

2012 EROICA RIESLING

Launched in 1999, Eroica is a labor of love for two of the world's great Riesling producers. One from the Old World, Dr. Loosen estate of Germany, and the other from the New World, Chateau Ste. Michelle of Washington state. An intermingling of Old and New World philosophies and techniques enables the crafting of an extraordinary Riesling from Washington state grapes. Named for Beethoven's Third Symphony, Eroica reflects not only its variety and site, but also its heritage: bold and forward from its Washington roots, elegant and refined from German inspiration.

TASTING NOTES

"The 2012 Eroica Riesling offers sweet lime and peach aromas with subtle mineral notes. The mouth-watering acidity is beautifully balanced by flavorful Washington Riesling fruit. Eroica is a blended statement of the finest Riesling vineyards in the state. To achieve our Eroica style we strive for beautiful bright fruit with crisp acidity and enhanced minerality."



Bob Bertheau, Winemaker

VINTAGE

- ~ 2012 was a return to the "classic" Washington vintage and a much welcomed change from the cooler 2010 and 2011 vintages.
- ~ Bud break started slightly earlier than normal but cooler temperatures through the early summer delayed veraison slightly.
- ~ A warming trend began in late July and dry conditions through mid-October were ideal for fruit ripening.

VINEYARDS

- ~ Eroica begins in the vineyard with Ernst Loosen and Chateau Ste. Michelle winemaker Bob Bertheau collaborating on site selection, irrigation management, crop levels and canopy management.
- ~ They work with vineyard managers to adjust yields and manage fruit exposure to prolong the ripening season for added flavor development of these cooler climate vineyards.
- ~ Our Horse Heaven Vineyard contributed to the 2012 blend.
- ~ Viewcrest in the Yakima Valley is a top Riesling vineyard and traditionally makes the blend year after year.
- ~ Additional vineyard sources for the 2012 blend included Lawrence, Zillah Ranch, Gamache, Jacona, Archie Den Hoed and Tsillan Cellars.

WINEMAKING

- ~ To protect flavor intensity, grapes were harvested at night when the vineyard temperatures were coldest.
- ~ Berries went direct to press, avoiding the possible loss of freshness caused by a crusher/destemmer.
- ~ A cool fermentation created a seamless integration of fruit, sugar and acid. Fruit-driven yeasts with slower fermentation rates were used to slow down fermentation and heighten fruit flavors.
- ~ Ernst Loosen and Bob Bertheau considered dozens of small lots, each reflecting a slight difference in character depending on where the grapes were grown, resulting in the complexity of the final blend.



TECHNICAL DATA

TOTAL ACIDITY.....	0.76g/100ml
pH.....	3.00
ALCOHOL	12%
RESIDUAL SUGAR	1.66g/100ml
BLEND	100% Riesling

FOOD PAIRINGS

FOODS: *Asian dishes, Indian curries, crab, scallops*



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DR. LOOSEN