

# VINE TALK EPISODE 2



BY NATE ROSE

Welcome to week two of an amazing new television show airing on HoustonPBS called Vine Talk. Every week (Sundays at 9:30 p.m. beginning July 10) host Stanly Tucci will sit down with a panel of chefs, celebrities and wine personalities in a talk show format to talk about wine and specific wine regions. The wines and the guests will change every week.

This week's region is the Finger Lakes in New York State. This cold climate region could also be called the land of 11 lakes, as most vineyards are planted next to these large bodies of water. This helps keep the vineyards a relatively constant temperature and each lake has a microclimate all its own. The soils are limestone rich and the temperature is cool, and these two factors make this area perfect for growing Riesling.

Dr. Konstantin Frank arrived in the U.S. in 1951, a PhD in viticulture and a passion for Vinifera grape varieties instead of the native New York grape varieties. In 1962 he opened his winery Vinifera Wine Cellars and started producing world class Rieslings from root-stock that he and Champagne (cool climate) producer Charles Fournier had been experimenting on for years earlier. The rest is history.

Now a multi-generation operation, Vinifera Wine Cellars is the backbone of the Finger Lakes. With a lineup of wines including Sparkling, Gruner, Cab Franc and a Vine nursery that most of the region uses when they want to plant or re-plant a vineyard, Dr. Frank is the center of the wine universe in this slice of heaven.

## Dr. Frank Riesling, Bunch Select Late Harvest 2008 \$63.64 375ml

This Rodeo winner wine has so much going on. This traditional trockenbeerenauslese shows as much depth as its German counterparts and is as world class as any Canadian Ice Wine. Sticky sweet, the acids still elevate the stone fruit to the top of the palate. Trying to write tasting notes for this wine was tough as the depth is incredible. Botrytis rules!



Dr. Frank



Dr. Frank in the Cellar



Willy Frank



Willy and Fred Frank



The Staff at Dr. Frank's Winery



The View from Dr. Frank's