



Tasting Notes and Ratings
By Robert M. Parker, Jr.
December 26, 2006

TOR KENWARD FAMILY VYDS. 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Yountville Mast Vyd	NAPA	RED	(92-94)
TOR KENWARD FAMILY VYDS. 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Rock Vineyard	HOWELL MTN	(62.00) RED	(92- 94)
TOR KENWARD FAMILY VYDS. 2004 Chardonnay Two Rivers Ranch	NAPA	(48.00) WHITE	(90- 92)
TOR KENWARD FAMILY VYDS. 2005 Chardonnay Two Rivers Ranch	NAPA	(53.00) WHITE	(91- 93)
TOR KENWARD FAMILY VYDS. 2004 Chardonnay Durell Vineyard (Wente Clone)	SONOMA COAST	(53.00) WHITE	(92- 94)
TOR KENWARD FAMILY VYDS. 2005 Chardonnay Durell Vineyard (Wente Clone)	SONOMA COAST	(60.00) WHITE	(91- 94)
TOR KENWARD FAMILY VYDS. 2005 Syrah Hudson Vineyard (Alban Clone)	LOS CARNEROS	(not yet released) RED	(90- 92)
TOR KENWARD FAMILY VYDS. 2005 Syrah Hudson Vineyard (Noir Clone)	LOSCARNEROS	(not yet released) RED	(90- 93)

Tor Kenward is another long-time Beringer employee who, while still working at that estate, also has his own operation, concentrating on some special wine and, in some cases, providing consumers clonal choices in wines from the same vineyard. Having known Tor for over 15 years, I know that he is the consummate connoisseur of many things, including music, wine, and food, so it is not surprising he is able to translate his passion and discriminating taste into an impressive portfolio of wines. In 2004, he split his cuvees for Chardonnay from the Durell Vineyard based on clones, and from bottle, I had a decidedly strong preference for the **2004 Chardonnay Durell Vineyard Wente Clone**. It exhibits admirable notes of lightly buttered popcorn, white citrus, white peach, and a beautiful long, rich, leesy mouthfeel with terrific texture and a heady finish. Good underlying acidity, and a finish displaying nicely integrated, spicy oak suggest it should drink well for 4-5 years. The **2004 Chardonnay Durell Vineyard Dijon Clone** displays poached pear and up-front tropical fruit, but it does not possess the minerality, overall structure, and density of the Wente Clone. It is a fine Chardonnay that should be drunk over the next 2-3 years. The third offering is the **2004 Chardonnay Two Rivers Ranch** comes from a cool Yountville estate. This has deep mineral, fruit, orange blossom, marmalade, and honeysuckle notes, full body, beautiful purity, and a long, heady finish. In 2005, there are only two Chardonnays, as Tor went with the Wente Clone for the Durell Vineyard, which again looks to be an impressive wine. . Light gold in color with notes of crushed rocks, white currants, popcorn, and hints of brioche and lemon oil, this wine is full-bodied and rich, with superb underlying acidity and vibrancy, a characteristic of this vintage for Chardonnay. It's a beauty that should drink well for 5-7 years. White peaches, litchi, and honeysuckle, along with full body, terrific ripeness, and superb acidity as well as definition characterize the **2005 Chardonnay Two Rivers Ranch**. This beauty should drink well for 5-7 years.

The superb **2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain** possesses a dark ruby/purple hue as well as graphite, blueberry, and cassis characteristics. Medium to full-bodied, with luscious fruit, fine opulence, sweetness, flamboyance, and a front-end loaded character, it will evolve for 10-15 years. There is something about the elegance in the Cabernets from the Stags Leap and Yountville areas, and the **2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Mast Vineyard** exhibits that almost Margaux-like floral note intermixed with black cherry, black currant, spicy oak, and good bay leaf and spice notes. The wine has outstanding length and richness, and is impressively endowed, but richly fruity and accessible enough to drink now and over the next 12-15 years.

The 2004 Syrahs start with a **2004 Syrah Rock Vineyard**, which exhibits a dark ruby color along with hints of menthol, blackberries, and crushed rock. It tastes like a high-class St.-Joseph. I would drink this wine over the next 4-5 years. Even better is the 2004 Syrah Mt. Veeder, which has a dense ruby/purple color and a beautiful, sweet nose of blackberry, blueberry, acacia flower, and earth. The wine is full-bodied, ripe, and beautifully made with impressive purity. The three 2005 Syrahs look potentially even stronger from Tor Kenward. The **2005 Syrah Carneros** has chocolaty berry fruit, a lean, austere character, with elegance, complexity, and again, a style not terribly different from a French Northern Rhone. Tasting more like Hermitage from a top producer, the **2005 Syrah Hudson Vineyard Alban Clone** looks terrific. Its dense purple-color and notes of blackberry, tar, licorice, pepper, and espresso roast are followed by full-bodied, rich, heady flavors with moderately high tannins. This will be a wine to put away for 3-4 years and drink over the following 10-15. The **2005 Syrah Hudson Vineyard Noir Clone** is also outstanding. Dense ruby/purple with more earth, truffle, and graphite, in addition to copious quantities of black fruits, it is medium to full-bodied, rich in fruit, not as complex as the Alban Clone, but deep and well-made. It should age nicely for 10-12 years.