

# *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!