

VALUE ALL-STARS

Wine & Spirits

36 PLAYERS

WITH THE MOST HITS UNDER \$25

**ALT
ZIN
+
TANNAT
SIN CARNE**

Summer 2023
WINEANDSPIRITSMAGAZINE.COM
\$11.99 US & CANADA
DISPLAY UNTIL OCTOBER 2, 2023

0 74820 02038 8 3 2 >



Barcode with ISSN 0748-2002 and issue number 32.

US RIESLING

Our blind panels tasted 144 US rieslings for this issue. Our critics recommended 60 as exceptional, and 19 as Best Buys. Patrick J. Comiskey covers the US, except for California's North Coast, which Joshua Greene covers. Find a complete list of wines tasted and all reviews at wineandspiritsmagazine.com.

NEW YORK RIESLING



94 | Fox Run \$15
2021 Seneca Lake Semi-Dry Riesling (BEST BUY) Just like last vintage, this riesling over-delivers like few wines in the US. It's forward and bright with a hint of botrytis overlying sumptuous apple and peach aromas, not to mention hints of celery leaf and lemon. The flavors are lean for a semi-dry riesling, with great concentration even as the wine displays cool reserve, its clean lines framed an herbal edge. Stock up. —P.J.C. (2,722 cases)

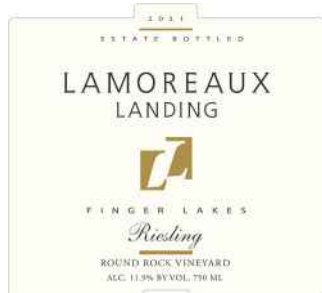
94 | Hermann J. Wiemer \$32
2021 Seneca Lake Reserve Dry Riesling Drawing from top parcels at the HJW, Josef, and Magdalena vineyards, this reserve is beautifully composed even at this youthful stage, with floral scents of camellia and white rose, along with spices—cinnamon, nutmeg—adorning the flavors of a freshly cut apple. It's serenely balanced, with tactile but reserved acidity, a quiet wine with the poise to go years in the cellar, if you can wait that long. —P.J.C. (1,015 cases)

94 | Hillock & Hobbs \$35
2021 Seneca Lake Estate Dry Riesling This is Paul Hobbs's homecoming, a traveling winemaker returning to his family's roots, the winery named for his parents. This third release is a posh wine, dry and lean, with

yeasty scents of apple, celery and lime. The flavors lean more tropical, with peach and passion fruit, all delivered within a beautiful structure, elegant, modestly creamy, with a delicious mouthwatering tang. The flavors drive long into the finish, for pasta with parsley pesto. —P.J.C. (4,500 cases)



93 | Hermann J. Wiemer \$27
2021 Seneca Lake HJW Flower Day Riesling This new wine from the HJW Vineyard is named for the "flower days" on the biodynamic calendar, moments in the moon's cycle when aromatics are at their peak. This first release is dry and lively, with a dusty scent and a jasmine florality, supporting beautiful, fully ripe apple flavors. Eminently composed, its texture is long and powerful even as the wine is still coming into itself; cellar. —P.J.C. (430 cases)



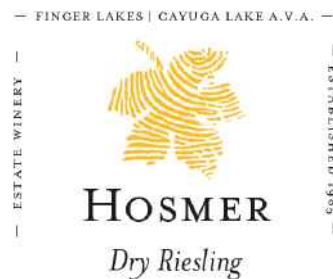
93 | Lamoreaux Landing \$26
2021 Finger Lakes Estate Round Rock Vineyard Riesling Wheaty lemon scents give this wine a lean entry point. The attack is remarkably measured and elegant, its leesy

apple flavors driven on a brisk clip of acidity that lengthens the impression of lean intensity. The wine has plenty of weight, but the edge to support it. —P.J.C. (329 cases)

93 | Keuka Spring \$20
2021 Finger Lakes Classic Riesling Light and tropical, this wine's pineapple and peach aromas are counterbalanced by a celery-leaf herbal note. With air, the grassy tones form an edge against the fruit, pulpy and generous, with tremendous focus and length. —P.J.C. (326 cases)

92 | Boundary Breaks \$25
2021 Finger Lakes Riesling #110 North A stand-in for late harvest at Boundary Breaks, this is as inviting as a caramel apple, with a sumptuous core of flavor that gets lots of movement from apple and pear acidity. Slightly off-dry, it's persistent, relaxed and elegant. For chicken kebabs. —P.J.C. (1,250 cases)

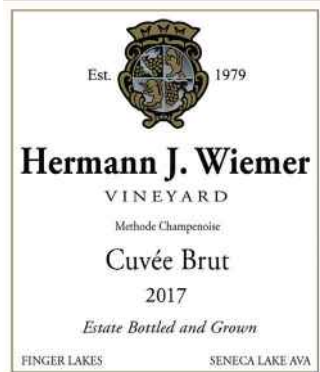
92 | Hermann J. Wiemer \$45
2021 Seneca Lake HJW Vineyard Riesling Dramatically lean and dry, this leads with a gorgeous peach-blossom scent following a line of petrol and leafy herb. The lean pear and herb flavors have a pleasing phenolic edge. Young still; cellar. —P.J.C. (349 cases)



92 | Hosmer \$18
2022 Cayuga Lake Dry Riesling (BEST BUY) This feels full to bursting from the first sip, a mélange of peach, lemon and brisk apple, all steered by a mild matchstick edge. With air, the fruit remains robust but leaner, more lemon-lime with a hint of scallion, and a whisper of sweetness rounding out the wine. —P.J.C. (1,000 cases)

92 | Keuka Lake \$35
2020 Finger Lakes Evergreen Lek Dry Riesling This starts out dry and reserved, only to gather a kind of gravity from its deep caramel and tarte Tatin flavors. It's toasty and a touch nutty, with a waft of lemon-lime acids providing tension, and a hint of piecrust on the finish that's pleasing. —P.J.C. (116 cases)

NEW YORK



94 | Hermann J. Wiemer \$39
2017 Seneca Lake Cuvée Brut Spectacularly fresh and lively for a six-year-old sparkler, this rested 51 months *sur lie*, lending the wine a nutty elegance which fills the glass. Green apple, white flowers and lemon curd lend a fresh impression that carries to the palate, creamy and round with toasted-nut accents, and a brisk lemony acidity. It's got the stuff to age, though it's hard to resist right now. —P.J.C.

93 | Hermann J. Wiemer \$50
2018 Seneca Lake Brut Rosé Wiemer's first rosé release since 2015, this leads with seductive scents of brioche and toasted lees, along with the earthiness of the pinot showing through. Its wild-strawberry and red-apple flavors sit comfortably in a beautifully structured wine, the flavors juicy and bright, framed by an elegant phenolic grip. —P.J.C.

93 | Hermann J. Wiemer \$85
2011 Seneca Lake Blanc des Noirs Aged 10 years on lees, this blanc des noirs is showing exceptional elegance in its advanced years, resting on smoky lees and golden-apple flavors that come off as quiet and delicate. Those flavors are laced with caramel, brown sugar and toffee'd lees, the texture tethered to a subtle but persistent acid structure that lasts. This is one to pour in small sips and relish. —P.J.C.

93 | Hermann J. Wiemer \$85
2011 Finger Lakes Cuvée Brut A limited release representing a decade *sur lie* prior to disgorgement, this is 65 percent chardonnay and 35 percent pinot noir. Its twelve years make it a touch sleepy and taciturn when first opened, but after a day its character surfaces: a thinking person's sparkler with charged scents of toffee'd pear and bruised apple, mildly toasty as the caramel and flan

flavors emerge to envelop lively, tart fruit. The texture is luxurious, lean and firm, with a subtlety to savor, or pour for poached halibut. —P.J.C.



92 | Hermann J. Wiemer \$36
2019 Seneca Lake Standing Stone Blanc des Blancs This wine includes fruit from a block of chardonnay planted in 1974; its concentration contributes to the firm, tense seductive flavors that fall between green apple, lemon and lees. With two years *sur lie*, this was disgorged in January 2023. It has the firm texture for seafood. —P.J.C.

91 | Hermann J. Wiemer \$32
2018 Seneca Lake Extra Brut This 100-percent riesling sparkler is dry and nutty, the lees notes giving way to honeycomb and pineapple pith with air. The texture is firm and racy by way of zero dosage, a tight, bright aperitif for the hors d'oeuvres course. —P.J.C.

91 | Hermann J. Wiemer \$39
2018 Seneca Lake Brut This bright sparkler has powdery white-mineral notes dusting scents of cut green apple. The flavors are fresh and youthful, broader than the nose would suggest, with a fine lively mousse and vibrancy on the finish. —P.J.C.

88 | Buttonwood Grove \$20
2021 Finger Lakes Gewurztraminer Bubbly (BEST BUY) Peachy and bright, with scents of white flowers, this wine's flavors turn toward green apple, crisp and to the point. For sturgeon. —P.J.C. (234 cases)

OREGON

91 | Roco \$65
2019 Willamette Valley RMS Brut Rollin Soles's Brut is lean and on point, smelling of yuzu, chalk dust and apple. The flavors are brisk and austere, the mineral notes finessed with pulse-quickening acidity. It simply races across the palate, a foil for oysters. —P.J.C. (717 cases)

WASHINGTON

90 | Domaine Ste. Michelle \$20
2017 Columbia Valley Luxe (BEST BUY) Forward in its pineapple and apple scents, this wine's flavors have a creamy richness cut by a crisp finish—well-balanced and well-priced for your next backyard birthday bash. —P.J.C. (1,053 cases)

89 | Domaine Ste. Michelle \$13
Columbia Valley Brut Rosé (BEST BUY) After the ample mousse recedes, there's an assertive richness to this rosé, with sweet strawberry flavors beneath a wheaty, leesy top note. It's balanced and crisp for a summer sip. —P.J.C.

89 | Portlandia \$22
Columbia Valley Brut (BEST BUY) All citrus when first poured, this smells of lemon drops and lime zest, only to lengthen a bit with air into a creamy, apple finish. Well priced for pouring this summer. —P.J.C.

88 | Portlandia \$22
Columbia Valley Sparkling Rosé (BEST BUY) A lively pink with cherry scents and a fruit-cup sweetness, this is balanced by brisk acidity, to serve ice-cold at a picnic. —P.J.C.

FRANCE: CREMANT



92 | JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset \$45
Crémant de Bourgogne Brut Caviar Blanc de Blancs This is a pale, vinous sparkler, focused by scents of spicy chamomile and high-toned lime-pith bitterness. It lasts on notes of salt, lemons and white cherries, a broad wine with tension and length. —J.G. Boisset Collection, St. Helena, CA