



A competition dedicated to Riesling, to showcase the wonders of the variety.

Canberra International Riesling Challenge

The Age of Riesling

February 2016

Welcome!

We hope that for the Southern Hemisphere producers the season is looking good as vintage approaches, and for the Northern Hemisphere the winter is not too deep with signs of a benign spring in the air.

We are looking forward to your entries in this year's Challenge and we hope that you are feeling confident about good results. We are now busy confirming details for the 2016 Challenge



The Trophy winning wines from the 2015 Challenge

Dates set for 2016 Challenge

The dates for the 2016 Challenge have been set.

Entries will open on 1 June 2016 and will close on 31 July 2016

11 and 12 October - Show Judging

13 October - Trophy Judging

14 October - Seminars and Awards Ceremony

15 October - Trade and Consumer Tasting

We hope to see you for the seminars and at the Awards ceremony.

Semi confused ?- what's in a name?

Semi dry, half dry, medium dry or even off dry—what's in a name?

CIRC Supports the Use of Taste Profile Scales

According to the International Riesling Foundation (IRF), "Riesling is the fastest growing white wine in the United States, and second only to Pinot Noir of any wine; yet market research has shown that many consumers think of Riesling only as "a sweet white wine" despite the wide range of tastes it can represent".

Most Riesling aficionados in Australia have heard the comments "I don't like sweet wine...." when they propose a Riesling is purchased, or the surprise when the drinker discovers that the proffered dry white wine is a Riesling. As California wine journalist Dan Berger has said "Riesling may be made in many styles from bone dry to sweet, and this versatility can be both a strength and a weakness".

These prejudices and misunderstandings by the consumers are probably the major hurdle that the Riesling producing community faces in introducing our wonderful wine.

To assist in improving understanding of the many styles of Riesling and overcoming some of these prejudices, the IRF has developed a *Riesling Tasting Profile* – a scale that can be printed on to the back label showing the sweetness level of the contents.



The IRF proposes four broad classifications - Dry, Medium Dry, Medium Sweet, and Sweet, with an arrow indicating the position on the scale for the particular Riesling. In Australia there are a range of terms used for these intermediate categories with terms such as semi dry, half dry and even off dry in common usage. Even if the industry cannot agree on standard terms, the CIRC considers that we should start to adopt the use of the taste profile scales.

For more information visit the IRF website <http://drinkriesling.com/>

The IRF advises us that the use of the scale is free.

Semi confused ? - What's in a name?

Unlike any other wine variety Riesling can be made in a wide range of styles and this tends to cause confusion among the consumers.

The International Riesling Foundation is proposing that there should be a standard English naming pattern to help to reduce the confusion.

In Australia and New Zealand we use a wide range of terms for wines with sugar contents above the "dry" range terms used include semi dry, half dry (from the German Halbtrocken), medium

Interestingly of the English language labels from the 2015 Challenge, the style terms included in the name of the wine were : Dry-4 (all from North America), Semi Dry-1, Half Dry -1, Off Dry-2, and Medium Sweet-1. So we tend to use the back label rather than the wine name to describe our wines, and in Australia we tend to assume that Riesling is dry and only include a style type in the name if it is not.

With the introduction of the IRF scale and its associated naming system major USA producers will tend to use the IRF terms, so if there are plans to export to North America the use of the IRF scale and possibly their standard names might be a good approach.

Perhaps its time to begin a conversation in Australia to standardise the names we use to describe the style of our Riesling.

It might help our consumers to not be quite so semi confused. What do you think? Let us know your views.



The popular 2015 Riedel Trade and Consumer Tasting at the Albert Hall

Vale Dr Edgar Riek OAM

The Canberra International Riesling Challenge is saddened by the sudden death of Canberra Wine District pioneer Dr Edgar Riek DSc OAM on 9 February 2016.

Dr Riek moved to Canberra in 1945 to take up a position as an entomologist with CSIRO. He planted some of the first vines in the region at his Lake George Vineyard in 1971 - a site reputedly chosen because he noticed that it was where the car windows defrosted during winter trips as an entomologist!

He was a founding member of the Canberra District Vignerons Association in 1974. Edgar focused much of his considerable energy on developing the Canberra District Wine Region and was a key figure in the development of the Canberra Wine Show in 1975. This became the National Wine Show of Australia in 1977.

The CIRC had a long association with Edgar through its Chair Ken Helm AM, they worked at CSIRO from 1967, two of pioneers of the Canberra wine industry. Ken worked with Edgar to establish the Canberra Wine Show, National Wine Show, Canberra District Vignerons Association; enduring friends for nearly 50 years

In 1978 Dr Riek left the CSIRO building a successful second career based on wine and grapes, before finally selling his vineyard in 1997.

Dr Riek was awarded an OAM for his service to the wine industry and to entomology in 1996, and in 2013 was the recipient of the CIRC Canberra Centenary Award for Contribution to Canberra and District Wine Industry.

The Canberra District Wine Industry owes existence to its pioneers and Dr Edgar Riek's legacy will live on in the

If you drink Riesling, you will be a better person." Paul Grieco, New York Restaurateur.

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