



## Reverence of Riesling

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**Rieslingfreak**

VINTAGE

**2015**

**Newsletter No.3**

# Rieslingfreak

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Welcome to the 2015 edition of the Rieslingfreak newsletter. It has been another busy year for Rieslingfreak, with an early harvest, which resulted in vintage activities commencing earlier than normal. Many Riesling producers were at Riesling Downunder in Melbourne, knowing the grapes were ripening quickly back home. Arriving back from Melbourne, it was straight to the vineyards and crushing soon thereafter.

Post vintage the priority was to get the wines into bottle, and then commence trade visits in the local and international markets. I had my first overseas trip for Rieslingfreak this year, heading to Hong Kong and Macau. It was good to see some great listings on international wine lists. Over the past 12 months I have also attended a number of Riesling tastings around Australia, with Riesling Downunder being a real highlight.

I am also pleased to introduce you to a new wine - 2015 Rieslingfreak No.99 - which is my 'Out of the Square' Riesling. I will also be profiling our growers, and in this edition I will introduce to you my folks, Richard and Anne Hughes.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your support.

John Hughes  
WINEMAKER

## VINTAGE 2015

2015 was a dry vintage following on from a very dry autumn and spring. Mother Nature gave us some rain late in January, but other than that we had to rely on irrigation to water the vines and protect the grapes.

The weather was very different to previous vintages with high daytime temperatures and warmer than usual nights. The warm nights meant that the vine was continuously working setting sugars in the fruit, hence the need for an early start to vintage.

An advantage of this type of season however was even ripening and grape maturity making the harvest decisions fairly straight forward.

## YOUR 2015 RIESLINGFREAK OFFER

Enclosed is the 2015 Rieslingfreak offer that includes all of our 2015 wines. In order to sample the new releases you are welcome to mix cases and to help in your decision making detailed tasting notes can be viewed on our website [www.rieslingfreak.com](http://www.rieslingfreak.com).

A great new feature of the site is online purchasing, which you can check out at [www.rieslingfreak.com/shop](http://www.rieslingfreak.com/shop)

## News

### RIESLING DOWNUNDER

The Riesling Downunder works in collaboration with Riesling Rendezvous (USA) and International Riesling Symposium (Germany). Taking it in turns each year, one country hosts the annual event, which is attended by many passionate Riesling Freaks. In February this year, Melbourne hosted Riesling Downunder, which was a three-day event, attended by many international producers, sommeliers and media. A consumer event was included with 69 national and international producers showcasing their wines to more than 450 participants. It was fantastic to see the support from consumers for this event, and their evident enthusiasm for the Riesling variety.

Day Two was a full schedule of Master Classes involving tasting international Rieslings of many different styles. The first tasting was International Sweet Rieslings, which included the 2014 Rieslingfreak Polish Hill River Schatzkammer Riesling. I must say this wine went down a treat, with a nod received from some of the world's top producers. Later that evening the producers all joined forces to showcase our wines to the Melbourne trade, with more than 350 people attending the tasting.

Day Three saw further Master Classes, this time looking at regional and aged Rieslings. A great line up again of international wines, and a real honour to be at the event. I am already looking forward to attending the next event in Washington State in July 2016.

## What's new?

### RIESLINGFREAK No.99

Rieslingfreak No.99 is the new Riesling this year. No.99 'Out of the Square' Riesling, is my 'playground' label. This means, each time a Riesling is made under the No.99 label, it will always be different.

The 2015 No.99 'Out of the Square' Clare Valley Riesling is a dry wine fermented on solids with wild yeast and some lees stirring. This provides a wine that has a classic Riesling signature with texture built on the palate. I love the mouth feel and textural elements of this wine and it reminds me of classic whites from the Rhone Valley.

### RIESLINGFREAK BOOKLET

I have put together a booklet on the Rieslingfreak Collection to provide all of you Riesling Freaks with some comprehensive notes on the wines and profiles of our vineyards and growers.

I have put a copy of the booklet in with the newsletter—so I hope you enjoy the light bed-time reading!

## Grower Profile: Richard and Anne Hughes

I thought I would start by introducing my parents Richard and Anne Hughes. My folks are my inspiration to winemaking, and have assisted to build the Rieslingfreak label from day one.

Initially providing grapes for Rieslingfreak No.6 in 2009, they have been supportive in

helping me grow the Rieslingfreak label. The family vineyard, White Hutt, Clare Valley is a 120 area property, consisting of five Riesling sites, representing different clones and soil types.

My parents purchased their first vineyard in 1984, in Penwortham, Clare Valley. This was a small 5 acre Riesling vineyard, which was formerly owned by Spencer George and supplied fruit to Skillogalee in the late 70's and early 80's. Mum and Dad opened a winery in the early 90's called Penwortham Wines, which was known for its unoaked Shiraz. In 1998 my folks sold the Penwortham property and purchased land north of Clare in the White Hutt region. Over the next few years large plantings were carried out, including Riesling, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec. My parents are now being recognised by many for their grapes, with wineries such as Two Hands making single vineyard labels with their reds. Rieslingfreak now buys the bulk of their Riesling, and I must say, I am one very happy customer! Thanks Mum and Dad.



## Rieslingfreak Photo's

A number of Riesling Freaks have been sending in photos of their Rieslingfreak experiences.

It has been awesome to receive the photos, and I think the highlight for this year would be three very passionate Riesling Freaks in their kayaks, paddling from the mainland to Tasmania, with some Rieslingfreak on board.

Given how small kayaks are, I am very impressed that they decided to take not one but two bottles of Rieslingfreak along for the trip. Well done fellas!

If you would like to share your Rieslingfreak moments, please send photos and stories to [john@rieslingfreak.com](mailto:john@rieslingfreak.com).

