

## The North Hampshire Wine Society Blog



### 'The Diversity of Riesling

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A great selection of quality Rieslings enhanced by Andy's in-depth knowledge of the German Riesling terroirs

#### Welcome aperitif

#### Isla Negra 2011 (Chilean blend)

Nice pale-mid straw colour. Ripe nose. Slightly off-dry palate. Quite a rich nose and palate for a relatively inexpensive brand (three for a tenner at Asda at the time)

#### The wines

For the Riesling fans in the group (and there are some!) this was a treat of an evening – a chance to compare and contrast four of the world's great Riesling terroirs – the Mosel and Rheingau in Germany, the Alsace in France and the Clare Valley in Australia – with some really fine wines from each. Although its popularity is in the up due largely to new world development, fine Riesling is still underpriced and its qualities often underappreciated

#### All Rieslings so all whites

#### Dr L Riesling 2001 (Mosel, Germany)

Deliberately simple style, designed (by top producer Ernst Loosen) as an easy drinking introduction to Riesling. Light Riesling nose, off dry palate, nice concentration, fruit very much to the fore. Some minerality apparent but not prominent.

8.5%    £5.79  
Sains

#### Dr Loosen Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett 2010 (Mosel, Germany)

After wine 1 the minerality positively jumps out of the glass at you. Pale yellow, hints of green. A young Riesling nose and a touch of spritz on the palate. Richer and longer than wine 1. Mouthfeel has the classic Riesling acidity but it's quite rounded and there's some residual sugar here taking the edge off the acidity.

7.5%    £12.99  
Sains

#### Selbach Oster Graacher Dompbrost Riesling Spatlese 2008 (Mosel, Germany)

Quite an obvious greenish tinge to this one (classic young Riesling) but it's a rich looking colour. A much more developed nose with some petrol notes appearing. Real depth with lovely Spatlese off-dryness and tingling acidity, beautifully balanced. My notes say 'can only improve!' Great value at BBR's bin end price - this is a really well-regarded Mosel producer.

7.5%    £14.95  
(£20)  
BBR

<p><b>Leasingham Magnus Riesling 2009 (Clare Valley, Australia)</b></p> <p>How very different Riesling is when it comes from Australia! Although it's clearly the same grape the weather, terroir and treatment produces a wine with different characteristics to the fore. This is a good example of the Clare Valley style. Lime-driven nose and palate with searing acidity balanced by 'bigger' Aussie fruit, all in a lime-pith and kerosene wrapper. This was not to everyone's taste – coming after the Mosel Rieslings the relative 'bitterness' here is a bit of a shock to the palate - but it's wholly typical of Aussie Riesling and a definitely a food wine.</p>	<p>12%    £8.99 Sains</p>
<p><b>Cave de Turckheim Vieilles Vignes Riesling 2007 (Alsace, France)</b></p> <p>Still yellow-green. Riesling character but a little more restrained. Drier and richer than German Mosels (look at alcohol content). Nicely balanced acidity, a little mellower than the Germans with alcohol more apparent on the finish. Different style again.</p>	<p>12.5%    £8.99 Sains</p>
<p><b>Domaine Ostertag, Heissenberg Riesling 2009 (Alsace, France)</b></p> <p>My notes say 'restraint and class'! Really deep colour for a relatively recent vintage, needs a few minutes in the glass to open up. Rich and almost creamy, with distinct 'legs' on the glass. My notes say 'a massive Riesling – apricots! Huge'. Definitely needs more time – this is very young for such a concentrated Riesling. The alcohol content is interesting (does Riesling ever really show at its best at 14%? – discuss). But a quality wine - and in 15 years time who knows...</p>	<p>14%    £18.75 (£25) BBR</p>
<p><b>Leitz Rudesheimer Berg Kaisersteinfels Alte Reben Riesling 2006 (Rheingau, Germany)</b></p> <p>I have to declare an interest here – Leitz is one of my favourite Riesling producers (and I am generally more a fan of the ethereal Mosel style than the robuster Rheingau). But these are beautifully balanced wines. Fresh lemony nose, colour showing some golden maturity but with green notes still. Spritzy lively palate with rich back-notes. Minerality obvious, but definitely more to come here. My notes say 'dumb patch?' It may open up more in 2-3 years – these top Rheingau Rieslings need lots of time.</p>	<p>11.5%    £19.95 (£32.70) BBR</p>
<p><b>Heggies Botrytis Riesling 2007 (Eden Valley, Australia)</b></p> <p>An old favourite from Australia – a true botrytis Riesling with all the character you'd expect. It isn't all that complex (it can't be at under a tenner!) but it is absolutely 'correct' with true sweetness, prominent botrytis, excellent cutting acidity, decent length for the price, and a very good tenner's worth! A treat with the Castell Blue cheese – a mild mellow creamy blue that was a great match.</p>	<p>13%    £9.70 half bottle    (£12.95) BBR</p>

A super evening – and not only for Riesling fans - that showed the diverse nature of this grape in its traditional regions. Thanks Andy!