

Wines of the Finger Lakes

Featured Selection

STANDING STONE 2007 VIDAL ICE

If you were to ask a wine aficionado which Finger Lakes wine has been rated 90 points by *Wine Spectator* the most times, he or she would probably suggest a Riesling from one of the region's pioneering wineries of the Sixties and Seventies. The correct answer, however, would be the Standing Stone Vidal Ice.

Standing Stone winery was founded in 1991 by Tom and Marti Macinski with historic vineyards previously owned by Gold Seal. The first crush was two years later, and in 1995 they produced a mere fifty cases of their first Vidal Ice. Patterned after the great *eisweins* of Germany, it was a luscious dessert wine made from Vidal grapes that were picked after being frozen on the vine. Vidal, a hybrid grape developed in France, is well-suited to the production of dessert wines. Even when fully ripe, it maintains the good acidity needed for balance in a sweet wine. The 2007 vintage is perhaps the best



yet. The flavor is very rich, with hints of peach, pineapple, honey, and ginger beautifully intermingled in the long finish. It's quite sweet but doesn't really taste it, as the residual sugar is in perfect balance with the mouthwatering acidity. Marti Macinski says they no longer freeze the grapes on the vine; instead, they use a commercial freezer that can get the fruit "as hard as marbles" at a temperature below 0°F. This eliminates much of the grapes' water content when they are crushed, thus insuring a rich, opulent wine.

Try this delicious nectar on its own as dessert. It can also be paired with orange-fleshed melon, poached fruit, flamboyant fruit concoctions such as bananas Foster, or custardy treats like crème brûlée. However you serve this ice wine, it will provide a memorable ending to the meal.

— Dave Pohl

Dave Pohl, MA '79, is a wine buyer at Northside Wine & Spirits in Ithaca.

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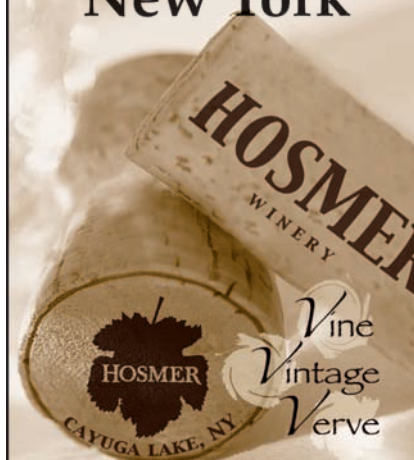
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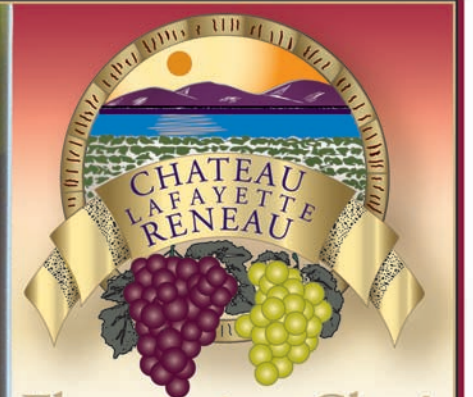
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