



SAWMILL CREEK VINEYARD RIESLING 2016

100% Riesling
East side of Seneca Lake (Hector, NY)
Soils: shale
Hand-harvested, sorted, and whole cluster pressed
Harvest Date: Oct. 11-12
Fermented with indigenous yeasts
Fermented and aged in neutral barrels
Residual Sugar: 0.3%
Production: 146 cases
Alcohol: 13%

VINTAGE

2016 was an incomparably dry year in the Finger Lakes with the least amount of rainfall during the growing season since 1973. A mild winter was followed by a practically moistureless June and July with only 1.5 inches of rain each month. August was the warmest since 1973 in terms of growing degree days, yet our grapes managed the water stress well and remained healthy, allowing for steady ripening. Due to an impending mid-October storm, the vintage came to a rapid conclusion with Riesling picked about two weeks earlier than normal. Harvest from every site was stacked in tight succession in order to bring in a pristine crop. Due to the dry, abbreviated season, we had no botrytis in 2016, the flavors remain fresh, and acidity is vibrant. We are particularly excited that we were able to harvest the 2016 Rieslings in our brand new winery. We also began high density plantings of Pinot Noir and Riesling on our home farm.

We hand harvested almost exclusively with a second hand sort at the winery, followed by whole cluster pressing and fermentation with indigenous yeasts. Gentle fermentations continued into June of 2017 in order to finish bone dry.

VINEYARD

Sawmill Creek is one the best sites in the Finger Lakes to make Riesling and Pinot Noir. Its relatively warm micro climate generates a quite easy and quick ripening. In such a cold region, it makes the winemaking a lot easier. The level of complexity is high here and multidimensional Riesling can be made in a correct year. Sawmill being located close to the cellar allows us to have a great every-day control during the growing season to tune the balance and maintain the best fruit quality.

TASTING NOTES

Apricot - spring honey - nettles

We have come to expect great complexity and expression from well-farmed grapes on this site which is a jewel of the Finger Lakes. The 2016 is dense and savory with sweet fruits. Apricot, apple butter and spring honey are countered by flint, sea salt, nettles and anise.