



presented by Frankland Estate | Jim Barry Wines | Pikes Wines |

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**WORLD'S BEST RIESLING PRODUCERS ON SHOW AT RIESLING DOWNUNDER EVENT  
4-7 February 2018 in Melbourne and Sydney**

***Not-to-be-missed opportunity to engage with the Riesling world's award-winners, up-and-comers, most innovative and historical greats***

**29 January 2018:** Many of the world's finest and most interesting Riesling producers are headed to Melbourne and Sydney for the 2018 Riesling Downunder event, which brings together over 80 wine makers from Australia and around the world to celebrate Riesling.

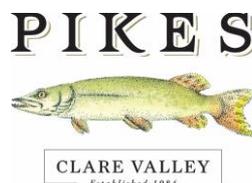
This will be the largest collection of Rieslings ever seen in Australia and will showcase the best old and new world producers alike. The fact that many of these producers will attend as repeat visitors proves that this truly is an international Riesling event not to be missed.

Of the 83 winemakers on show, more than 60 of Australia's finest will attend, representing the breadth and depth of the Australian Riesling experience from across the country. 21 are coming from overseas, some from just across the Tasman in New Zealand, others from as far afield as Austria, France, Germany, South Africa and the USA, representing hundreds of years of Riesling expertise between them.

Here's just a handful of the international Riesling makers that the event's organisers are excited to introduce to Australian audiences, producers from old world regions who are innovating and redefining the future of Riesling:

**Erni Loosen – Dr Loosen**

German winemaker Erni Loosen is one of the great characters of the wine world. He was born into a great winemaking tradition, but it wasn't his first instinct to take it up himself. Instead he went off to study archaeology and it wasn't until the mid-1980s that he was spurred to take





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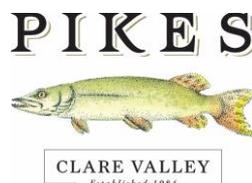
the plunge into wine. He immediately realised that, with ungrafted vines averaging 60 years old in some of Germany's best-rated vineyards, he had the raw materials to create stunningly intense, memorable wines. In 2005, his tireless work in lifting the image, profile and sales of German Riesling was recognised when he was named Man of the Year by Decanter magazine. He continues to make wines right across the Prädikat system alongside the hugely successful entry-level 'Dr L' Riesling. In the past decade, he has worked wonders in developing world-class dry Rieslings from his grand cru-designated vineyards. Erni has attended each and every Riesling Downunder and the Frankland Estate International Riesling Tasting held to date, making this his seventh attendance at the event!

#### **Johannes Hasselbach – Gunderloch**

Hailing from Germany's Rheinhessen region, Johannes Hasselbach has well and truly hit his stride after taking the winemaking reins from his late father Fritz a few years back. Fritz Hasselbach, who passed away from illness in October 2016, was the man who lifted this estate into the Rheinhessen's top flight. Johannes and the team are taking it even further, turning out stunning wines from top-rated vineyards of the Roter Hang, a steep hill of red slate overlooking the Rhine. Johannes is both fascinated by the terroir and traditions of his region, and restless to further explore its potential. This has led him to twice take part in the Wurzelwerk ("Rootwork") project, which explores the concepts of soil, home and Riesling via a three-way juice swap from three vineyards, one of which is his own Rothenberg site. The 2016 Rootwork swap features Georg Breuer of Germany's Rheingau (see below) and Jurtschitsch from Austria's Kamptal region. Johannes will show his 2016 Rothenberg GG alongside a wine from the same vintage called Virgo, made from Rothenberg Riesling grapes crushed, fermented and matured in the vineyard. This is Johannes' second visit to Riesling Downunder.

#### **Theresa Breuer – Georg Breuer**

"Tasting Theresa Breuer's most recent vintages is always a highlight while travelling through Germany's Rheingau. Her Rieslings are lean, straight and very mineral." So writes Wine Advocate's Stephan Reinhardt of the 2016s from Georg Breuer. Barely a decade after assuming winemaking duties and following the footsteps of her father - the late, great Bernhard Breuer - Theresa was named Winemaker of the Year by influential European magazine Falstaff. The organically-farmed, fourth-generation domaine in Rudesheim continues to go from strength to strength - albeit with characteristically understated grace and elegance. "I'm not a fan of 'bigger is better'," says Theresa. "I think there's so much more to being more precise, just figuring out the sensitive things." This is the second time that Theresa has visited Australia for Riesling Downunder.





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### **Vincent Brundlmayer – Weingut Bründlmayer**

Jancis Robinson calls this estate in Langenlois “a beacon for Austrian wine”. This is probably the most renowned domaine in Austria’s Kamptal region, which is itself one of the country’s most prestigious areas for the production of fine white wine. The wooded hills of the Waldviertel protect the vineyards from the cold north-westerly winds. During the day, the sun warms the stony terraces, while at night fresh, fragrant forest air drifts through the Kamp Valley into the Langenloiser Arena. Allied to painstaking organic viticulture, this makes for Riesling of exceptional elegance and definition.

### **Riesling Downunder Event Program**

- Sunday 4 February (1pm-6pm), **Riesling Riot Melbourne**, <http://rieslingdownunder.com.au/riesling-riot-melbourne/>
- Monday 5 February (9am-5pm) and Tuesday 6 February (9am-2:30pm), **Riesling Downunder Tastings and Masterclasses Melbourne**, <http://rieslingdownunder.com.au/tastings-and-masterclasses-melbourne/>
- Wednesday 7 February (Trade 2pm-8pm, general public 5pm-8pm), **Riesling Riot Sydney**, <http://rieslingdownunder.com.au/riesling-riot-sydney/>

### **Notes for Editors**

Established in 2001 as the biennial 'Frankland Estate International Riesling Tasting', Riesling Downunder is now held every three years. Co-hosted by three of Australia’s leading Riesling producers, Frankland Estate, Jim Barry Wines and Pikes Wines, Riesling Downunder is the most comprehensive international Riesling experience to be staged in the southern hemisphere.

Riesling Downunder is open to members of the public as well as trade and will include the Riesling Riot tasting events (Melbourne and Sydney) as well as two days of educational masterclasses, tastings and lunches (Melbourne).

### **Further information**

- To purchase tickets, please visit [www.rieslingdownunder.com.au](http://www.rieslingdownunder.com.au)
- For further information please email [info@rieslingdownunder.com.au](mailto:info@rieslingdownunder.com.au)
- For media enquiries please contact Kate Rowlands Marquis on 0437 005 173 or email [ksrowlands@hotmail.com](mailto:ksrowlands@hotmail.com)

