

2013 the Heart Has its Rieslings

At long last Rieslinglust. Riesling is like love, at least this one is—both sweet and tart; one is both braced and embraced, locking lips with this dulcet young thing. This wine, provenant of the 2013 vintage, was made from ever so slightly botrytised grapes from the gregarious Ventana Vineyard in Monterey County and the extremely shy-yielding, though hardly coquettish Wirz Vineyard in San Benito County. Remarkably crisp, zinging acidity with enough sweetness (3%ish) to keep it perfectly balanced, it delivers an exquisite wallop to the senses. Eminently approachable in the short term, it is our expectation (though who really knows what the future will bring?) that this wine will reward a long-term commitment to cellaring.

Tasting Notes

We were incredibly fortunate to have worked (in the day) with Pat Wirz, who farms a rather old (70+ yr.), dry-farmed, head-trained Riesling vineyard in the Cienega Valley. These very shy-yielding vines produced extremely intense grapes which were the perfect complement to the more gregarious fruit found in the very cool and windy Ventana Vineyard of Monterey County. We aimed at producing a classic Kabinett style Riesling, exceptionally moderate (9.5%) in alcohol with a discreet amount of residual sugar (3%), tempered with a brisk, natural acidity. I certainly did not reckon on the fact that this wine would take on such classical Old World Riesling characteristics. In the nose, you find a classic fragrance of *kirsch* (generally thought of as a signifier of the Rheingau), but maybe also Mirabelle plum and an earthiness that bespeaks the Nahe. Very delicate body; in the mouth, a sort of filigreed, dancing lightness to the wine, impelled, no doubt, by a wonderful, refreshing acidity. This wine is the absolute embodiment of springtime. Perfect with cheese courses, light appetizers, but most sublime with trout almondine.



Vital Statistics

Varietal Composition: 100% Riesling
Appellations:
52% San Benito County, 48% Monterey County
Vineyards: 52% Wirz, 48% Ventana
Alcohol by Volume: 9.5%
TA: 6.8 g/L
pH: 2.91
Residual sugar 3% by wt.
Sugar at harvest: 21° brix
Production: 2,912 cases

Region



Winemaker

Randall Grahm



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