



FERN GROVE

What the experts say about Frankland River Riesling

"What is certain is that the attention afforded the new but significant Ferngrove winery following the show success of its 2002 Cossack Riesling has done the region no harm – because it highlighted, even in a year when the wine press was going bonkers over Clare Riesling, just how good Riesling from Frankland can be."

**Campbell Mattinson,
Divine Magazine,
September/November 2003.**

"The broader Great Southern region can justifiably stake a claim to being one of Australia's great Riesling areas, in some years even surpassing South Australia's Clare/Watervale and Eden Valley."

**Ray Jordan,
Winestate March/April 2005.**

"Kim Horton is the winemaker at Ferngrove, and, while many of his wines are eye catching, it's the Riesling that stands out... Great Southern Riesling already rivals the more heralded South Australian valleys of Clare and Eden for bragging rights to Australia's best Riesling."

**Jordan MacKay,
Wine Enthusiast, August 2006.**



Ferngrove 2005 Riesling

This is minimalist winemaking at its best. Harvested in the cold of night, the grapes are cool fermented in stainless steel, filtered and bottled under stelvin closure to preserve their pristine fruit characters. Ferngrove's 2005 Riesling is a fine example of the great Riesling produced in the sub-region of Frankland River in Western Australia's Great Southern. Fresh lifted aromas of green apples, lemon and lime zest on the nose follow through to a flavoursome palate of citrus and refreshing acidity. The finish is fine and persistent.

The 2005 vintage in Frankland River was suited to the development of premium Riesling with an abundance of lime and floral aromas which will develop into honeysuckle characters with age and maturity. For those who like an aged Riesling Ferngrove's senior winemaker Kim Horton believes this wine will reach its optimum in 2011.

Why is Riesling from Frankland River so good?

Firstly Frankland River is particularly suited to the production of Riesling primarily because of our cool climate, cold night time temperatures and the variety's ability to maintain natural acidity.

The long cool ripening period in Frankland River results in a wine with delicate varietal fruit flavours.

Our isolation is another reason why Frankland River Rieslings are so good. In relative terms Frankland River is close to the most pristine environment on earth, Antarctica. The prevailing winds that blow up from the south-west have touched no land until they get to the south-west tip of Western Australia and thus are free of the airborne pollutants so common in other parts of the world.

The final factor is the soil which is said to be some of the oldest in the world at around 400 million years. However, it is also some of the youngest to be cultivated due to the region's isolation. Being extremely old means that what fertile topsoil was there has long since eroded away leaving only the red ironstone gravel (laterite) and "coffee rock" which is laterite mixed with friable clay.

This material is characterised by low fertility and good drainage, not good for most agricultural crops where the goal is to maximise yield, but perfect for wine grapes where quality is preferred over quantity.

How does it compare to Riesling from other Australian wine regions?

In Australia, the cooler the region the more likely Riesling is to have higher natural acidity and more austerity on the palate whereas warmer climates tend to have more obvious fruit flavour. Ferngrove's senior winemaker Kim Horton believes Frankland River Riesling is similar to Rieslings of the famous Eden Valley in South Australia's Barossa as they are both cool sub regions with very similar soil structure.



Ferngrove Winery

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