

Rieslingfreak

Reverence of Riesling

2026 Rieslingfreak No.2 Polish Hill River Riesling

2026 Vintage

In the lead up to the 2026 harvest, the drought conditions that had plagued the first half of 2025, were somewhat compensated by higher than average Spring rains which encouraged good early canopy growth in the vineyards. Colder and wetter conditions through November delayed flowering and fruit set, setting the early agenda for what was to be a relatively late harvest. As summer arrived, an extended period of dry weather with warmer than average temperatures, meant that sun protection and judicious irrigation was paramount throughout the ripening period, but proved perfect conditions for slow and steady ripening – the typical harbingers of an outstanding year for Riesling.

Vintage officially commenced on the 5th of March – a full four weeks later than in 2025. Five days later the summer drought broke in spectacular fashion, with almost 90mm of rain falling in 48 hours. While the effects of this unprecedented rain event were felt across both Clare and Eden Valleys, quick response by our growers and cool heads in the winery were paramount to ensure that grape quality was maintained; and by the time the last of the juices made their way into ferment they were among the purest expressions of Riesling the Freaks have ever seen.

While 2026 certainly put winemaking skills to the test, the entire range of Rieslingfreak Rieslings are a remarkable expression of refined elegance, purity, power, and poise. The almost perfect growing conditions leading into harvest clearly determined the quality and style potential, which endured the impact of the late season rains to deliver a sensational selection of distinct and distinguished Rieslings.

2026 Rieslingfreak No.2 Polish Hill River Riesling

Sourced from the Polish Hill River vineyard, situated 5km South-East of the Clare township. The vineyard is owned by Rob and Lyn Jaeschke, who purchased the vineyard from Penfolds in 2010. The vineyard is planted on grey-brown loam-based soils, over sandy limestone and shale rock. The Riesling vines are almost 20 years old, planted on 50-year-old root stock.

After narrowly escaping the devastating effects of a November frost that wiped out much of the Polish Hill River sub-region, the Jaeschke family nurtured a spectacular crop of Riesling to ripeness through both drought and then flooding rains. The unique blend of vintage conditions has delivered a wine of both richness and elegance. The bouquet is highly perfumed with aromas of Nashi pear, gardenia, and yuzu, with hints of passionfruit, papaya and fresh lime juice. The palate is crisp yet richly textured, with a fine, talc-like minerality imparting a pleasing slipperiness to the texture in the mouth. Bright flavours of Honeycrisp apple and guava run a fine line between sweet and tart, balanced by decadent, spice-laden richness evocative of marzipan, saffron kulfi, and almond biscotti. The elegant and complex palate is punctuated with an electric line of acidity, imparting exceptional length and a clean, crisp finish.

Alc: 10.8%

Residual Sugar: 0.30g/L

pH: 2.61

TA: 9.8g/L

