

2010 Riesling Estate



Viticultural Data:

Vine Age: 35 years
Yield: 2.5 tons/acre
Harvest Sugars: 20.9 Brix

Enological Data:

pH: 2.9
Residual Sugar: 0.90%
Bottled: March 2011
Cases Produced: 1,220

Riesling is alive and well in Oregon. And at Elk Cove Vineyards it remains an integral part of who we are. Elk Cove Vineyards has been producing luscious Rieslings since 1978. Our Rieslings are treated to the same meticulous vineyard maintenance and strict yield control as our incredible Pinot Noirs and Pinot Gris.

Vintage 2010 brings to mind some catchy phrases. *The year of the birds – Hitchcock style, let ‘em hang* and our favorite, and slogan for the vintage – “*Hang ‘10*”! Yes, harvest was later than normal. An exceptional cold, wet spring followed by what many seasoned producers recall as one of the shortest summers. However, 2010 was not the worst of years. The ‘attack of our feathered friends,’ whose almost unprecedented assault on valley fruit, also indicated nature’s signal that the fruit was ripe and grapes good indeed. Winemaker, Adam Campbell, comments in response to vintage nervousness, “you know, we have been doing this for almost 40 years, and it’s not the first time we’ve had slow ripening. We’re optimistic about it and we know exactly what to do.” Even science agrees. Climatologists show similarities to the great 2008 vintage; reporting lower yields, small berries and full flavor development at lower brix levels – all signs pointing to high quality wines with lower alcohols.

The ‘Estate’ designation is from our oldest block of Riesling planted on the gentle slopes of the winery property. This wine highlights the quality that old vine material can show from this noble grape in the Northern Willamette Valley. It shows a traditional bouquet of pear and apple overtones, with lean, mineral notes on the palate. A pretty wine now yet has enough fruit and balanced acidity to age a number of years with cool cellaring.

Reviews

Best Buy! ~ *Wine Press Northwest* ~ Summer 2012

“Exotic aromas of lime zest, lemongrass, kumquat and minerality. On the palate, it reveals apple, lemon and grapefruit. This dry wine is loaded with bright acidity.”