

Retrospective

DRY RIESLING



VINTAGES 1974 - 2007

RIESLING RETROSPECTIVE TASTING NOTES

1974 - Old, But Not in the Way

Past its prime and faded, with more aged character than fruit, but still interesting, with honey, walnut and fusel tones.

1975 - Faded Charm

Showing its age, but with more life, acidity and charm than the '74. Hints of clove and fusel animate the pungent, intriguing nose.

1976 - Sherry, Anyone?

This one is dark and distinctly oxidized, its fruit having fled long ago. Too bad; it was the Bicentennial vintage.

1977 - Not Available

Alas, our Library is void of this vintage.

1978 - Dark and Dreamy

Dark brown in color, this vintage is clearly oxidized and yet has a distinctive botrytis character in the nose – like apricot honey – that makes it worth meditating on.

1979 - Signs of Life

Here's the star of the '70s, a wine with some freshness, sparkle and dance coupled with fading, yet distinctive varietal aromas of baked apple, petrol and spice and a crisp, slightly bitter finish.

1980 - It's a New Decade!

Fat and sassy, with hints of butter and botrytis in the nose, a rich mouthfeel and still- refreshing flavors on the palate. If you've got some, enjoy!

1981 - Complex, but Faded

An old Riesling with complex, but faded honey, beeswax and fusel aromas. Has a lot of moving parts, but the center does not hold. Drink up.

1982 - A Pretty Facade

Attractive and very varietal honeysuckle, botrytis and wet stone aromas with lively flavors and a surprisingly long finish; yet, it lacks balance and fades fast.

1983 - On the Cusp

Another vintage poised between life and lassitude. Lemon, brioche and fusel aromas introduce delicate, still lively citrus flavors that persist through a surprisingly long finish. Yet, it's a bit hot and, ultimately, a tad disappointing.

1984 - Bingo!

Bright, well-knit nose of honey, jasmine and lime zest, with a hint of fusel, is coupled with similarly bright, elegant varietal flavors. Still crazy (good) after all these years.

1985 - Back to Back

Similar to the '84, the '85 is alive and kickin', with wet stone/mineral/petrol tones in the nose and nice apricot and mandarin orange flavors in the mouth, albeit with a slightly hot finish.

1986 - Coquette

Pretty, delicate, jasmine and lime scents in the nose, with bright, vivacious flavors and a tangy finish. 24 years old and hard to resist.

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1987 - Coquette Plus

Pretty like the '86, but more complex, with honey, lime and fusel aromas and bright, tangy flavors that carry an acid kick in the finish.

1988 - Tiny Dancer

A very pretty lass with bright jasmine, lime and honeysuckle aromas and plenty o' honeysuckle flavors dancing across the palate. The '80s rock!

1989 - Light N Lean

Perhaps not as charming as the previous vintages from the '80s, but boasts an intriguing pine resin, honey, lime and green apple aroma and still seems relatively youthful.

1990 - Alsace in Napa?

Lots of fusel/petrol in the nose, along with green flint, beeswax and fruit cocktail. More European than Californian. A solid drink finishes with a nice zing.

1991 - Breakfast Riesling

An unusual but appealing nose of citrus fruit, petrol, baked apple and syrup-laden pancakes leads to a very lively, tangy palate of vibrant lemon peel flavors. Pour it on!

1992 - Goin' Down to Tropics Town

A delicate petrol and lemon zest nose fails to prepare the taster for surprisingly heavy, super-ripe pineapple flavors. Time for a smoothie!

1993 - Just Goin' Down

A brownish color reveals that the '93 has taken a turn toward the home stretch. Brown sugar and botrytis aromas lead to a round, but fading palate.

1994 - Hey, Who Brought the Sauvignon Blanc?

This one is somewhat inexplicable, with its grassy, dill-like, herbal aromas and tired, albeit rich flavors, which culminate in a petrol-fueled finish.

1991 - Luscious

Red delicious apple, bosc pear, butter, toasty oak, lime, and honey. Full, luscious mouth and balanced acidity. Not sure it's getting any better, but it's damn fine right now.

1995 - Rich, Good Looking, Lacks Ambition

Complex lime, citrus, lanolin and petrol aromas with ripe, lively flavors that nonetheless do not appear to be going anywhere. Drink now or forever hold your peach.

1996 - On Gossamer Wings

Youthful, sweet-smelling and altogether lovely lemon and honey aromas introduce an Alsatian-style palate with beautifully developed, vivid varietal flavors. If you have some, drink a bottle now and the rest over the next year. A winner.

1997 - Bring On the Pot Stickers

A pretty nose of spring meadows and botrytis with a lovely palate that carries a hint of sweetness. Would no doubt be divine with a wide range of spicy Asian dishes.

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1998 - They Call Me Caramel Orange

Caramel and oranges in the nose with a hint of petrol. Nice and rich on the palate, with well-developed, but not over-the-hill, flavors. Good body and a medium finish. Enjoy!

1999 - Pass

Umm, some, shall we say, off-aromas that discretion and good taste keep us from describing. Don't know what went wrong with this bad boy, but steer clear.

2000 - Passing Millennial Muster

Pretty, delicate, fresh, floral, clean and youthful aromas with bright, racy, lemon-lime flavors. All is well in Y2K.

2001 - Sweet and Sour

A little sweet, a little tangy, similar in style to the 2000, but not quite as charming. Proceed to the super-swell 2002.

2002 - Hitting the Spot

Pretty, clean, classic Trefethen Riesling nose of lime and spring flowers, with a hint of petrol. The bright, still-evolving flavors sport excellent balance and acidity. We want to drink it all, so guard your bottles!

2003 - Peter Fonda

Oddball nose of soap and leather – sort of like a well-groomed biker – with suave, smooth, slightly fat flavors. (Okay, so he's an atypical biker.) Soft and full with tangy acidity.

2004 - Pimply Teen

Another outlier, with herbal and wet stone aromas and atypically earthy flavors. May be an awkward teenager. Only time will tell. A bit tight at first. Finished crisp and clean.

2005 - Agreeable Adolescent

Nice, fresh, mandarin orange and lime aromas with still-developing lemon and grapefruit flavors. Needs time, but should blossom into a perfectly tasty adult. Classic young Riesling.

2006 - Total Babe

Charmingly youthful and freshly floral nose of roses, jasmine and grapefruit peel with still-developing grapefruit and lime flavors. Someone muttered “roast suckling pig” and we think it's a splendid idea.

2007 - The Perfect Vintage

Enticingly fragrant aromas of jasmine, fresh citrus and tangerine with bright, lively, lemon-lime and white peach flavors enlivened by a dash of refreshing minerality. Yum!