

Decanter®

DECEMBER 2007



ONE TO WATCH

DRY CREEK VINEYARD

“Sonoma’s Dry Creek winery was founded in 1972 by David Stare who, against the advice of local agriculture experts, was the first to plant Sauvignon Blanc in Dry Creek Valley. Stare was a pioneer there in other ways, too: the first to bottle a 100% Sauvignon Blanc and an early proponent of blending.

Last year, he officially passed the family business into the hands of his daughter, Kim Stare Wallace, and her husband, Don. Changes are afoot.

“When my husband and I took over, we knew we wanted to make more distinctive wines and retool the winery,” says Kim. “Some things changed dramatically, like the winery’s Chardonnay, which had carried a Sonoma County appellation for 35 years and now is sourced from the cooler Russian River Valley.”

Another change is the latest addition to the range, The Mariner, a Meritage blend of all five Bordeaux varieties, estate-grown, aged in French oak and with moderate alcohol (13.5%).

The label quotes Henry Wadsworth Longfellow about the threat of the mighty sea and the sailor’s battle to overcome it. Wallace hopes it will draw a parallel in the consumer’s mind with the wine grower, who “toils away struggling through what nature offers.”

2004 THE MARINER - DRY CREEK VALLEY

★★★★ FOUR STARS

“A classic, mouthfilling blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, this wine is a lovely, complex tapestry of lush fruit, soft tannins and floral aromas.”

Dry Creek
VINEYARD

