



## RIESLING

### History

Riesling has its origins in the Rheingau region of Germany.

In Australia James Busby listed Rischling in his 1832 collection and it is known that William Macarthur imported some Riesling vines from the Bas-Rhin in 1838. In 1847 Johann Gramp imported some Riesling grapes into the Barossa Valley of South Australia, producing his first vintage in 1850.

### Characteristics

#### Vine

The vine, of semi-upright and vigorous growth in cool climates, has small, thick, dark green leaves, usually 5-lobed, with a paler undersurface.

#### Fruit

The bunches are usually small, tight, winged and cylindrical in shape. The berries are usually small, round, thick-skinned and pale yellow becoming darker and speckled when ripe.

#### Wine

The wine will vary in style according to the regional and climatic variations. It may be dry, with high acid and slightly sweet through to very sweet if the fruit has been affected by botrytis and/or frost. The nose is aromatic and delicate when produced from grapes grown in a cool climate with lime and citrus fruit and sometimes slightly spicy. The color will vary from a very pale yellow with a slightly green and often brilliant tinge when young and from a cool region developing with age into a golden, honey-colored sometimes viscous wine. The palate will vary from the crisp, acid flavor of the young wine to the rich, honey, spicy, toasty palate of the developed wine. Thus the fresh, acid, dry wines from Alsace contrast strongly with the much sweeter, lighter, often highly aromatic wines of Germany culminating in the botrytis and/or frost affected Trockenbeerenauslese and Eiswein styles of the Rheingau. The wine produced from botrytis and/or frost-affected grapes are usually very sweet, golden with a lime and tropical fruit palate with some viscosity.