

Never Enough Riesling



Someone once said...

you can never have too many Rieslings.

We think this is true!

Last September we came across the 2020 Vintage Mosel Report and were captivated by the Richter Riesling Reviews. The two below were particularly fascinating so within a matter of moments we ordered a half dozen cases from the winery.

Fast forward nine months and these **Renegade Exclusive Rieslings** have arrived. These are spellbinding wines you won't find anywhere else (ok...Europe, perhaps).

They are ever-changing in the glass and worthy of your most elegant of feasts or tastiest of appetizers.

Read, drink, enjoy.

2020 Weingut Max Ferd. Richter Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Großes Gewächs (Germany, Mosel Saar Ruwer) \$48

"The 2020er Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG was made with fruit picked in the Falkenberg part of the vineyard. It offers a subtly creamy and beautifully aromatic nose driven by pear, melon, apricot blossom, whipped cream, smoke, and spices. The wine feels smooth and delicately creamy but remains stunningly light-footed on the palate. Flavors of ripe fruits add to this great sensation of subtle smooth and delicate presence right into the finish. The aftertaste reveals some fresh fruit, a hint of smoke, more creamy elements, and a touch of presence. This is a beautiful expression of dry Riesling!" –*Mosel Fine Wines*

2020 Weingut Max Ferd. Richter Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Uralte Reben GG (Germany, Mosel Saar Ruwer) \$48

This is one of the deepest, purest, most complex Rieslings we have ever come across. It's a singular expression of brilliance. But don't take our word for it.

Here's the Mosel Report review:

"A bone-dry wine (with 3 g/l of residual sugar) made from fruit picked on un-grafted vines **planted in 1890**. It proves rather backward at first and really needs a few moments to reveal some subtle but still faint scents of white peach, herbs, fine spices, and floral elements. The wine is hugely focused but beautifully deep on the palate. A touch of zest frames the flavors at the moment and enhances the tart side in the nicely firm and focused finish. The aftertaste is simply a thing of beauty as layer upon layer of fine fruity flavors are enhanced by minerals, spices, and herbs. This hugely impressive dry Riesling now only needs a few years of bottle aging to reveal its splendor. What a great success!" –*Mosel Fine Wines*

These Grand Cru wines are world-class, priced absurdly low. With the days of Summer ahead, these are the wines that will enhance every brunch, lunch, picnic, dinner, sunset, (sunrise?), feast, festivities, and fiesta that the coming months have to offer.

Limited to what we imported. Two-packs (1 bottle each) are on-sale @ \$80

At this price you might as well pick up a few.

Call it **'The Summer of Riesling'**.

Que Syrah, Syrah, Syrah



A Northern Rhone Trio

Even if you're the biggest Northern Rhone

fan you still may not have heard of Bernard Levet. The winery is small, production tiny, but wow do they produce great wines; some of the most genuine, classic, wild, and beguiling Syrahs from Cote Rotie.

Since 1983 Nicole and Bernard Levet have meticulously tended their vineyards on the incredibly steeped terraces in Cote Rotie. Their 3.5 hectares of vineyards, all of which are located within the boundaries of the town of Ampuis, produce perhaps 15,000 bottles, dipping down below 12,000 bottles on certain vintages. Why Renegade is entitled to a small allocation we will never know. And we do not ask. We simply cross our fingers every June and see what will arrive.

We have two wines available. Here is the first:

2019 Bernard Levet Côte-Rôtie La Chavaroché (France, Northern Rhône, Côte-Rôtie) \$110

This is just about as good as it gets. You do have to like wild, rugged, classic, traditional Cote Rotie. The wines from Levet are not quite friendly in their youth; they're a rough and tumble version of first year students attempting to play Verdi's Requiem; all the pieces are there but nothing's coming together. Fast forward to graduation and the results are astonishing.

As for the wine:

Vivid purple, with incredible aromas of violets, pepper, blue, and black fruit. There's iron down its spine along with matrix-like minerality flowing throughout.

Flawlessly balanced even in its youth with plenty of energy for extended aging. This is something to behold.

From the Northern, Northern part of the valley (Cote Rotie) we now travel to the Southern, Northern part of the valley, Cornas, and to Guillaume Gilles who produces almost as many bottles as his Syrah-In-Arms comrade in Cote Rotie.

Guillaume Gilles was Robert Michel's protégé. Robert Michel was the very definition of an old-school Cornas vigneron, the last of ten generations of tough men working impossibly steep sites for the reward of the aromas and flavors that only Syrah grown here can express.

Guillaume Gilles, while not related, may be considered the '11th' generation in the long line. With tradition alive, he ended up leasing from his mentor a prime parcel in the Chaillot vineyard. It has been a nearly seamless transition from Michel to Gilles. No beats skipped.

2019 Guillaume Gilles Cornas (France, Rhône, Northern Rhône, Cornas) \$106

This is the grand wine of this tiny domaine. The vines are situation on the higher slopes of the Chaillot vineyard. The terroir is more complex here with a mixture of pure granite and clay-limestone. The wine itself brings in the WOW factor. Bright, dark, brooding, with red fruit, cassis, iodine and pencil lead on the nose.

There's beautiful black and blue fruit on the palate with a tranquil depth on the mid-palate. This is a 'thinkers' Syrah. The rocky plays with the earthy, iron and other minerals gain ground on the concentrated juice lifting it up and back towards the finish. Air plays a big part, as in open and let breath for some time.

This has a worthy soul that will reward your neglect in the cellar for a half dozen years.

And now for the second wine from Nicole and Bernard Levet:

2019 Bernard Levet Côte-Rôtie Les Journaries (France, Northern Rhône, Côte-Rôtie) \$106

Since the 2004 vintage, Rosenthal, has imported an additional bottling of Cote Rotie known as "Les Journaries", a cuvée drawn from grapes harvested from old vines in the "La Landonne" lieu-dit. This wine is more complex here with a mixture of pure granite and clay-limestone. The wine itself brings in the WOW factor. Bright, dark, brooding, with red fruit, cassis, iodine and pencil lead on the nose.

The "Journaries" is approachable at an earlier stage than its companion "La Chavaroché" but, that being said, it is a wine that not only ages gracefully but almost requires a touch of patience.

A great start to the week:

A Duo of Grand Cru Rieslings and a trio of world-class Syrahs.

If anything strikes your fancy please email or give us a call and we'll put the wines aside for you.

Don't forget, weather permitting, we ship to almost all 50 states.

Crushing Sangiovese



The Weekend Quick-Pick:

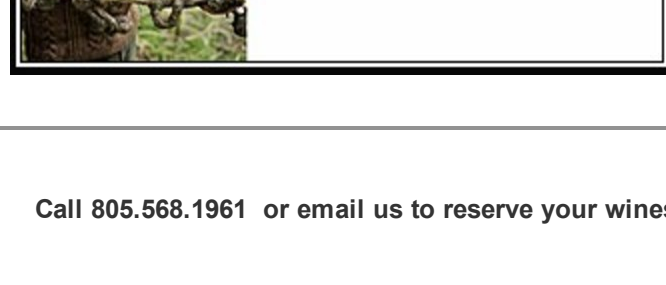
The Basque 4-Pack



The Amazing Mr. Anthony Thevenet



The Burgundy Edition



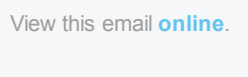
Call 805.568.1961 or email us to reserve your wines.

We appreciate your support!

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