Wines of the Finger Lakes



Featured Selection

SENECA SHORE WINE CELLARS MUSCAT

752 wines entered in the 2012 New York Wine & Food Classic, only thirty received a double gold medal, indicating that all the judges deemed it worthy of gold medal status. Many of these wines were Rieslings, but several other varieties were honored as well—an indication that fine New York wine isn't necessarily all about Riesling. 6-0C.

One of these "other" wines was the Seneca Shore Wine Cellars Muscat. While no vintage is named on the label, the grapes for this currently available bottling were harvested in September 2011. It is made primarily from Muscat Ottonel, which is the variety grown in

Alsace, France, and introduced to the Finger Lakes by Dr. Konstantin Frank in the early Sixties. While most Muscat wines are either dry or very sweet, the delicately floral Seneca Shore version is only slightly sweet.

Seneca Shore Wine Cellars is owned by Dave DeMarco, who left his job in New York City as an IBM engineer in 1993 to take over a twenty-acre Chardonnay vineyard on the west side of Seneca Lake. Initially, he sold his grapes to local wineries-but, he says, taking a 1994 Cornell Cooperative Extension seminar gave him the inspiration to start his own winery. DeMarco now has forty-five acres of vineyards planted with sixteen different varieties. He attributes his recent successes to winemaker Shawn Verity, who came on board in 2010. Verity, who oversees production of more than two dozen different wines, is particularly pleased by the Muscat, which he feels is the most elegant wine in the Seneca Shore lineup.

With its floral, grapey aroma and slightly honeyed finish, this Muscat is easy to enjoy. Try it as an apéritif or serve it with savory dishes containing fruit, such as Chicken Veronique. It is modestly priced at \$11.99 retail and may be purchased at www.senecawine.com. - Dave Pohl

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



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