

Wines of the Finger Lakes



Featured Selection

THIRSTY OWL 2011 DRY RIESLING

In 2007, the New York wine community was taken by surprise when the fledgling Thirsty Owl Wine Company won the Governor's Cup for their 2006 Dry Riesling, selected as the best of 790 wines submitted to the New York Wine & Food Classic. Thirsty Owl had been around only since 2001, when Ted Cupp purchased nearly 150 acres of land on the west side of Cayuga Lake from Bob and Mary Plane. Bob, a former Cornell provost, and Mary had previously owned the pioneering Plane's Cayuga Vineyards, and many of the vines that Cupp acquired were planted as early as 1972.

Ted Cupp got to work building a winery and tasting room, and in 2002 his son Jon came on board as company president. That year, Thirsty Owl produced 4,000 cases of wine under the guidance of winemaker Shawn Kime '97.

Thirsty Owl has since maintained a good track record for producing dry



Riesling. Their most recent offering, the 2011, won a Double Gold Medal at the 2012 New York Wine & Food Classic. While many Finger Lakes dry Rieslings may have 10 or more grams of residual sugar per liter, the Thirsty Owl 2011 Dry Riesling (\$14.95 retail) contains a mere 5 grams per liter. Not surprisingly, it tastes truly dry, with a tangy acidity that gives the wine a crisp, refreshing finish.

Currently, Thirsty Owl Wine Company has thirty-eight acres planted to vines, about 80 percent of which are *vinifera*. Jon Cupp reports that the winery plans to add some new plantings each year, with an emphasis on aromatic varieties such as Pinot Gris, Gewürztraminer, and Riesling. Look for Thirsty Owl wines in your favorite wine store or go to www.thirstyowl.com.

— Dave Pohl

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



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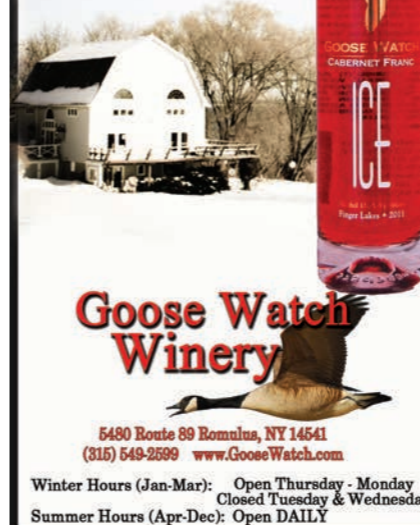
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