

SMITH-MADRONE

1996 RIESLING

Some wines are made by winemakers for the sheer beauty and love of wine. Smith-Madrone Rieslings are wines of beauty, finesse, longevity and greatness. Still the only winery in America to win a major tasting in Europe for Riesling, Smith-Madrone produces consistently one of the best, if not the best, Rieslings in America.

The wine has a bright shiny patina of clarity with a very faint light green tinge around the edges, indications of minimal handling of the fruit. Sliced peaches and apricots jump to mind when smelling this wine and the taste confirms that, with a wonderful balance of sugar and acid and a long lingering fresh fruitiness on the palate. Wonderful!

Last summer we tasted our 19-year-old Riesling with wine writers Hugh Johnson and Bob Thompson. All agreed that the 1977 Riesling was still fresh and youthful and had possibly another five years to go to hit its peak.

Bob Thompson reviewed the wine in the May 21, 1997 San Francisco Examiner: Riesling has an uncanny capacity to strike a sweet-tart balance not only in the technical sense but also in its flavors. This wine does both in spades. When the fit is as good as this one was, I think it is a case of the right grape in the right place.

Beginning with our 1983 Riesling vintage we boldly went where no other American winery would go for the next 17 years – we changed our label from Johannisberg Riesling to the true and correct name – Riesling. While White Riesling is legally correct, it is none-the-less both wrong and redundant - when was the last time you had a red Riesling? This is just one example of our commitment to this wonderful and somewhat overlooked varietal.

AGE OF VINES:	24 years
APPELLATION:	NAPA VALLEY
SUB-APPELLATION:	SPRING MOUNTAIN DISTRICT
VARIETAL CONTENT:	100% Riesling
ALCOHOL	11.9%
RESIDUAL SUGAR (dry)	1.5%
CASES PRODUCED:	1,017 cases
WINEMAKERS & WINEGROWERS:	Charles Smith & Stuart Smith
WEBSITE:	www.smithmadrone.com

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