

Icewine & Brandy Product Information

Unique Product: Kittling Ridge is the only company in the world that makes Icewine & Brandy
Delectable Taste: Special Blend of Award winning Vidal Icewine & 7 Year Barrel Aged Brandy
Award Winning: Winner of 25 International Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

How is Icewine made & Why is it so Expensive?

Icewine is made by leaving the grapes on the vine past the usual harvest time in October. By leaving the fruit on the vine, the flavours in the grapes mature, the grapes become higher in sugar content and high in acidity. The grapes are left on the vine to freeze, and temperatures must drop to -7° Celsius before the grapes can be harvested & must remain at that temperature during for the duration of the harvest.. The berries are pressed, while frozen, so water remains in the skin of the fruit, and a small amount of highly concentrated juice is collected. There are a few reasons why Icewine is more expensive than table wine. First, it is very risky for grape growers to leave the Icewine grapes on the vine past the usual harvest time in October. This is because the grapes are susceptible to being eaten by hungry birds & they fall off the vine in harsh winter conditions. Icewine grapes are more expensive to harvest because they are so fragile, they are hand-picked. Finally, the amount of juice that is crushed from an Icewine grape is much less than a grape picked in October. This is because most of the water in the grape has either evaporated, or is frozen as ice crystals within the skin. So, a winery will only press about 10% of the volume of juice in an Icewine harvest, compared to the same number of grapes at harvest time in October.

How does Icewine & Brandy taste compared to 'regular' Icewine?

Icewine & Brandy is less sweet than 'regular' Icewine—a 10 on the sugar code compared to a 20-25! The wonderful intense fruit aromas and flavours are similar, but our Icewine & Brandy is not as syrupy or viscous as 'regular' Icewine. You will be able to detect ripe orchard fruit notes such as apple & pear, as well as tropical fruits like pineapple and lychee fruit. Also, while it is high in sugar, it is high in fruit acidity—meaning that the impression on the palate is one that is well-balanced.

How do I serve this product?

Icewine & Brandy is best served with dessert (or even as dessert!) after a meal. It should be served in small quantities (usually one ounce), and served well-chilled. If possible, use a glass with a tall stem, to keep the liquid cool while you are holding the glass. A 375ml bottle should provide 12 servings.

I don't like Brandy—will I like Icewine & Brandy?

Most people, even if they do not like brandy, enjoy the taste of Icewine & Brandy. In fact, this product contains only a small amount of Brandy. The taste of the Brandy is not overwhelming and provides a warm delicate finish. The brandy is the component that 'cuts' the sweetness, making Icewine & Brandy less sweet & less syrupy than 'regular' Icewine.

How much Brandy is in Icewine & Brandy?

Now that's a secret our winemaker won't reveal! But, we can tell you that it is actually very little. It doesn't take much brandy to diffuse the sweetness of the Icewine. And, we did not want to overpower the delicate fruit flavours of the Icewine, so we blend just enough brandy to provide a soft, delicate warmth on your palate.

How long will Icewine & Brandy last once I open the bottle?

Icewine & Brandy is a fortified wine, 17.5% alcohol. This means that Icewine & Brandy will not oxidize as quickly as a table wine. You can keep Icewine & Brandy, once open, for many months—similar to a Sherry or Port.

How long can I cellar Icewine & Brandy?

Again, because Icewine & Brandy is a fortified wine, it does not change as dramatically in the bottle as other table wines. You may keep Icewine & Brandy in your cellar for many years.

Why is Icewine & Brandy cheaper/less expensive than 'regular' Icewine?

When Icewine & Brandy was first introduced, the \$19.95 price sticker was supposed to be an introductory price only, to encourage customers to try this unique product! But, we have chosen not to increase the price because we believe Icewine& Brandy should be enjoyed by everyone!