

- 2008 ANA VINEYARD RIESLING -

The Riesling vines at the Ana Vineyard were planted in 1975 by Arthur and Vivian Weber, when they still owned the property. In fact Riesling was the first variety they planted.

With it's Jory soil and prestigious Dundee Hills location, it soon became abundantly obvious that Pinot Noir planted in this spot would have widely been considered the "highest and best use" of the land. But Arthur and Vivian never pulled out the Riesling to replace it with Pinot, and even after they sold a portion of their vineyard to Andy Humphreys (*Andy renamed his portion Ana*) he didn't either.

Sentimental? Maybe. Smart? Definitely.

It surprised Rob when Andy asked if we wanted a half-acre of his Riesling, as he hadn't made a Riesling since he left Erath. Nonetheless, Rob had been inspired by the magical nuances our old friend Jimi Brooks seemed to be able to coax out of the wine, and wanted to give it a go. Sure enough, remembering Jimi's style served well. Rob called for the fruit to be picked on October 26th, right along with the Ana Pinot Noir - this is early for Riesling, but he wanted to be sure that the fruit retained its bright acidity and vibrant backbone. And voila!

Our friend Rick Allen, brewmaster of Heater/Allen beer and known wine-o, waxed so poetically about this wine the first time he tasted it, that I asked him to put his thoughts on paper. I think he sums it up quite nicely.

Initially rather reticent, but in a few minutes, aromas of apricot, orange blossom, and petrol emerge. Explosive and concentrated mandarin orange, key lime, and peach flavors fill the palate with the orange flavors lingering in the long and sassy finish. The mouth-feel is rich, while at the same time, the wine's balanced acidity keeps it light and refreshing. Fabulous now, this wine will reward further aging.

P.S. I love this wine!
Rick

R. STUART & CO.

2008

Riesling

WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Ana

2008 Oregon Vintage Report

If ever there was a year when waiting paid off - this was it. We started off with a cold, wet spring, which set the stage for a smaller yield & a late bloom (July 3rd for most vineyards). Still, by then my instincts were telling me this could be a stunning vintage - and it was. So what made 2008 so fantastic? Was it the short crop? Was it the cold spring? That's part of the story, but it's mostly about the finale. Each week of October brought a forecast of rain. Rain, rain and more rain. Still, I wasn't ready to pick. And guess what, each week the rain miraculously stayed away. We just had nice cool weather all month long. And we waited. By the end of the month we were bringing in fruit that was as close to perfect as it gets. All that cool weather allowed the flavors to develop to their maximum perfection, with the ideal structure of higher acid and modest tannins. - Rob Stuart

Our motto for 2008: "Fortune Favors Audacity" (Erasmus)

84 cases produced 12.5% alcohol