

2012 FRISK PRICKLY ROSSO

REGION: Victoria
VARIETALS: 51% Merlot, 49% Dolcetto
FERMENTATION: Stainless steel
ANALYSIS: 12.5% alc/vol | 2.7% RS | 3.30 pH | 6.31 TA

WINEMAKING:

Made by a team of maverick winemakers hailing from Victoria's far corners, Frisk Rosso is crafted by seasoned hands. Spicy Merlot and vivacious Dolcetto, planted by entrepreneurial Italian immigrants drawn by gold in the mid-19th century, are 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, delivering a palate-rousing tickle reminiscent of the *Rosso Frizzantes* so familiar to those early northern Italian immigrants.

TASTING NOTES:

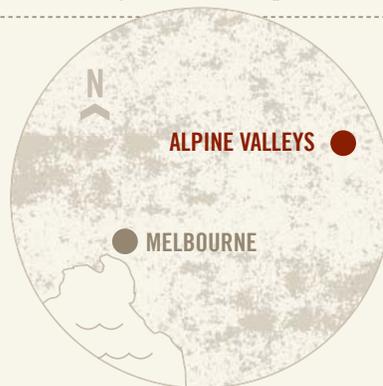
Dolcetto, in Italian, means 'little sweet one' and gives this wine its fabulous ruby hue along with black cherry and cinnamon characters. Merlot, a traditional blending grape, delivers loads of bright red fruits amid a juicy mid-palate. Together, they're like PB&J – sweet and spicy, fleshy and firm, fruity and crisp. It's kismet. This luscious tongue-lashing has some savory notes too, though, so pairing with cheese, charcuterie or your favorite pasta is a foregone conclusion. And Frisk Rosso loves to chill – its low tannin and alcohol levels mean it won't turn into a mouth-puckering monster after a spell in the cool box.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

88 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

ABOUT FRISK...

Frisk wines are grown in decidedly different climes. Mostly high in the Alpine Valleys of Australia. Sometimes deep in the verdant plains of Lodi, California. But always in places that are a little cooler, or sunnier, or steeper, or more obscure than the places you'd expect winemakers go, because the Brilliantly Conceived Master Plan consists of Being Where The Grapes Grow Best. And those grapes? Always Riesling, often Dolcetto, and occasionally Grenache. But always with a tantalizing prickle that will invigorate your palate like an ice cube on languid, summer spine.



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703 Jefferson Street, Napa, California 94559

Tel (707) 258 9552 • Fax (707) 258 9577 • www.obcwines.com • cellar@obcwines.com