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WINE

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THE SIPPING NEWS

CELLAR READING: 'Riesling Rules' — really

With Riesling's explosion onto the wine scene, this hedonistic but intellectual wine is getting a boost from a timely, concise and extremely comprehensive guide: **"Riesling Rules."**

Pacific Rim Winemakers — Randall Graham's forward-thinking organization of self-described Riesling zealots — has published its first edition of a booklet that should be required reading for anyone wanting to learn more about this versatile, food-friendly grape.

Erudite and accurate, with a tongue-in-cheek tone, "Riesling Rules" demystifies complicated rules and makes them easy to understand. For instance, the oft-confusing Prädikat system — the legal classification of German Riesling grape ripeness — is clearly explained and illustrated.

And Riesling novices can learn phrases that will impress even the most serious Riesling

geek: "The TA on this baby is so high you can't even feel the RS."

Fun and obscure Riesling factoids are peppered throughout the more serious stuff — suggestions for Top 10 movies to enjoy with Riesling, anyone? There are even a few recipes for Riesling cocktails.

True wine aficionados who know a lot about Riesling may discover some new tidbits, such as the must weights (in both Oechsle and Brix) of German Riesling harvest categories and a list of selected Alsatian Grand Cru Vineyards along with their village, acreage and key producers.

This free information-packed 40-page booklet just about fits into a jacket pocket and would make a great stocking stuffer, but why wait until then? Available while supplies last at RieslingRules.com.

— Lynne Char Bennett

"Riesling Rules" is packed with plenty of whimsical yet helpful illustrations.

