

# Wines of the Finger Lakes



## Featured Selection

### KEUKA LAKE VINEYARDS 2012 EASTSIDE DRY RIESLING

Recent years have brought a number of newcomers to the Finger Lakes winery scene, and many of them have raised the bar for the quality of the wine. One of these is Mel Goldman of Keuka Lake Vineyards.

Goldman first experienced the region during a trip to Cornell with his son, a prospective student. He loved the area and decided it was the right place to fulfill his longtime dream of owning a farm. In 1993, Goldman purchased vineyard land once owned by the old Taylor Winery on the west side of Keuka Lake. Four years later, he retired from a career in international development and made the move to his lakeside property. In addition to growing grapes, he also teaches management at the Johnson School.

Goldman's first plantings emphasized Riesling, as the local wines made from that grape impressed him. Initially he sold his grapes, but the tug to make his own wine was strong and he produced his first vintage in 2005, using the facilities at Ravines Wine Cellars. A year later, Goldman established his own winery



as Keuka Lake Vineyards.

Morten Hallgren of Ravines made Goldman's wines until 2008, when Staci Nugent '96 took over those duties. Now Moss Bittner, who came to the Finger Lakes from California, handles the wine-making chores. Both Nugent and Bittner have created wines that have garnered raves from leading wine publications—and the 2012 Eastside Dry Riesling (\$25 retail) is a delicious example.

James Molesworth gave this wine a rating of 90 in the December 15, 2013, issue of *Wine Spectator*, calling it "focused and steely" and praising its "pure, stone-tinged finish." Produced from grapes grown three miles north of Hammondsport on the eastern side of Keuka Lake, it is the latest in a series of superb Rieslings from Goldman's winery. This wine is worthy of a special occasion and would make an excellent match for sautéed scallops, roast pork, or a creamy mushroom risotto. For more about Keuka Lake Vineyards, go to [www.klvineyards.com](http://www.klvineyards.com).

— Dave Pohl

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



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