melville

2023 Estate Riesling– Sta. Rita Hills

Description

In the spring of 2020, amid a tumultuous time that changed the world in ways we never predicted—we planted a small 1.1-acre block of something we've never grown at Melville before. Our vision was clear: to express a floral varietal in its absolute purest form. This labor of love represents five years of patience, purpose, and precision. The fruit was hand-harvested with a tremendous amount of natural acidity. Every winemaking decision followed a singular vision: cold fermenting in stainless steel and aging on the lees without stirring or malolactic fermentation, leaving nothing to mask the true character of what we'd grown. The result is something we're immensely proud to share. It is dry. It is fresh. It is serious. It is authentic.

Each bottle wears something special. Chad's daughter Logan created this work of art back in 2011 when she was only seven, and it's hung in his office ever since. After considering countless design ideas, Chad realized one day how perfectly Logan's childhood painting captures the colors he associates with riesling. As can be the case so often—sometimes we simply need to open our eyes to see the answer that's been right in front of us.

Highlights

Varietal: 100% Riesling
Cases Produced: 59
Soil Type: Sand
Vine age: 5 years old
Clones: 23
Fermentation: Foot-stomped, 48-hour skin contact, then whole cluster pressed
Élevage: Aged in stainless steel, on the lees, kept at 46 degrees
Bottling date: April 2024
Release date + price: May 2025, $40

Tasting Notes

A rich, honeyed core of jasmine, lime blossom and kumquat peel meet with the minerality of wet crushed rocks. Intense mouthwatering acidity and powerfully textured fruit make for an explosive and invigorating mouthfeel. Serve slightly chilled and give this wine a little time to blossom in your glass. This pairs beautifully with steamed halibut marinated in fresh ginger and sesame.

Technical Details

Alcohol: 13.1%
pH: 3.1
Glucose + fructose: 0.0 g/L
TA: 8.1 g/L
Free SO2: 15 ppm

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