

Johnson Estate Winery: Fifth Riesling Celebration at the Winery
Region's micro-climate favors Germanic style wines like Riesling - Fall Foliage Walks

Westfield (NY) – The 2016 harvest is well underway at Johnson Estate and the winery's estate-grown Riesling grapes will be picked in early October. This is indeed cause for a celebration as there was no harvest of estate-grown Rieslings in 2015 due to the harsh winter the previous year.



“Federweisser” Riesling Celebration: The Wine Equivalent of Oktoberfest, October 15th, 2016

In Germany, the wine harvest is celebrated with a beverage called “Federweisser”, a young white wine. “Federweisser” means white feather in German and refers to the color of this sweet, slightly fermented, pale-colored juice with an alcohol level of roughly 4-8%, depending on the duration of fermentation. This refreshing beverage is often served with “Zwiebelkuchen”, an onion cake or pie, whose German versions range from something similar to an American quiche to a pizza.

On Saturday evening, October 15th, Johnson Estate will be celebrating their own Federweisser, with a special small plate dinner in the winery tasting room. As they do in Germany, the menu will include well-chilled young wine and onion tarts in addition to appetizers and dessert. We will be preparing several versions of the Zwiebelkuchen – including bacon! - for guests to enjoy. Reservations may be made online or by calling the winery; due to space constraints, event will be limited to approximately 40 people.

Four Vintages of Riesling at Johnson Estate – From Dry to Sweet

Johnson Estate first planted its Riesling vineyard in 2008. Today, the winery produces four vintages of Riesling which range from very dry to sweet and have, over the last seven years, won 90+ scores from the Beverage Testing Institute and various international wine competitions. All of the winery's Rieslings are vinified in the classic German style and are bottled using unique, tempered German glass corks.

Fall Foliage Walks

Another way to celebrate harvest is to take a vineyard walk. Johnson Estate offers Saturday morning walks (11am), led by owner, Fred Johnson, from September 24th until October 22nd. The 40-minute walk costs \$5/person and includes samples of three wines as well as samples of the yet-to-be-harvested grapes seen along the way. Children are welcome and may have grape juice after the walk. Reservations welcome online, especially for groups over five.

Johnson Estate Winery is one of the founding members of the Lake Erie Wine Country Trail and is the oldest estate or farm winery in New York. Its wines are sold throughout NY and northern Ohio as well as online to residents in 32 states. For more information please visit www.johnsonwinery.com, or www.facebook.com/johnsonwinery, or call 716-326-2191 or 800-Drink-NY.