

Posted: Friday, March 07, 2008

Tasting Highlights: Finger Lakes Riesling, Part II

17 noteworthy semi-dry to dessert-style wines, most from the excellent 2006 vintage

By James Molesworth

Here's the second set of recently released Rieslings from New York's Finger Lakes region, with most coming from the excellent (for Riesling) 2006 vintage.

As is typical with Riesling, producers fashion a range of styles from bone-dry to late-harvest. This group ranges from semi-dry to dessert. See Part I of this report for my [reviews of recently released dry Rieslings](#).

ANTHONY ROAD Riesling Finger Lakes Semi-Dry 2006 *Score: 89 | \$14*

This is really solid, with good medium-weight feel and concentration to the pear, fig and lime flavors, with a nice lingering hint of anise on the finish. Drink now. 640 cases made. —*J.M.*

ATWATER ESTATE Riesling Finger Lakes 2006 *Score: 88 | \$17*

This offers really nice ripeness, with slate, apple and fig notes all showing good drive through the full-bodied finish. Nicely done. Drink now. 695 cases made. —*J.M.*

CHATEAU LAFAYETTE RENEAU Johannisberg Riesling Finger Lakes 2006 *Score: 88 | \$15*

Generous, with a flattering off-dry edge to the anise, apple and kiwi flavors. Nice richness and length on the finish. Very solid. Tasted twice with consistent notes. Drink now through 2010. 2,071 cases made. —*J.M.*

FOX RUN Riesling Seneca Lake Reserve 2006 *Score: 88 | \$30*

Inviting, with fresh lime, green apple and kiwi notes that stay lively through the medium-weight finish and open nicely in the glass. Drink now. 225 cases made. —*J.M.*

RED NEWT CELLARS Riesling Finger Lakes Reserve 2006 Score: 88 | \$24

Good pippin apple and lime notes are backed by a moderate slate note on the taut finish. Good length and focus, though still a touch tight for now. Drink now. 200 cases made. —*J.M.*

DAMIANI Riesling Finger Lakes 2006 Score: 87 | \$15

Juicy and racy, with a nicely focused beam of braised fennel, anise seed, apple and fig. Nice steely edge to the finish. Tasted twice with consistent notes. Drink now. 125 cases made. —*J.M.*

HERON HILL Riesling Finger Lakes Reserve 2005 Score: 87 | \$30

Quite dry, but very long, with thistle, pear, slate and floral notes that run along tightly focused acidity. Tangy finish too. Nicely done. Drink now through 2010. 192 cases made. —*J.M.*

HOSMER Riesling Cayuga Lake 2006 Score: 87 | \$12

Ripe and forward, with apple, pie crust, fig and pear notes followed by a round, modestly juicy finish. Solid range, just lacks a little zip on the finish. Drink now. 800 cases made. —*J.M.*

ROOSTER HILL Riesling Finger Lakes Semi-Dry 2006 Score: 87 | \$16

Ripe, with a nice juicy core of apple and fennel seed notes, followed by a plump fig-tinged finish. Drink now. 400 cases made. —*J.M.*

SHELDRAKE POINT Riesling Finger Lakes Reserve 2006 Score: 87 | \$25

Shows a plump core of melon, fig and anise flavors, backed by a bright green apple hint on the juicy finish. Drink now. 219 cases made. —*J.M.*

WHITE SPRINGS FARM ESTATE Riesling Finger Lakes Red Label 2006 Score: 87 | \$13

Ripe and forward with good apple, cinnamon and anise notes backed by a round, modestly juicy finish. Drink now. 325 cases made. —*J.M.*

HOSMER Riesling Cayuga Lake Vintner's Reserve 2006 Score: 86 | \$25

Soft, but direct, with apple, anise and fig hints that linger easily on the finish. Drink now. 150 cases made. —*J.M.*

SHELDRAKE POINT Riesling Finger Lakes Ice Wine 2007 Score: 86 | \$75 / 375ml

Fresh and moderately sweet, with nicely focused lime, quince and candied green plum notes. Drink now. 157 cases made. *Dessert.* —*J.M.*

SWEDISH HILL Riesling Finger Lakes 2006 Score: 86 | \$15

Lush and ripe, with Macintosh apple, spice and anise notes backed by a round finish. Very friendly. Drink now. 1,600 cases made. —*J.M.*

DEER RUN Riesling Finger Lakes Semi-Dry 2006 Score: 85 | \$14

Crisp for a semi-dry, with pippin apple, lime and floral notes that leave a fresh, mouthwatering feel. Drink now. 107 cases made. —*J.M.*

HERON HILL Riesling Finger Lakes Icewine Ingle Vineyard 2004 Score: 85 | \$50 / 375ml

Rich, but with a dry, slatey edge to the lime candy, Bosc pear and fig hints. Lightly sweet, focused finish. Drink now. 78 cases made. *Dessert.* —*J.M.*

KING FERRY Riesling Cayuga Lake Treleaven Semi-Dry 2006 Score: 85 | \$14

Fresh, with a nice bracing underpinning to the lime, kiwi and green apple notes. Nice tangy finish. Drink now. 2,695 cases made. —*J.M.*

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