

Tasting Highlights: 13 Thrilling Finger Lakes Riesling Wines Up to 93 Points | Wine Spectator

James Molesworth

Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

New York's Finger Lakes continues to assert itself as a premier wine region. The 2020s are among the strongest releases yet from this cold upstate area, where vintners have learned to focus on a signature white variety: [Riesling](#). This week's selection demonstrates the impressive results.

The region's best versions are bracingly dry, linear and sleek, rippling with slate, pippin apple and wet stone notes. With owner Melvin Goldman in charge, [Keuka Lake Vineyards](#) has been quietly putting out some stellar bottlings, led here by the top-scoring, small-production Falling Man Vineyard white. With such impressive offerings, as well as notable values, this winery can now be included among the Finger Lakes' elite producers, a list that includes [Hermann J. Wiemer](#), [Forge Cellars](#) and [Ravines](#), among others.

Another small producer worth seeking out is [Trestle 31](#), the hobby project of former [Robert Mondavi Winery](#) head winemaker Nova Cadamatre. The winery has excellently captured a brisk, minerally and pure style of Riesling with its 2020 bottling. There are stalwart wineries below as well, with more ample case volumes that will make their wines easier to find on shelves. This includes [Fox Run](#), [Lakewood](#) and [Hosmer](#), all of whom have shown steady improvement in recent years.

If you enjoy Riesling specifically, or just aromatic and focused whites in general, then the Finger Lakes should be on your list of regions to plumb for delicious versions.

KEUKA LAKE VINEYARDS

Riesling Finger Lakes Dry Falling Man Vineyard 2020

Score: 93 | \$50

WS review: Very tightly focused, with racy slate, pippin apple, fennel seed and acacia notes. The long, pure finish glistens nicely. Drink now through 2027. 69 cases made.—*James Molesworth*

KEUKA LAKE VINEYARDS

Riesling Finger Lakes Dry 20 Rows Vineyard 2020

Score: 92 | \$35

WS review: Crackles with white peach, jicama, mustard flower and acacia notes. Very distinctive. The nice dry, racy finish extends nicely, too. Drink now through 2025. 107 cases made.—*J.M.*

KEUKA LAKE VINEYARDS

Riesling Finger Lakes Dry 2020

Score: 91 | \$23

WS review: Bracing, with slate, thistle, pippin apple and lime pith notes that extend through the bone dry finish. Drink now through 2025. 214 cases made.—*J.M.*

SIX EIGHTY

Riesling Finger Lakes 2020

Score: 91 | \$19

WS review: A steely, glistening Riesling, offering very sleek lime, yellow apple and fennel seed notes, with a flash of white nectarine on the finish. Delicious, and a hint off-dry too. Drink now through 2025. 256 cases made.—*J.M.*

FOX RUN

Riesling Seneca Lake Dry 2019

Score: 90 | \$18

WS review: Tangy, with cardamom, mirabelle plum and mustard flower notes that combine to give this a piercing, nervy profile. Drink now through 2025. 817 cases made.—*J.M.*

FOX RUN

Riesling Seneca Lake Silvan 2020

Score: 90 | \$20

WS review: Very fresh, featuring acacia, lemon pith and white peach notes laced with a quinine thread on the pleasantly nervy finish. Drink now through 2025. 453 cases made.—*J.M.*

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HOSMER

Riesling Cayuga Lake Dry 2020

Score: 90 | \$17

WS review: A dry, taut version, with a hint of bitter almond peeking through the core of white peach and honeysuckle notes. There's a nice zing to the finish. Drink now through 2025. 650 cases made.—*J.M.*

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HOSMER

Riesling Cayuga Lake Semi-Dry 2020

Score: 90 | \$17

WS review: Juicy and fresh, with anise, peach and mirabelle plum notes bouncing through, while flashes of lemon shortbread on the finish add a flattering touch. Drink now through 2025. 775 cases made.—*J.M.*

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LAKWOOD

Riesling Finger Lakes 3Generations 2020

Score: 90 | \$20

WS review: Fennel, yellow apple and cardamom notes give this white an intriguing profile, while zippy acidity carries the finish. There's nice energy throughout here. Drink now through 2025. 402 cases made.—*J.M.*

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TRESTLE 31

Riesling Finger Lakes 2020

Score: 90 | \$29

WS review: Brisk, with yellow and green apple notes backed by a slate-tinged finish. Very nice definition and purity here. Drink now through 2025.—*J.M.*

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LAKEWOOD

Riesling Finger Lakes Dry 2020

Score: 89 | \$15

WS review: Alluring, with hints of acacia and almond gliding along with persimmon and peach flavors. The long finish has a nice hint of wet stone. Drink now through 2024. 1,058 cases made.—*J.M.*

KEUKA LAKE VINEYARDS

Riesling Finger Lakes Semi-Dry 2020

Score: 88 | \$18

WS review: Lime zest and pippin apple notes are offset by a hint of peach on the fresh finish. Drink now. 345 cases made.—*J.M.*

LIVING ROOTS

Riesling Finger Lakes Dry Linden Blossom 2018

Score: 88 | \$20

WS review: Plump and open-knit, with nectarine and tangerine notes backed by a hint of mirabelle plum to keep this honest. Drink now through 2023. 250 cases made.—*J.M.*

[Get scores and tasting notes for more recently rated Finger Lakes Rieslings.](#)