

ROCHESTER



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Dr. Frank's Riesling wins a top award in San Diego competition

*By Laura Nichols
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A Finger Lakes Riesling was chosen as the Best of Show white wine at the 26th annual San Diego International Wine Competition recently.

“One of the best-kept secrets in American wine is the Riesling from New York,” the competition’s Web site says in announcing the win for the 2007 Dr. Konstantin Frank Semi-Dry Riesling (\$14.99) from Hammondsport, Steuben County. The competition was held March 21-22.

“To win Best of Show in California with a New York wine is very gratifying,” said Fred Frank, president of Dr. Konstantine Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars and Chateau Frank.

The Riesling has won gold or double gold medals in seven other competitions. Wine & Spirits Magazine gave it a 90-point rating in its December 2008 issue, and the Beverage Testing Institute gave it 91 points and a Double Gold Medal and ranked it as a Best Buy.

“When a wine wins in multiple competitions, ... that’s a great testament to the quality,” Frank said.

Another New York wine also took one of the big prizes in the San Diego competition when Wolffer Estate’s 2007 Late Harvest Chardonnay (\$37), an ice wine from Long Island’s Hamptons district, was voted Best of Show in the dessert wine category.

California’s Central Coast was well represented at the top rung as well, with Eberle Winery’s 2007 Barbera claiming Best of Show red and Eagle Castle’s 2008 Syrah Rose winning Best of Show rose. Both wineries are in Paso Robles.

Australia’s Yellowglen Pink won the sparkling wine category.

Other medal winners from the Finger Lakes were:

Dr. Konstantin Frank: silver, 2007 Cabernet Franc (\$19.99), 2007 Lemberger (\$24), 2007 Gewurztraminer (\$17.99), 2007 Reserve Gewurztraminer (\$24.99), 2007 Rkatsiteli (\$17.99) and 2007 Dry Riesling (\$16.99).

Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards: silver, 2007 Cabernet Franc (\$19) and 2007 Homestead Reserve Riesling (\$17.99).

Lakewood Vineyards: silver, 2007 Long Stem White (\$7.99).

Prejean Winery: 2007 Dry Riesling (\$11.99).

Red Tail Ridge Winery: 2007 sans oak Chardonnay (\$9.95).