

MACROSTIE

Carneros

Steve MacRostie sees himself as an explorer and after a quarter century of discovering and growing with the Carneros region, he has lost none of the mixture of inquisitiveness, ambition and enthusiasm that brought him there in the first place. A recent press photo shows a flag-waving MacRostie, clad in the tartan kilt of his ancestors, dashing between the rows of his new Wildcat Mountain Vineyard as if he were leading an ancient charge to victory or death.

But Wildcat Mountain is just the latest, most exciting chapter in MacRostie's saga. It will be the first vineyard planted under Steve's supervision and monopolized by him. For the preceding 25 years, Steve has sought out the best fruit he could purchase from a wide range of growers whose names now read like a "Who's Who in Carneros": Beckstoffer, Beresini, Hudson, Sangiacomo, and Truchard, to name a few.

Back in 1939 André Tschelitscheff tasted a 1910 Carneros pinot noir and pronounced this hilly, fog-bound region "Napa's Burgundy", producing in that same year a B.V. "Burgundy" as epoch-making as the contemporaneous B.V. "Georges de Latour" cabs. Yet over two decades passed before the planting of any new Carneros vineyards, and forty years before a handful of wineries sprang up dedicated to following Tschelitscheff's vision.

Steve MacRostie embarked on his odyssey after taking an enology degree at U. C. Davis in 1974, working for a dozen years as winemaker at Hacienda. In 1987, he inaugurated the MacRostie winery, aiming to showcase the character imparted by the iron-rich clay soils, rolling hills and maritime microclimate of Carneros. This terroir confers



a distinctive personality, not only on pinot noir and chardonnay, but on merlot as well. Steve points out that the Carneros soil is closely akin to that of Pomerol.

MacRostie's "Wildcat Mountain Vineyard", recently planted in the extreme west of Carneros, promises more amazing wines yet from Pinot, Merlot and Syrah."

Average production: 15,000 cases
Varieties: Pinot noir, chardonnay, merlot.

Vinification: See details below.

Carneros Chardonnay

Whole clusters from selected vineyards, vinified in small French barrels, about one-third new. Most years, a small amount of **Reserve Chardonnay** is bottled, a wine that benefits from additional time on the lees. This reserve typically relies on the clonally-diverse, low-yielding eastern Carneros vineyard of Steve Beresini.

Carneros Pinot Noir

Steve's pinots are fermented in open-top chambers with very gentle methods of extraction, completing malo-lactic fermentation in the barrel and remaining there for 9 months.

Carneros Merlot

Marrying the superb fruit of Lee and Becky Hudson's and JoAnn and Tony Truchard's vineyards, MacRostie's merlot consistently delivers seamless ripeness and richness of fruit, even in a "difficult" vintage like 1998. Beginning in 2000, this bottling will incorporate fruit from Wildcat Mountain.