

RHEINGAU´S RIESLING RHAPSODY

Thursday, July 11, 2024

(...) There could hardly be a greater contrast to all this history and tradition than Eva Fricke, who founded her garage winery in 2006 with just 0.1 hectare of vineyards in Lorch at the western tip of the Rheingau. She now has 18 hectares of vineyards, the focus still on Lorch, which Stuart describes as the lost world of Rheingau riesling thanks to these steep vineyards with stony soils remaining stubbornly under the radar. Today, the Eva Fricke winery is housed in an extremely modern light industrial unit on the edge of the Rheingau town of Eltville.

The properly dry [Eva Fricke Riesling Rheingau Krone Trocken 2023](#) has a mind-bending concentration of yellow peach and Amalfi lemon character with a mineral freshness that's like the beam of a lighthouse shining to the horizon. At the other end of the sweetness spectrum there is the equally astonishing [Eva Fricke Riesling Rheingau Schlossberg Trockenbeerenauslese 2023](#). Yes, this is a luscious, nobly sweet wine, but it is also incredibly compact and focused with gigantic energy and acidity. It should live for many decades, if you can resist it during the next few years. Production was extremely limited.

- Stuart Pigott, contributing editor

EVA FRICKE LORCHER KRONE TROCKEN 2023

Score: **100**

The mind-bending depth and purity of the yellow peach and Amalfi lemon character in this dry Riesling is like the beam of a lighthouse that shines through the darkness to the horizon. Lots of wild herb nuances, too. And this doesn't begin to describe the fabulous succulence on the front palate and the radical salty minerality in the dazzling finish that pours over you in wave after wave. Whatever you do, put this in a large glass of the kind you'd use for a great pinot noir. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drinkable now, but best from 2025.

EVA FRICKE LORCHER SCHLOSSBERG TROCKENBEERNAUSLESE 2023

Score: **100**

Welcome to the glass house where all the exotic flowers bloom. Mind-bending concentration and energy on the incredibly compact and focused palate. The tropical fruit character cascades over your palate, particularly the aromas and acidity of passion fruit. And all of this is exactly counterpointed by a staggeringly refreshing acidity and salty minerality. Very limited production. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drinkable now, but best from 2026.

EVA FRICKE LORCHER KRONE AUSLESE 2023

Score: **99**

The intensity of this Riesling Auslese must be experienced to be believed. Almost savage in its stony purity and dazzling in its brilliance. It's a bit of a cliché to say that a wine is as focused as a laser beam, but this really is like that. Forget the usual calculus of natural grape sweetness against acidity, because this belongs to another world. Almost perfect balance in the incredibly long finish. Very limited production. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE LORCHHÄUSER SELIGMACHER 2023

Score: **98**

Very intense lychee, Thai basil and fresh mint aromas that aren't exactly what the world thinks of when it comes to dry riesling. Incredibly focused and precise, although the medium-bodied palate is seriously concentrated and compact. Then comes the super-long and stony finish that's a long and unwinding road. Whatever you do, put this in a large glass of the kind you'd use for a great pinot noir. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE LORCHER SCHLOSSBERG 2023

Score: **98**

It feels as if all the world's herbs have been brought together in this samurai sword-sharp, off-dry Riesling that shines like a supernova right across the universe. Only medium-bodied, but this is as concentrated as it gets in the world of white wine. The racy and stony purity in the finish is absolutely breathtaking. Barely off-dry. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE LORCHER SCHLOSSBERG AUSLESE 2023

Score: **98**

The essence of white peaches with wonderful mint and sage freshness help it lift off out of the normal realm of sweet Riesling Auslese into an extremely exciting no-man's land between off-dry and frankly sweet. Great power and energy in the extremely long, driving finish. Very limited production. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE LORCHER SCHLOSSBERG SPÄTLESE 2023

Score: **97**

Very cool nose with a radical wild berry character that is almost as intense as the fresh mint and sage aromas. Supernatural freshness at the finish, where the rapierlike acidity is wrapped in astonishingly intense lime and mint character. Drinking this feels like balancing on one of the points of a diamond, although it is not analytically dry. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE LORCH RIESLING TROCKEN 2023

Score: **96**

Welcome to the dark side of Riesling that a bunch of German producers have already begun exploring, but for most wine drinkers is unknown. Still embryonic, this extraordinary wine has enormous flinty character and Mirabelle plum fruit on the medium-bodied palate. Enormous power and minerality in the expansive yet super-focused finish. Whatever you do, put this in a large glass of the kind you'd use for a great pinot noir. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drinkable now, but best from 2025. Screw cap.

EVA FRICKE MÉLANGE RIESLING TROCKEN 2023

Score: **95**

Expansive nose of orange blossoms, apricots and lemon curd. Deep, compact and precisely structured, the silver vein of acidity running through this medium- to full-bodied dry Riesling keeping it on course as it plows its way over your palate. Stunning finish that is as fresh as it is powerful. Whatever you do, put this in a large glass of the kind you'd use for a great pinot noir. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE KIEDRICH RIESLING TROCKEN 2023

Score: **94**

A stunning village wine with a striking nose of orange blossoms and lemon curd plus underlying leesy complexity. Concentrated and creamy, this dry Riesling is simultaneously mouth-filling and delicate on the medium-bodied palate. Wonderfully long, silky finish with a terrific mineral tension. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink or hold. Screw cap.

EVA FRICKE ELTVILLER LANGENSTÜCK L' AMOUR DE LA NATURE 2022

Score: **94**

Complex nose of flint, dried flowers and freshly baked bread. For a properly dry riesling this is remarkably succulent and creamy, the acidity already beautifully integrated. A unique expression of natural wine that really expands as it aerates in the glass. Lovely Amalfi lemon freshness and delicate tannins support the long finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE RHEINGAU RIESLING TROCKEN 2023

Score: **93**

What a complex wine for an entry-level dry Riesling. A wealth of fresh herbs, stone fruit and delicate citrus aromas. On the barely medium-bodied palate, it has a striking stony minerality as well as a wonderful vibrancy from the spirtz of natural carbon dioxide. For this category there's astonishing length and purity. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink or hold. Screw cap.

EVA FRICKE VERDE RIESLING 2023

Score: **91**

Wonderful nose of spring meadows and wildflowers. Sleek and very focused on the light-bodied palate. Very racy and refreshing, with excellent lime zest, green apple and herbal freshness in the long, very bright finish. Just 10.5% natural alcohol. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink now. Screw cap.

Country: Germany | Region: Rheingau | Vintage: 2023