



Focus on California's North Coast

By Stephen Tanzer MAY/JUNE 2007

2005 Tor Kenward Family Wines Chardonnay Durell Vineyard Wentle Carneros **90-92**

Deep yellow. Restrained aromas of citrus oil, minerals and smoke. Tightly wound and dry, with a strong crushed stone character and firm mineral acidity. A distinctly cooler style of chardonnay, very much in the style of the year, and structured to last in bottle. But will it match the fatter '04 for sheer personality?

2005 Tor Kenward Family Wines Chardonnay Two Rivers Ranch Napa Valley **91-93**

Very sexy, expressive aromas of stone fruits and flowers. Supple, ripe and deep, offering a restrained sweetness as well as greater density than the Durell cuvee. The rich stone fruit flavors carry through in the mouth. Finishes suave and quite long. Both of these chardonnays were slated to be bottled a couple weeks after my early March visit.

2005 Tor Kenward Family Wines Syrah Las Madras Carneros **90-91**

(\$40) Deep ruby-red. Wild aromas of smoked meat, tapenade and menthol; less oaky than the '04. Silky in texture but powerful in the middle, with captivating flavors of spices, herbs and pepper. Firm, ripe acids frame and extend the flavors, and the tannins are very suave. If the '04 is Saint-Joseph, this is more Crozes-Hermitage. A very interesting cuvee

2005 Tor Kenward Family Wines Syrah Hudson Vineyard Alban Carneros **92-93**

(vinified entirely with whole clusters; from the Alban clone planted at Hudson Vineyard) Good deep medium ruby. Highly aromatic nose melds blackberry, violet, licorice and smoked meat. Sweet, fat, lush and deep, with a distinctly savory character to the dark berry and pepper flavors. This really spreads out to saturate the palate, finishing with broad, dusty tannins. Tor Kenward planned to bottle this in late March entirely in magnums.

2005 Tor Kenward Family Wines Syrah Hudson Vineyard Noir Carneros **90-91**

Good full ruby. Aromas of blackberry, licorice, smoked meat and lavender; ultimately a bit less wild than the Alban clone but with an exotic floral character. Dense, sweet and chocolatey, with considerable alcoholic clout (15+%) but a bit less Northern Rhone funk. Finishes with big, chewy tannins and very good length.

2004 Tor Kenward Family Wines Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain **90**

(\$75) Medium ruby. Medicinal black cherry, menthol, graphite and exotic flowers on the slightly high-toned nose. A juicy, medium-bodied, easy-to-drink cabernet, with rocky flavors of cassis, licorice and graphite. Finishes firmly tannic but not at all dry, with very good persistence.

2005 Tor Kenward Family Wines Cabernet Sauvignon Cimarossa/Mast Vineyards Napa Valley **91-92**

Medium ruby-red. Brooding aromas of black fruits, licorice and menthol. Sweet, dense, thick and powerful, with a savory character and excellent depth to its fruit. This is simultaneously juicy and plush, with a faint herbal element adding complexity and leavening the wine's chocolatey sweetness. Bright acids and sweet tannins give this a suave finish.

2005 Tor Kenward Family Wines Cabernet Sauvignon Cimarossa Vineyard Howell Mountain **92-94**

Good full ruby. Complex, pure nose offers cassis, minerals, loam and fresh herbs. Large-scaled, plush and rich, with compelling ripeness to the flavors of blackcurrant, minerals and loamy earth. An impressively large-scaled wine that finishes with huge, broad, building tannins and superb persistence.

2005 Tor Kenward Family Wines Cabernet Sauvignon To Kalon Clone 6 Oakville **93-95**

Full medium ruby. Superripe aromas of black cherry, currant, licorice and dusty herbs; shows an almost porty ripeness. Wonderfully sweet, mouthfilling and generous, with outstanding depth to the black fruit, mineral and floral flavors. This boasts superb strength of material and great sweetness and fullness on the back. A great showing today.