

# WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB OCTOBER 2023

*WINE: Rieslingfreak No. 44 Vintage 2022*

*VARIETALS: Eden Valley Growers Riesling*

*Viticulture Area: Eden Valley,  
South Australia*



**Bottle Price: \$19.99 Case Price: \$215.89 plus tax**

## INTRODUCTION

What I love about Riesling most, is the diversity of the grape. At Rieslingfreak we are deeply immersed in the variety and craft a range of Rieslings that are representative of both region and style. We source our Riesling from some of Australia's top producing Riesling regions, including Clare Valley, Eden Valley and Polish Hill River.

Germany is the home of Riesling, and was one of the many reasons I fell in love with the variety. The German influence and traditional winemaking styles have had a great impact on our Rieslingfreak style, in particular our Sekt (sparkling), fortified, dry and sweet Rieslings. Each of our wines are handcrafted to produce regional and stylistic wines, that we believe signifies what Riesling is all about. My passion for Riesling was noted in my university days, where I always had a bottle or two of Riesling to share, and soon became known as the "Riesling Freak".

*John Hughes*

## REGION

No.4, No.12, No.44

**Fruit for our Eden Valley Riesling is sourced from four vineyards located across the Southern Ranges of Eden Valley from Flaxman Valley in High Eden to the east, through to Springton in the west. Two of our vineyards are located in Flaxman Valley in High Eden, a premium sub-region of Eden Valley. The first vineyard, owned by Michael Mason, is situated approximately 3kms north-west of the Eden Valley township. This vineyard is planted on shallow grey sandy loam over shale rock and is situated 450m above sea level. The average yearly rainfall is 700mm. Close by is the second vineyard we source fruit from that is owned by Ben Zander. Ben is 2nd generation and is well known for growing Eden Valley Riesling. This vineyard is planted in loam soil over light medium clay, with high quartz rock and gravel content. Situated 500m above sea level, the vineyard has a rainfall of approximately 650mm per year.**

**The third vineyard we source fruit from is owned by Mark Bartholomaeus and is situated in the heart of the Eden Valley township. The vines are over 65 years old and are among the oldest plantings of Riesling in the area. These old vines produce wines with intense flavor and exceptional natural acidity. Our fourth vineyard is Avon Brae, located on the outskirts of Springton. With several blocks of Riesling planted on a variety of soils and aspects, this vineyard produces wines ranging from lean and elegant to rich and full-flavoured. Situated in the South-Western ranges of Eden Valley adjacent to the Adelaide Hills, the cooler temperatures and higher rainfall in this area lead to extended ripening periods compared to the rest of the region.**



## PRODUCER

Rieslingfreak was born from a long-running love for the Riesling variety. Established by John Hughes in 2009, Rieslingfreak started as a passion-project and has grown to a portfolio of 11 different Riesling styles.

Since the beginning, our mission for Rieslingfreak has been to produce quality Rieslings that best represent both style and region. We craft Rieslings that showcase the strength of various South Australian wine regions, including Clare Valley, Eden Valley and Polish Hill River. Our collection has been created with each of the Rieslingfreak wines being assigned a number, and the number represents both the region where the grape is grown, and the style of the Riesling in the bottle. Our Rieslingfreak collection includes dry, sweet, sparkling, and fortified Riesling styles. There are not many grape varieties in the world that provides a wine-maker the same level of versatility that Riesling does.

Fruit for this Eden Valley Riesling is sourced from three different vineyards situated between Eden Valley and Flaxman's Valley. Two vineyards in Flaxman Valley, being Ben Zander and Michael Mason. Milton Tscharke has a small vineyard situated in the heart of the Eden Valley. The vineyards are situated approximately 500m above sea level, and an average yearly rainfall of 650mm. The soils vary from shallow grey sandy loam over shale rock, to loam soil over light medium clay, with high quartz rock and gravel content. Each vineyard contributes something different to the wine.

Rizza (wine industry shorthand for Riesling) and Fizz are the Rieslingfreaks of the canine world. The much-loved duo of chocolate doggos are John and Belinda's constant companions and popular mascots for Rieslingfreak.



## Tasting Notes:

Eden Valley Rieslings often showcase delicacy and refinement. Rieslingfreak No.44 typically demonstrates this, with aromas of citrus, talcum powder and white blossom, and flavors of lime and lemon, with a background of sweet spice. The wine drinks well young, but will reward with cellaring.

## Food Suggestions:

Paired with Foie Gras, you will experience an entirely new level of flavor. The sweetness of the wine mixes perfectly with the richness and smooth texture. Salty Snacks: Whether you're serving simple appetizers or something more intense, sweet Rieslings are the perfect pair for a salty snack. The gentle sweetness will delight your tongue as it processes the complex flavors in both the wine and the snack. Pizza is always a fan favorite. Go Tropical: The strong flavors that are so typical in tropical fruits work well with a sweet Riesling. Consider Tarts and Pies. Caramel Works Well: A Riesling means a floral, aromatic option, and when you pair that with the mixture of sweet and salty that caramel desserts so frequently offer, you have an ideal match.

*Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to! CHEERS!!!*

### Sources:

<https://rieslingfreak.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/rieslingfreak>

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