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Purity from the Rheingau, Plus New Zealand's South Island Wine Bouquet: Weekly Tasting Report

Thursday, Oct 15, 2026

James Suckling said he wanted to write this week's report himself because it covers some of his favorite places for wine: Germany's Rheingau and New Zealand's Central Otago and Canterbury. Their finest vineyards produce wines with a clear sense of place, including some made in quantities so small that finding a bottle can be a challenge.

James visited the Rheingau about three weeks ago along with JamesSuckling.com tasters Andrii Stetsiuk, Aldo Fiordelli and Helene Mingot. The team reviewed around 600 wines and visited several of the region's leading estates. They were impressed by the care in the vineyards and cellars, as well as the history behind properties such as Kloster Eberbach and Schloss Johannisberg. Kloster Eberbach was founded in 1136; Johannisberg's vineyards were first documented in 817.

The team also followed the 2026 harvest at these estates as well as at the Eva Fricke and Robert Weil wineries. The grapes looked beautiful, and producers they met were optimistic that the vintage could match or exceed the highly regarded 2025. The team's tastings of the 2025s found a striking purity of fruit across quality levels. The 2024 were more of a mixed bag because of the rain during the growing season as well as the harvest.

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Eva Fricke Riesling Rheingau Schlossberg Trockenbeerenauslese 2025

Score: 100

A super-complex wine with stunning bittersweet aromas of botrytis, peach tree, apricot juice, stones, flint and mint. Full-bodied and silky, with filigreed elegance, racy integrated acidity and apricot juice flavors. It's sweet yet incredibly balanced, demanding a second sip. Super-long finish. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU ELTVILLE COLLECTION AUSLESE 2025

Score: 98

A very attractive nose of yellow fruit, with ripe pears, nectarines and yuzu peel, all held with real elegance. Incredible balance here, with so much minerality, chalk and a saline note running through and at 11 grams of residual sugar the sweetness is almost invisible. Ethereal and

weightless in a way, yet with so much going on, very textural and chalky on the palate. Will age beautifully. 200 half-bottles made Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU ELTVILLE COLLECTION BEERENAUSLESE 2025
Score: 98

So aromatic, with candied peaches, fresh honey, a touch of bergamot and a very clean botrytis character. Complex and multidimensional, beautifully balanced, the acidity and rich sweetness coming together in harmony without ever pushing the wine into heaviness or anything cloying. It stays fresh and crystal clear throughout. A beauty for aging. Only 48 half-bottles made. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU KRONE TROCKENBEERNAUSLESE 2025
Score: 98

A restrained wine with aromas of botrytis, butter, lees, fresh and dried apricots, rosewater and a bittersweet and exotic core. Full-bodied with racy acidity, apricot juice flavors and a lot of weight, with a substantial finish yet impressive balance. Vegan. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU LORCHER KRONE 2025
Score : 98

A different level here, showing yellow fruit, peaches and limes. Floral. Full-bodied yet tense, framed with beautifully intense fruit and purity, joining chalk, flint and slate at the end. Salty. From vines dating back to 1948, 1955 and 1964, as well as a few young vines. Drink now.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU KRONE AUSLESE 2025
Score: 97

An elegant and minerally wine with aromas of slate, flint, white peaches, ripe pears and lemon peel. Almost full-bodied, it shows a silky texture, vibrancy and racy acidity through the finish, with a salted fruit aftertaste. Great balance, with a lemony character. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU SCHLOSSBERG 2025
Score: 97

An ethereal white, showing wild strawberry, currant bush and spearmint aromas that follow through to a medium body with crisp acidity and a bright finish. Tight and structured yet fine. Hints of flint. From vineyards mostly planted in 1938. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU SCHLOSSBERG SPÄTLESE 2025
Score: 97

A minerally and restrained wine with stones, flint, sulfur, mint, strawberries, red currants and lemon peel on the nose. Medium-bodied with very good weight, a silky texture, vibrancy and crisp acidity. A chewy yet elegant finish with refined phenolics. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink now or hold. Screw cap.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU SELIGMACHER 2025
Score: 97

A beautiful nose of yellow cherries and nectarines, offering quiet richness balanced by beautifully tense acidity. There is a cool mineral and minty note running underneath despite all the richness and the palate is precise and even, round and almost lush at the same time. Very long, with just a touch of salinity at the end. So much complexity here. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU SELIGMACHER BEERENAUSLESE 2025
Score: 97

A restrained wine with fresh aromas of lemon zest, flint, minerals, ripe peaches, mangoes and savory, cheese-like lees. Medium- to full-bodied with full flavors of pears, peaches and lemons, racy acidity, focused phenolics and a salty finish. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink or hold; it will last for decades. Only 60 half bottles produced.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU MÉLANGE SPÄTLESE 2025
Score: 96

Very perfumed, with plenty of floral notes, white lavender and rose hips and something exotic about it too, a touch of lychee and tangerine. So mouthfilling, the lychee returning on the palate alongside melon, delicious and dense in its way. Medium- to full-bodied, with lush sweetness nicely integrated into the whole. A beautiful wine. Drink or hold.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU LORCH TROCKEN 2025
Score: 95

Rich with aromas and flavors of sliced pineapple, pine nuts, basil, apples and spices. Medium-bodied with depth, intensity and a flavorful finish. Traminer-like. Terrific. Drink now. Screw cap.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU MÉLANGE TROCKEN 2025
Score: 95

A multilayered wine that's very focused and sharp, with aromas of lemon oil, stone fruit, peaches, apricots, lemon peel, flint, wax and roses. Medium-bodied with racy acidity, a good silky texture, flavors of pears and lees, precise phenolics and savory length. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink now. Screw cap.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU SCHLOSSBERG AUSLESE 2025
Score: 95

Rich and layered with aromas and flavors of sliced ripe pears and honey. Full-bodied, sweet and flavorful. Lychees in the dense finish. Pretty. Drink now.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU SONNENBERG 2025
Score: 95

Yellow fruit, peaches and gravel. Medium-bodied with a focused center palate and a fruity finish, yet always tight and precise. Phenolics come through in the end. Drink now.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU KIEDRICH TROCKEN 2025
Score: 94

An intense and pristine wine with lemon peel, green apple, white peach, white pepper, mineral, flint and chalk aromas. Medium-bodied with zesty if not racy acidity, good weight, a chewy palate and vibrant lemon flavors. Salted lemons in the aftertaste. Harmony overall. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink now. Screw cap.

EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU TROCKEN 2025
Score: 93

A bright and transparent wine with aromas of chalk, stones and pears. Medium-bodied with crisp acidity and a clean finish. Some lime flavors. Drink now. Screw cap.

EVA FRICKE PINOT NOIR RHEINGAU ROSÉ TROCKEN 2025
Score: 92

A delicate rosé with aromas of rose petals, subtle stone fruit and strawberries. Light-bodied, crisp and quite silky, savory and slightly vibrant on the minerally palate. From organically grown grapes. Vegan. Drink now. Screw cap.

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EVA FRICKE RIESLING RHEINGAU VERDE 2025
Score: 91

Very pure and clean fruit here, with green apples straight off the tree, citrus, fresh florals, fine herbs and chalky mineral notes. Light- to medium-bodied and crisp, the fruit almost al dente, delicious and inviting. Vibrant and youthful, ready to drink. Drink now.