Wehlener Sonnenuhr  
Riesling Auslese



**RATING:** 92 points

**PRODUCER:** Heribert Kerpen

**FROM:** Sonnenuhr Wehlen,  
Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
Ruwer, Germany

**VARIETY:** Riesling

**DRINK:** -

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$37

**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
Oct 2008



With peach, vanilla, a whiff of white raisin, and a resinous, caramelized note that suggests maple syrup, the Kerpen 2006 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese comes to the palate polished, creamy, honeyed, and sedate. Yet, a clear, fresh apple and peach dimension emerges, and is nicely complemented by saline and slate stone notes. Here is one of those instances where the botrytis of 2006 is intricately woven into the wine's fabric as a subtle enrichment. The finish offers sheer refreshment, along with complexities of fruit, flower, and mineral worthy of chamber music, rather than the orchestral sonorities one might expect from a year of rampant botrytis and mega-must weights: once again we meet the contradictory complexity of the vintage. Feel free to follow this for 20 years.

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-David Schildknecht

2006 Heribert Kerpen Wehlener Sonnenuhr  
Riesling Auslese (3 Star)



**RATING:** 91 points

**PRODUCER:** Heribert Kerpen

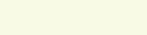
**FROM:** Sonnenuhr Wehlen,  
Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
Ruwer, Germany

**VARIETY:** Riesling

**DRINK:** -

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$57

**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
Oct 2008



"Now we're into really full botrytis," comments Kerpen by way of introducing a "three star" 2006 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese that reflects near-T.B.A. must weight. Gardenia, mango, musk melon, white raisin and honey inform this oily-textured, thickly-honeyed, spicy, vanilla-tinged elixir. But if one were expecting heaviness, a surprise would be in store. For all of its textural turgidity, this conveys a sense of elegance and lift in its long finish. It just needs time for the sheer sweetness to back off, and one can expect from 10-30 years of something truly exceptional and typical of the vintage's best.

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-David Schildknecht

2006 Heribert Kerpen Wehlener Sonnenuhr  
Riesling Beerenauslese (1 Star)



**RATING:** 91 points

**PRODUCER:** Heribert Kerpen

**FROM:** Sonnenuhr Wehlen,  
Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
Ruwer, Germany

**VARIETY:** Riesling

The Kerpen 2006 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Beerenauslese is gaudy in its aromas of banana, mango, over-ripe apricot, honey, and spice. Thickly rich in the manner of the "three star" Auslese, it's shot through with lemony citricity, lending a lot of energy reminiscent of the "one star" and a slightly aggressive pungency and spice of botrytis – quite a contrast with most of the wines that have gone before. The finish not only maintains the penetrating posture of citrus and botrytis, but reminds one of the literally over-ripe character of the fruit. The botrytis here

**DRINK:** -  
**ESTIMATED COST:** \$122  
**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
Oct 2008

manifests itself in, among others, a smoky, slightly sweaty suggestion. Will this gain clarity, refinement and harmony over time? Probably yes, but do not expect quick results. This will almost certainly be in good shape still in 30 or more years. Kerpen draws an analogy to his smoky, pungent 1993 Sonnenuhr B.A., and – lo and behold! – happens to have opened a bottle to prove his point: it shows a clarity and refinement one would not have expected from it as a young wine. But in 1993, Kerpen points out, he and others underestimated the level of sugar needed for the wines to evolve with maximum grace, a mistake he made sure not to repeat in 2006.

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-David Schildknecht

2006 Wehlen Kerpen Graacher Domprobst  
Riesling Grosses Gewachs

Add to Print List

**RATING:** 89 points  
**PRODUCER:** Wehlen Kerpen  
**FROM:** Domprobst Graach,  
Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
Ruwer, Germany  
**VARIETY:** Riesling  
**DRINK:** -  
**ESTIMATED COST:**  
**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
Oct 2008

Although the term "Grosses Gewachs" is associated with the VDP growers association but utilized by relatively few of that organizations Mosel members, the members of the so-called Bernkastler Ring adopted the term in 2006 to refer to ambitious dry Riesling bottlings, and Kerpen's 2006 Graacher Domprobst Riesling Grosses Gewachs (what in the past would have been his Auslese trocken – or perhaps halbtrocken) avoids the slight severity and bitterness that took the qualitative edge off of its 2005 counterpart. Toasted nuts, baked apple, and wet stone inform this voluminous, rich Riesling, which finishes with real grip and no sign of heat from its nearly 14% alcohol. I wonder how this will mature, but in any case it should be fascinating for at least the next several years.

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-David Schildknecht

2006 Wehlen Kerpen Graacher Himmelreich  
Riesling Kabinett Feinherb Kollektion Kerpen

Add to Print List

**RATING:** 88 points  
**PRODUCER:** Wehlen Kerpen  
**FROM:** Himmelreich Graach,  
Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
Ruwer, Germany  
**VARIETY:** Riesling  
**DRINK:** -  
**ESTIMATED COST:** \$23  
**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
Oct 2008

The 2006 Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett feinherb Kollektion Kerpen displays pure Normandy apple cider aromas and fresh fruit, with a subtle creaminess and a fine, distinct underlying wet stone sense of slate. One couldn't really call it delicate, but it has stuffing without weight. A hint of warmth and roughness takes it down just a tick, but this dry-finishing Riesling will still prove fascinating and versatile at table over the next several years.

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-David Schildknecht

2006 Wehlen Kerpen Wehlener Sonnenuhr  
Riesling Spatlese Trocken

Add to Print List

**RATING:** 90 points  
**PRODUCER:** Wehlen Kerpen  
**FROM:** Sonnenuhr Wehlen,  
Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
Ruwer, Germany  
**VARIETY:** Riesling  
**DRINK:** -  
**ESTIMATED COST:**

Kerpen's envelopingly rich and creamy 2006 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spatlese trocken generates interesting counterpoint with its faintly bitter notes of vanilla, peach kernel, and apple pit, as well as a toasty, nutty, smoky, stony depth. There was a separate "Alte Reben" bottling, but unfortunately, by the time I showed up at the winery, there was not even a bottle to be had for tasting.

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Oct 2008

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-David Schildknecht

2006 Wehlen Kerpen Wehlener Sonnenuhr  
Riesling Trockenbeereauslese

Add to Print List

**RATING:** 93 points

**PRODUCER:** Wehlen Kerpen

**FROM:** Sonnenuhr Wehlen,  
Middle Mosel, Mosel Saar  
Ruwer, Germany

**VARIETY:** Riesling

**DRINK:** -

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$287

**SOURCE:** WA, #179  
Oct 2008

Intensely ester-rich distilled fruit, and pungent botrytis aromas emanate from Kerpen's 2006 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeereauslese. Apricot preserves, apple jelly, brown spices, lemon, and caramel inform a viscous, as yet somewhat superficially sweet palate – but then, this is a 40-50 year wine. No question here though that there is already youthful clarity and refinement, and the sheer intensity is so striking it caused me to swallow hard even as I imagined I was going to spit! Lock this polished – but as yet largely uncut – gem away for at least 15 years. Then revisit.

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-David Schildknecht

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