

WINEWISE CHAMPIONSHIP

2017 RIESLING

This class represents the best of the current vintage rieslings at wine shows all around southern Australia. Judging young riesling entails assessing the precision of the winemaking – from vineyard to bottle. Freshness, youthfulness and expression of varietal character are everything. About half the wines disappointed us in those respects.

Medallion Winner 2017 Eldredge Clare Valley Riesling This is a vibrant, perfumed, limey riesling that ticks all the varietal and regional boxes. The intensity and linear acidity guarantee longevity. A steal. (\$20.00) bluechip@eldredge.com.au ★★★★★

2017 Four Winds Vineyard Riesling A vibrant lemony style of excellent flavour and acidity. Beautifully made, and drinking well, although it will certainly age gracefully. This wine topped the 2017 Winewise Small Vigneron Awards rieslings. (\$27.00) ★★★★★
<https://fourwindsvineyard.com.au/products/2017-riesling>

2017 Gaelic Cemetery Celtic Farm Riesling The “lime juice” style of Clare is easy to discern in this generously flavoured wine. It’s a racy, satisfying riesling that is easy to like. (\$26.00) ★★★★★
<http://www.randalls.net.au/store/gaelic-cemetery-celtic-farm-riesling-2017-p-26724.html>

2017 St Hallett Eden Valley Riesling A “juicy” riesling that is aromatic, flavoursome and possessed of linear acidity. Eden Valley through and through. (\$17.00) ★★★★★
<http://www.winestar.com.au/st-hallett-eden-valley-riesling-2017>

2017 Robert Stein Mudgee Dry Riesling This is a richly flavoured, citrus-scented riesling that is comparatively forward, but delicious and balanced. Enjoy it over the next couple of years. (\$30.00) ★★★★★
<https://robertstein.com.au/product/3239/>

2017 Heemskerk Riesling A beautifully steely, classic Tasmanian style, with hints of grapefruit, that is uncompromisingly pure. It needs a couple of years to fill out and begin to show its best. ★★★★★

2017 St Hugo Eden Valley Riesling An attractive floral style with good length and acidity. It will build up in bottle over the next few years. ★★★★★

2017 Naked Run Place In Time Sevenhill Riesling Although it’s a well made wine with enjoyable limey flavour, it doesn’t quite deliver the raciness we seek in a young riesling. Nevertheless, there’s much to enjoy. ★★★★★

2017 Gaelic Cemetery Premium Riesling It’s fresh and lean, with lingering acidity which tends to dominate at the moment. Give it 3-5 years. ★★★★★

2017 Jacob's Creek Barossa Signature Riesling There's plenty of initial varietal flavour, but it tapers off. Short term. ★★★☆

2017 Mount Majura Vineyard Riesling It's a little full and forward in character, with a hint of sweetness. Best enjoyed over the next year or so. ★★★☆

2017 Ottelia Mount Gambier Riesling Quite lively, showing its acidity. On the edge of greenness but very fresh. ★★★☆

2017 Robert Stein Reserve Riesling Has plenty of flavour together with some sweetness. Drinks well now. ★★★☆

2017 Longview Iron Knob Riesling It doesn't lack intensity but is hardened up by phenolics and acidity. ★★★

2017 Reillys Watervale Riesling Drinks fairly well now, but is too forward. ★★★

2017 Ironcutter Riesling Comparatively forward, but doesn't lack varietal flavour. ★★★

2017 Shaw + Smith Riesling Fresh, but light, showing a touch of sweetness. ★★★

2017 Cherubino Mt Barker Riesling Flavoursome, but hard on the finish. Some judges suspected a botrytis influence. ★★★

2017 Carillion Estate Grown Riesling Very dry and lean, with a firm finish. ★★★

2017 Stage Door Wine Co The Green Room Riesling Forward in colour, aroma and flavour. ★★★

The great Australian riesling “appellations” of Clare and Eden Valley again made their respective marks, but that shows how far some of the NSW regions have progressed. The Four Winds from the Canberra District and Robert Stein from Mudgee both came very close to topping the table in a high-quality taste-off.

Rating Scale

★★★★★	Outstanding	97-100 pts	Gold medal
★★★★☆	Highly Recommended	93-96	Gold/silver
★★★☆☆	Recommended	90-92	Silver
★★★☆☆	Recommended	87-89	Bronze
★★★☆☆	Agreeable	85-87	Bronze
★★★☆☆	Agreeable	82-84	
★★★☆☆	Acceptable	80-82	
★★★☆☆	Acceptable	77-79	
★★★☆☆	Barely Acceptable	74-76	
★★★☆☆	Unacceptable	71-73	
No stars	Undrinkable	<71	

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