



2012 ESTATE RIESLING

Tasting Notes

Crystal clear and green-tinged like a Granny Smith apple skin. With refracted sunlight this wine is neon chartreuse, which I have neither previously seen nor can explain. All I can say is it is beautiful and I am proud to have created it. Lovely nose of white peach, pear, fresh florals, and wet stony minerality. On the palate the wine is pure and refreshing with acidity that rips through the tiny remnant of residual sugar.

Vintage Notes

After the back to back abnormally cool years of '10 and '11, what a relief 2012 turned out to be. Truly our first "normal" vintage since 2008. It was really a lovely year, with all weather events happening exactly when they were supposed to. We were able to make picking decisions in an even, un-rushed manner. Acids remained intact and lively well into fruit maturity, which proved especially valuable in crafting the '12 FIGGINS Estate Riesling. There's a purity of fruit you will see in the wine, reflecting the warmer year while still reflecting the freshness of this tucked away little cool corner of Figgins Estate Vineyard.

VINEYARD SOURCE

Figgins Estate Vineyard, Walla Walla Valley

AGING PROFILE

Fermented slowly at cool temperatures in a stainless tank.

ALCOHOL

12.0%

PRODUCTION

114 Cases

RELEASE DATE

Fall, 2013

RESIDUAL SUGAR

6.0 g/L

TOTAL ACIDITY

9.0 g/L

pH

3.1



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WALLA WALLA VALLEY

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A WINE OF PLACE INSPIRED BY LEGACY

It is a little known fact that the very first wine my parents would release under their Leonetti Cellar label was a White Riesling in 1978.



Gary with young Chris and Amy making Riesling in the early days.

When I was a mere five years old, the distinct, racy aroma and crisp sweet flavors of Riesling flowing from a basket press in early October under the strain of my father's physical labor would become one of my earliest and somewhat profound winemaking memories. My sister and I would compete for sips of this sweet concoction that was a candy like confection, destined to become wine. Unlike my father's red wines, which found their way to what I viewed as gigantic stainless steel tanks (I was five remember) - this sweet concoction or "White Riesling" found its way to small glass carboys on the winery floor where my father would insert a delicate glass "bubbler" air trap to the top. This "bubbler" kept the fruit flies at bay and allowed carbon dioxide gasses to escape one delightful "burp" bubble at a time. To this day it is the simplest way to actually "watch" a fermentation process right before your eyes and I was mesmerized.

It is a little known fact that the very first wine my parents would release under their Leonetti Cellar label was a White Riesling in 1978. While these fine early efforts would eventually be abandoned to allow my father to focus his complete and utter devotion to making the world-class Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot for which Leonetti would become famous, my palate however, was imbued and inspired by that sweet impression.

Fast forward 30 years. With my palate further developed and quest for different, more worldlier wines, the dream to once again create an incredible Riesling came to fruition through the virtues of my Figgins Estate Vineyard. One small parcel of land, only a half an acre, purposely escaped planting to Bordeaux varieties as it lay in a Northwestern draw that I knew would be too cool for those varieties to ripen, but perfect for Riesling! The first wine from these vines was made in 2010 and due to a tiny amount and (quite honestly) a bit of hesitation in my white winemaking abilities, the wine only touched the lips of friends, family, and guests at our winemaker dinners as a pre-cursor to our red wines. The response to the wine was so overwhelming that I was convinced to release it commercially for members on our FIGGINS mailing list.



FIGGINS ESTATE VINEYARD

FIGGINS is a dream born of a very special piece of land that my team and I have spent many years cultivating into what I believe is one of the finest vineyards in the Walla Walla Valley.

- Chris Figgins



FIGGINS FAMILY WINE ESTATES