

# BOHEMIAN

## Listen to Riesling

Tasting the secret favorite varietal of winemakers

by [James Knight](#)

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The last time I ran into Brian Maloney, director of winemaking for Boisset Collection's DeLoach Vineyards and Buena Vista Winery, it was at a super-exciting event.

We were standing, as Maloney informed me, in the former residence of wine legend Robert Mondavi, at the top of Wappo Hill with a bird's eye view of Napa Valley, while current resident Jean-Charles Boisset was showing guests the stuffed tiger in a corner of this mega-California ranch-house-turned-eclectic-ultra-lounge, prior to the debut of J'Noon, the first "luxury" Indian wine launched in the United States in partnership with Boisset.

But when we got to talking, what Maloney was excited to tell me about was a trivial amount of Riesling he is making from an obscure Marin County vineyard. Riesling gets a lot of respect among winemakers. Shouldn't wine drinkers take notice?

Recently, I asked Bohemians to tell me what they thought of a few examples of this varietal, from high and low in the North Bay.

**DeLoach 2017 Petaluma Gap Marin County Riesling (\$30)** This wine, softer than the others, has cool-climate, malic-influenced aromas of apple and pear cider, spiced with a pinch of cinnamon. Still, it's not like some kind of appletini-esque "unoaked" Chardonnay—on the finish, it shows class. It's Riesling. ★★★