

CARL EHRHARD



Frau Ehrhard Natürlich Riesling Trocken
Rüdesheim, Rheingau, Germany

GRAPE VARIETY

100% Riesling

VINIFICATION

The grapes for this wine come from 40-year-old vines in the Berg Roseneck vineyard. They are harvested by hand and destemmed. As with all of Carl's wines, fermentation takes place spontaneously and naturally from ambient yeasts. Unlike the all the other white wines Carl makes, this wine is fermented in contact with the grape skins for 10 weeks. It is then pressed with a traditional basket press and ages on its lees for 18 months in two old Fuders - traditional 1200-liter oak barrels. The wine is naturally clarified during this period. Critically, this aging also allows for minimal quantities of oxygen to slowly work into the wine. Exposure to too much oxygen would spoil the wine, but this long 'micro-oxidization' actually does the opposite, and stabilizes it. This crucial process does the job which a standard sulfur addition would usually do in a few days. So, sulfur is not needed and therefore not added. This wine was bottled directly from the barrel without filtration or fining. As a result, this wine has a little natural sediment.

THE LABEL AND NAME

This label is a homage to Carl's wife, Petra - his partner in wine, parenting, and everything else. It pictures their three daughters in the background and evokes Petra's skills as a master of haute couture dress making and design. It was painted by a very good friend of theirs about 15 years ago.

TASTING NOTE

Although this white wine has skin contact, it is not orange; it is not oxidized. It is a little funky, but in a delicious and fascinating way, not in an unpleasant way. It is aromatic and intense, chock full of bright fruit and minerality, with touches of wild spice and earthiness. It may make your mouth pucker a bit, but you will keep reaching for your glass. This is a dry, full-bodied wine, and it needs a little time in the glass or a short decanting to show its full range of flavors.

2020 **92** WINE ENTHUSIAST BEST BUY



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