

VICKERY

RIESLING



1932—2023

John Vickery, the Australian wine industry's acknowledged old master of Riesling, had an illustrious career spanning nearly sixty years, culminating in the extraordinary awards tally of more than fifty trophies, over four hundred gold medals and a Jimmy Watson Trophy.

HISTORY & LEGACY

John Vickery started making Riesling for Leo Buring in 1955, during an era when Australia made predominantly fortified wine. He recognised the potential of Watervale and Eden Valley sites to craft dry Rieslings that expressed their own unique local terroir. Wines with a sense of place, purity and longevity that could be celebrated decades later.

Aside from being at the forefront of cool fermentation via refrigeration technology, as well the gentle handling of Riesling fruit via the introduction of bag presses, John considers his most rewarding contribution to the Australian Wine Industry was his involvement in the first screw cap initiatives in 1998. This was by any measure, the single most significant event in the improvement in quality of Australian Riesling, and the wider industry.

He was humbled to be judged by his peers as Australia's Greatest Living Winemaker in a survey conducted by Epicure in 2003. In 2007 John was awarded the Medal of Order of Australia for 'service to the wine industry as an oenologist, particularly through the development of innovative methods for Riesling production.'

CUSTODIAN

Keeda Zilm is the custodian of John's winemaking methods which include cool fermentation, careful handling and a commitment to perfect ripeness in both berry & seed to create Riesling with poise but most importantly flavour. Under her watchful eye, John's commitment to push boundaries in pursuit of quality will continue. And his unique winemaking methods will be preserved.



Keeda's work is supported by a community of growers in Watervale and Eden Valley who have their own stories of John through the years who are proud to be a part of the evolving Vickery journey. The viticultural community's respect for John is evident and integral to preserving this humble but great man's legacy.



THE WHITE LABELS

Released in the year of vintage, the Vickery White Label Rieslings from Watervale and Eden Valley represent the purity, clarity and freshness of Vickery wines in their youth.

Watervale Riesling

Dry Watervale Riesling tends to show lemon and lime characters, with lifted blossom and fennel. This is due to the elevation (400-500m), soil profile (terra rossa over limestone) and the diurnal shift between the region's warm days and cold nights.

Vineyards

Blenheim	Grace's Vineyard
Koerner	Dunstan's, G6 & G10 Blocks
Castine	Hayshed Block
Bryksy Hill	Hickey's
Stanway	Slate Creek Vineyard

Eden Valley Riesling

Dry Rieslings from Eden Valley display minerality and vibrant florals, with musky notes thanks to the altitude (>500m), varied microclimates and soil structures (black sand, grey loam and coarse rock) within this unique region.

Vineyards

Mason	Woodcarver's Vineyard
Schubert	Barty's Block
Stephens	Wyncroft Vineyard



THE VICKERY CODE

The cryptic codes on each bottling are a nod to John Vickery's time with Leo Buring and the legendary 'DW' codes indicating variety and region.

The Vickery codes change each year and indicate the region (WVR - Watervale, EVR - Eden Valley), the picking date and the initials of the contributing growers surname (e.g. Koerner, Castine and Sandow) in order of the blend components.



THE RESERVES

Ultra-premium, single-site wines from Eden Valley & Watervale, the 'Black Label' Reserves are released on October 31st of each year to celebrate John Vickery's birthday. The wines are given three years of bottle maturation, as per John's preference, and display significant complexity and secondary flavour development in keeping with the best examples of aged Australian Rieslings. Made from single parcels of fruit carefully selected each vintage by John and Keeda for their quality and age-worthiness, the Reserves are a source of friendly competition among Vickery growers.

THE HONOUR ROLL

2017	Eden Valley - Zander Kosi Block Watervale - Koerner G6 Block
2018	Eden Valley - Zander Kosi Block Watervale - Castine Hayshed Block
2019	Eden Valley- Zander Kosi Block Watervale- Koerner G1 & G4 Block
2020	Watervale - Castine Hayshed Block
2021	Eden Valley- Mason Woodcarver's Vineyard Watervale - Castine Hayshed Block
2022	Eden Valley - Mason Woodcarver's Vineyard Watervale - Koerner G6 Block
2023	Eden Valley - Mason Woodcarver's Vineyard Watervale - Koerner G4 Block

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