



MACROSTIE

MacRostie Winery and Vineyards



WINE REVIEW ONLINE

Steve MacRostie's Balancing Act

“When I come across a producer with a healthy respect for the grape variety and the terroir -- understanding that overripe grapes rob wine of its freshness and individual characteristics -- I stand up and take notice. The MacRostie Chardonnays have always done this. From my earliest experiences with MacRostie wines, I've been impressed by the structure and balance of the Chardonnay. Indeed, both MacRostie Chardonnays -- I tasted the **2006 Carneros Chardonnay** and the **2006 Wildcat Mountain Vineyard Chardonnay** from the Sonoma Coast -- have the firm, mouth-watering acidity and a beam of fresh lemon flavor that has been a characteristic of MacRostie Chardonnay from the start.

MacRostie has carried the same philosophy into his Pinot Noir production... Both the **Carneros Pinot Noir** (the 2006 is now available) and the **Wildcat Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir** (2005) are beautifully balanced, with plenty of grip on the back end... I tasted the **2005 MacRostie Napa Valley Merlot** and concluded it belonged in the same group of ‘value’ Merlots from Napa that I touted in a recent column. At \$28, this is one of the finest, most satisfying Napa Valley reds to be found.

MacRostie’s **Wildcat Mountain Vineyard Syrah** is stylish, with a fair amount of richness and complexity, and good length. Again, in the same vein as the other MacRostie wines, it refuses to hit you over the head with high alcohol or ripe, jammy fruit flavor. I walked away from the tasting satisfied that I had found yet another California producer intent upon making wines that deliver nuance and finesse. Wines that are fresh, made with a philosophy that is both refreshing and compelling.”

- Robert Whitley
August 26, 2008