



CHATEAU MONTELENA WINERY
ESTABLISHED 1882

2015 Potter Valley Riesling

Notes from the Winemaker, Matt Crafton, April 2016

INTRODUCTION

Most people we speak with don't know that we produce Riesling. In fact, we've been making Riesling since the early 1970s, when there was more of this variety planted in the Napa Valley than Chardonnay. It's a fun wine at its core and, more importantly, it's a feel good wine that welcomes warm weather and Spring flowers upon release. However, this bottle shouldn't be confused with the mass-market, sticky-sweet imports that set the standard so low many years ago. This Riesling is for those that crave delicious wine and, consequently, can appreciate the delicate aromatics, sublime texture, and rich flavors of this noble grape.

VINTAGE WEATHER

The consistently mild temperatures and persistent fog are what make Potter Valley an ideal vineyard site for Riesling. While the 2015 crop was picked almost a month ahead of when the 2014 was harvested the previous year, that decision was as much a stylistic consideration as it was a function of the early vintage. The flavors in the fruit came alive at low sugar levels this year, mostly due to warmer than average nights, and so we enthusiastically mobilized the picking crew. While it wasn't the last fruit to come in for the year, it was sure close.

NOSE

On the nose, tropical fruit and citrus dominate as crushed pineapple, lime leaf, and green apple are closely followed by fresh apricot, peach and fig.

PALATE

Austere at first, the palate opens to zesty notes of grapefruit, sweet lemon curd, and an almost Champagne-like brightness and minerality.

FINISH

The finish is lush and intense with just a hint of sweet vanilla and cream.

Technical Information

HARVEST DATE

September 18, 2015

ALCOHOL

13%

BLEND

100% Riesling

BARREL AGEING

6 mos. in French oak and stainless steel

BOTTLING DATE

March 22, 2016

RELEASE DATE

May 21, 2016

WINEMAKER

Matt Crafton