



Syrah 2004

YOUNTVILLE • NAPA VALLEY

Rocca

Syrah Yountville 2004

The first wine this week deserves a proclamation - "Yes, it is **that** good!" It was only a matter of time I suppose for a breakout review from the one **Celia Masyczek** project that has eluded joining the elite wines in her portfolio longer than any other. The wine that is finally getting its just accolades is the **2004 Rocca Cabernet Sauvignon VF95**, produced from a vineyard in the extreme South-East corner of the Yountville Appellation owned by Mary Rocca and Eric Grigsby. Historically Rocca has released wines of solid, elegantly proportioned quality but they seemed to miss that elusive catalyst which moves a very good wine into the excellent category. The 2004 vintage changes all that.

Rocca rocks the wine world

For some perspective, let me share some recent news surrounding Rocca. In August 2007, **The Vintners Club of San Francisco** held a blind tasting of a dozen California Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux-styled blends predominantly from the **2004** vintage. After the final results were counted, Rocca was awarded first place ahead of such cult standards as Shafer Hillside Select, Ridge Monte Bello, Dominus and Caymus Special Selection. Two months later, another blind tasting of 2002 California Cabernet-based wines was held at Ch. Brane-Cantenec in Margaux. Remarkably, Rocca repeated its stateside triumph, again besting Caymus Special Selection and Ridge Monte Bello along with Ramey Jericho Canyon and O'Shaughnessy as well as other Estate/Reserve bottlings. I remarked to Celia that this was highly unusual for a particular wine to win tastings on two continents considering the difference in palate preference and the caliber of the competition.

Doug Wilder, 12/14/07