

DRY RIESLING BREAKNECK CREEK VINEYARD 2021

East side of Seneca Lake (Valois)

*Soils: Lansing and Conesus silt loam
on shale*

Elevation: 784ft

Aspect: west-facing

Year Planted: 1992

Harvest Date: October 15, 2021

Spontaneous fermentation in neutral barrel

Residual Sugar: 0.28% (2.8 g/L)

Total Acidity: 6.6 g/L

ALC: 12.8%

Production: 372 cases

TASTING NOTES

mint, rose, spirited

Breakneck is a giant, a commanding figure of adventure and peril. During one of our first explorations of the site, we nearly lived up to its name, clinging onto the steep ravine, grasping at trees and rocks to steady our feet down the slope and not stumble to our demise (or break our necks). The creek itself is an unbelievable site with striated layers of rock that read like the rings inside a tree, demarcating periods of time when the earth was still shifting into place. There are few places as extreme as Breakneck Creek on southeast Seneca Lake, and nothing tells the tale of this specific *terroir* better than the Riesling grown here.

Finely woven through all of the 2021 vintage wines is a saline quality, an unmistakable nod to the sea. Tucked behind this stentorian shadow of salinity are the flowers of the vintage, delicate yet perceptible in the glass. Perhaps this was most noticeable in the difference between the two clones of Riesling harvested at Breakneck, each vinified and aged separately, and each showing remarkably distinctive personalities. On the one hand, we had a clone that showed classic Breakneck features—salt, gravel, vibrancy—and on the other, we had a suave new persona filled with wild roses and lilies.

This was such a fascinating discovery that up until the final moments of blending, we had planned to bottle the clones separately. Ultimately, in the late hours of contemplation, we determined that the two personalities of Breakneck complimented each other in a way that made the final wine

feel more “complete,” and in all honesty, more interesting to drink (the juxtaposition on your palate makes for an exhilarating game of cat and mouse).

