



2011 FRISK PRICKLY RIESLING

REGION: Alpine & King Valleys, Victoria
VARIETALS: Riesling (89%), Muscat Gordo (11%)
FERMENTATION: Stainless steel
ANALYSIS: 9.8% alc/vol | 3.6% RS | 3.21 pH | 6.43 TA

WINEMAKING:

Made by a team of maverick winemakers hailing from Victoria's far corners, Frisk is crafted by seasoned hands. Harvested in the chilly eve, prized free-run Riesling juice is fermented with canny yeasts that ensure the wine is sporting plenty of aromatic verve. And the prickle? A gentle spritz courtesy of those clever yeasts, captured to deliver a palate-rousing tickle.

REGION:

Nestled into the foothills of the Victorian Alps, the Alpine Valleys harbor a handful of dogged grape growers whose ancestors arrived in the 1850's after a less-than-comfortable boat trip from Italy. With lofty slopes climbing to 2000 feet, vineyards are snow clad in winter and punch through clouds to nab a slice of sunshine in summer. The vines here greedily nosh ancient deposits of granite-based loam to produce flinty, minerally wines.

TASTING NOTES:

It's normally pretty darned cool in the Alpine Valleys, but 2011 took the mercury to new lows. Grapes were harvested up to 4 weeks later than usual, and yields were particularly low - near ideal conditions for our cold-lovin' Riesling fruit! You'll see intoxicating floral aromatics and vivacious citrus fruits, with great persistence and concentration of flavor. Racy and versatile, it'll pair perfectly with sweet and spicy dishes alike.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

88 pts Wine Spectator, 87 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 86 pts/Best Buy Wine Enthusiast

ABOUT THAT NAME... At one of the blending sessions, a cellar hand wanted to taste the wines 'blind'. Not being able to cover the labels, he made a makeshift blindfold from a lab cloth and told his colleague to pour the wines into a few glasses. Reaching for the wine glasses he inadvertently 'frisked' them to make sure he had a firm grip (a point duly noted by his co-workers in snickering tones) and then proceeded to tell all and sundry that he got a kick out of the 'prickle' of the wine as he swallowed. And so for a wine that is indeed fresh, frisky and just a touch prickly, it's quite an apt name. Need we say more?



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