

SMITH-MADRONE

2012 RIESLING

After the unusual weather-induced challenges of the 2010 and 2011 vintages, 2012 was a welcome return to normal. Consistently fine weather from May through September had the Napa Valley winemaking community in a continual state of elation. Here at Smith-Madrone we all felt pretty much the same: what a lovely harvest it is when good quality grapes ripen in a timely fashion! And, happily, our re-planting program is beginning to kick in, so in addition to the splendid quality, quantity improved as well. All in all, the harvest could not have gone much better, as the quality of this wine readily demonstrates.

The 2012 Riesling is a very pretty pale straw color with glints of silvery green dancing around the edges. On the nose, there is a distinct suggestion of melons, lime and freshly-cut Granny Smith and Honey Crisp apples. A hint of honey, peaches and apricots combine to make this vintage unusually aromatic.

On the palate, it is crisp, lively and refreshing with mouth-watering acidity. At the finish, the acid and fruit work in combination to give this wine an exceptional juicy-fruit tartness that is simply delicious. Rieslings of this caliber just don't come along that often. Like our other vintages, a testament to our mountain vineyard, this is a wine which will age and improve for 15 to 20 years.

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.

At Smith-Madrone our goal is to make artisanal wines which are distinctive and are an expression of both the vintage and us as vintners, but above all else, are wines which bring pleasure to the senses. Every year our wine is made from the same vineyards, pruned by the same people in the same way, cultivated in exactly the same manner and harvested at similar levels of maturity, yet Mother Nature stamps each vintage with a unique set of flavors, senses and character. Vintage dating is a celebration of that uniqueness and diversity.

AGE OF VINES:	40 years
APPELLATION:	NAPA VALLEY
SUB-APPELLATION:	SPRING MOUNTAIN DISTRICT
VARIETAL CONTENT:	100% Riesling
ALCOHOL	12.5%
pH	3.12
RESIDUAL SUGAR (dry)	0.41%
HARVESTED	September 14, 2012
CASES PRODUCED:	798 cases
WINEMAKERS & WINEGROWERS:	Charles Smith & Stuart Smith
WEBSITE:	www.smithmadrone.com

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