



Sokol
Blosser

Oregon Family Winery Since 1971

Evolution



Wine Spectator

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2020 Evolution Lucky No. 9 White



BY KRISTEN
BIELER

GLOBAL RIESLING

WHETHER FROM GERMANY,
WASHINGTON, NEW YORK
OR AUSTRALIA, THIS RACY
WHITE RUNS THE TABLE

There are few grapes that inspire as much confusion and misunderstanding as Riesling. While the variety is a favorite of many sommeliers and wine geeks around the world, most people avoid Rieslings altogether, assuming they are all sweet (they're not). Or they simply don't think about Riesling at all.

But anyone in the market for a well-priced white that offers beautiful fruit purity powered by racy acidity and minerality should take a second look. Riesling thrives in a number of diverse regions across the globe, places where there are sloping, rocky soils and cool climates.

The Finger Lakes region of New York has become an excellent source of great—and

well-priced—Riesling. Many of the best hail from the steep slopes of Seneca and Cayuga lakes. Hermann J. Wiemer pioneered the grape here in the 1970s and his eponymous estate still makes some of the top examples in both dry and sweet styles. "Between the aroma and balance between sugar and acidity, Riesling can express its sense of place like very few varieties can," says Wiemer winemaker and co-owner Fred Merwarth. "It is truly unique regarding its ability to capture the profile, quality and style of a terroir."

For fans of the bone-dry, super minerally style, it's hard to beat Ravines, a relative newcomer founded in 2001.

Riesling has a long history in Australia, where it's been grown since the 1800s.



Alison and Alex Sokol Blosser

HOT TIP
How do you know if a Riesling is sweet? It can be hard to tell. Most versions made outside of Germany list "dry" on the label to denote style. In Germany, look for the word "trocken," which means dry as well as the designation *grüner gewächs* or *erstes gewächs*. Most German wines labeled *kabinett* will have some degree of sweetness. Best bet: Ask your retailer.

Nearly all of the country's versions are completely dry, with cool regions such as Eden Valley in South Australia yielding the best results. Pewsey Vale's intensely flavored wines are a terrific example.

Of course, Germany is the grape's native land, where it has thrived in the Mosel and Rhine valleys for centuries. It remains the source of the world's finest, most ethereal Rieslings, but you'll find a ton of delicious and affordable versions too. The trend in Germany is toward dry wines, such as August Kesseler's Rheingau Kabinett, a rich, ripe white pulsing with energy and searing acidity. Yet before fully dismissing the off-dry style, consider that these wines are driven by these same bracing acid levels, making them intensely refreshing despite their slight sweetness. No other grape can pull this off so brilliantly—a phenomenon illustrated by S.A. Prüm's Essence.

KRISTEN BIELER'S SMART BUYS IN GLOBAL RIESLING

92	\$19	Ravines Riesling Finger Lakes Dry 2019
91	\$14	S.A. Prüm Essence
91	\$20	Chateau Ste. Michelle Dr. Loosen Riesling Columbia Valley Eroica 2020
90	\$18	Pewsey Vale Riesling Eden Valley Dry 2021
90	\$19	August Kesseler Riesling Kabinett Rheingau R 2020
90	\$20	Poet's Leap Riesling Columbia Valley 2020
89	\$12	Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler Riesling Mosel Noble House 2020
89	\$14	d'Arenberg The Stump Jump White McLaren Vale 2019
89	\$20	Red Newt Cellars Riesling Finger Lakes Dry 2018
88	\$9	Chateau Ste. Michelle Riesling Columbia Valley 2021
88	\$12	Villa Wolf Riesling Dry Pfalz 2020
88	\$15	Sokol Blosser Evolution Lucky No. 9 White Blend Columbia-Willamette Valleys 2020
88	\$20	Hermann J. Wiemer Riesling Seneca Lake Dry 2020



88 pts

"Lithe and delicate, with pretty kiwi, melon and grapefruit flavors that finish with a snap. Riesling, Pinot Gris, Sémillon, Muscat, Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer and Sauvignon Blanc. Drink now."

Tim Fish, Senior Editor