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2018 CHARLES & CHARLES RIESLING

ART DEN HOED VINEYARD • YAKIMA VALLEY • WASHINGTON STATE

THE VINTAGE

2018 began quite late due to a cold and snowy winter that extended in to early spring, delaying bud break by a couple weeks. Hot and dry conditions in July and August sped up the growing season, but in classic Washington fashion, then temperatures dropped dramatically in September allowing a very slow and gentle late season ripening.

THE WINE

The result is a wine that has a unique richness for Riesling as the high tones are even a bit higher. There's a touch more of the high tone key lime Mosel component that shines through to make for a more dynamic and complex profile. The aromatics have a distinct citrus zest, key lime, apricot, peach and summer flowers. Thankfully, none of the aromas or flavors dominate, allowing an underlying salinity and mineral component to shine through. The wine is beautifully balanced from a kiss of sugar and bright acidity.

- ★ PH – 3.05
- ★ TA – 7.5 g/L
- ★ RS – .12 g/L
- ★ ALC – 11.5%
- ★ 15,000 cases produced

THE TERROIR

This Riesling is 100% from grapes grown on the Art Den Hoed Vineyard, right on the outside edge of the Rattlesnake Hills AVA, in the Yakima Valley. Aside from Art's great farming, what makes this vineyard special for world-class Riesling is the gently sloping, high elevation (1,250 feet) and shallow, well-drained Warden Series silt loam soils. The higher elevation maintains a mountain climate with much more moderate summer temperatures.

THE LABEL

Charles Smith's long-time friend, label muse, and artist, Rikke Korff, made this decidedly lo-fi label for us. We wanted to project a distinctly Northwest feel and illustrate the incredible diversity of the physical features of Washington State, from sea to mountains.

THE PROJECT

A collaboration founded in 2008 between Wine Enthusiast Magazine 2014 Winemaker of the year, Charles Smith (K Vintners, Charles Smith Wines) and Charles Bieler (Three Thieves, BIELER Père et Fils & Gotham Project). We make just four wines together. The Rosé, a Cabernet Sauvignon blend, a Chardonnay, and this single vineyard Riesling.