

Riesling Clones and How Boundary Breaks Uses Them

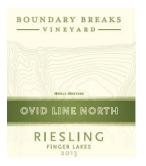
Finger Lakes producer Boundary Breaks Vineyard produces four different Rieslings, each in a different style. Most of these wines are made from specific clones of the Riesling variety and are labelled with the clone numbers.



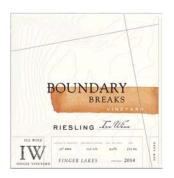
Dry Riesling made from Clone #239



Reserve Riesling (Spatlese-style) made from Clone #198



Medium Dry Riesling made from a combination of four clones: #90, #110, #198 and #239



Ice Wine made from Clone #90

What is the Significance of the Clones?

As with most grape varieties, selective breeding and genetic experimentation have yielded slight variations of the Riesling grape. Each of these unique genetic strains is referred to as a "clone." Certain clones have been developed to do better in warmer climates, in different soil types and under different moisture conditions. In a perfect world, the vineyard has selected the "ideal" clone for its terroir.

Why Does Boundary Breaks Call Out the Clone Number?

In the Finger Lakes, there is no consensus on what the "ideal" clone is for the terroir. Additionally, soil types and sun exposure can vary based on the vineyard site. When Boundary Breaks began planting its vineyards in 2009, it chose to plant four different Riesling clones to see how they each expressed itself at the Boundary Breaks site.

What Boundary Breaks Has Learned about Clones on Its Site

Clone 239: Possesses a slightly more acidic character, and as such is suitable for dryer styles.

Clone 198: Has a tendency to develop a more intense fruit character as it ripens. It is the clone that we harvest in late October for the Spatlese-style Rieslings.

Clone 110: In warmer years, it appears to develop a petrol character, particularly noticeable in the 2012 vintage. (Boundary Breaks does not produce a Clone 110 wine for every vintage, only during very warm years.)

Clone 90: Is very similar to Clone 198 and has been used for Late Harvest wines and Ice Wine. With fruit left out as long as the Late Harvest and Ice Wine is into December, the clonal expression might not be as important.