

Bouchaine

There were two misprints in the April issue reviews of the Bouchaine Pinots Noir. They should have read: **2006 Pinot Noir**, Carneros, \$30, and **2006 Pinot Noir, Estate**, Napa Valley-Carneros, \$45.

MENDOCINO & LAKE COUNTIES

Edmeades

Edmeades has released six Zinfandels; five are single vineyard wines. All are well crafted in Van Williamson's unique style and are well worth a special trip to find. Still, none are shy with alcohols ranging from 15.0-16.4% but the wines are not hot.

The **2007 Zinfandel**, Mendocino County, \$20, is a complex blend of 84.1% zinfandel, 9.2% petite sirah, 4.9% syrah, 1.3% grenache, 0.3% merlot, and 0.1% merlot. It spent ten months in oak: 57% French (9% new) and 43% American (12% new). Aromas of cedar, black raspberry, dark cherry, and a toasty note introduce fresh, light bodied, sweet accented flavors of black raspberry, dark cherry, and cedar plus dry tannin. It finishes medium-broad and medium-long. A fresh, straightforward, easy to drink Zin' to pair with burgers and sandwiches. Well put together. The **2007 Zinfandel, Shamrock Vineyard**, Mendocino County, \$30, 250 cases, contains 18% syrah and was aged in French oak, 96% new, for fourteen months. Very sweet aromas of goopy chocolate covered cherry, blackberry, and blueberry introduce soft, round flavors of cherry, raspberry, pepper, blackberry, and blueberry. The medium-broad, truncated finish adds lots of persistent pepper in a blob at the front. Well balanced, structured, and integrated. It will be popular. Tasty.

The **2006 Zinfandel, Zeni Vineyard**, Mendocino Ridge, 550 cases, \$30, was aged in 54% new French oak for fourteen months. A nose of milk chocolate, brewed black tea, tar, licorice, and smoke precedes flavors of the same (except no licorice) led by cherry, cranberry, and rhubarb and laced with fine tannin and nice acidity. It finishes long and

medium-broad. Well balanced, structured, and integrated. Fairly light bodied. Tasty. The **2006 Zinfandel, Ciapusci Vineyard**, Mendocino Ridge, \$30, was aged in French oak for fourteen months and opens with chocolate, cinnamon, smoky black tea, blackberry jam, and sweet dark cherry. All repeat in the reverse order as bright, juicy flavors accented with light tannin. The medium-broad, medium-long finish shows increasing pepper and ground cinnamon.

The **2006 Zinfandel, Piffero Vineyard**, Redwood Valley, \$30, 500 cases, spent sixteen months in oak: 91% French and 9% American. Aromas of floral, cherry, raspberry, toasted oat bread, chocolate, and smoky oak introduce sweet accented flavors of cherry, raspberry, lots of pepper, and light, smoky oak plus fine tannin before a medium-broad, medium-long finish. Well balanced, structured, and integrated. Tasty. The **2006 Zinfandel, Perli Vineyard**, Mendocino Ridge, \$30, 494 cases, is a blend of 76.5% zinfandel, 14% merlot, and 9.5% syrah. Aged in 83% French oak (46% new) and 17% American oak for fourteen months and has a nose of baked cherry pie juice, anise, smoke, and violet. Flavors of cherry, raspberry, blueberry, pepper, and cinnamon are laced with light, very fine tannin and good acidity. The medium-broad, medium-long finish has increasing pepper and cinnamon. Well integrated, structured, and balanced. Tasty.

Writer's Block

The **2007 Grenache**, Lake County, \$15, contains some counoise and syrah in the blend. Aromas of black cherry, blueberry, mint, and a touch of smoke which repeat as flavors with the mint especially prominent and accented with light tannin. It finishes medium-broad and medium-long. Well balanced, structured, and integrated. Tasty. Good Value. The **2007 Roussanne**, Lake County, \$16, 650 cases, was aged in French oak for one month. An unusual nose of sweet buttermilk and toasty oak introduces flavors of oak, lemon, green apple, carambola, and butterscotch and a spritzy note before a long, broad finish. Well put together. It will be popular.

Steele

The **2006 Chardonnay, DuPratt Vineyard**, Mendocino Ridge, \$28, 500 cases, was barrel fermented, completed malolactic fermentation, and was aged in French oak for eight to ten months. Aromas of pink bubblegum introduce mouth-filling flavors of lemon, apple, and pink bubblegum. The long, medium-broad finish adds a touch of oak at the back. In contrast, the **2006 Chardonnay, Goodchild Vineyard**, Santa Barbara County, \$28, 500 cases, was also barrel fermented, completed malolactic fermentation, and spent fourteen months *sur lie* with *bâtonnage* in French oak, 30% new. A nose of warm steel, mineral, lemon peel, and apple precedes round, mouthfilling flavors of apple, lemon, and mineral laced with nice acidity before a long, broad finish. Well balanced, structured, and integrated. Very Tasty.

The **2005 Pinot Noir, Parmelee-Hill Vineyard**, Sonoma Valley, \$28, was aged for about twelve months in French oak and has a very sweet nose of dark, caramelized sugar and orange marmalade before medium-sweet flavors of plum, cherry, orange marmalade, and light, smoky oak plus light tannin. It finishes long and medium-broad. Well put together. It will be popular. In contrast, the **2005 Pinot Noir, Goodchild Vineyard**, Santa Barbara County, \$30, which was treated the same way has aromas of semisweet chocolate syrup, blackberry, and smoke. Flavors dominated by blackberry and boysenberry are laced with light, fine tannin and nice acidity and finish medium-broad and very long. Well integrated, structured, and balanced. It will be popular.

The **2005 Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Hills Vineyard**, Lake County, \$32, spent eighteen months in French and French/American hybrid oak. Very sweet aromas of chocolate syrup over blue fruit introduce flavors of blueberry, boysenberry, chocolate syrup, and dried red cherry accented with fine tannin and good acidity. It finishes long and medium-broad. Well balanced, structured, and integrated. Good.