

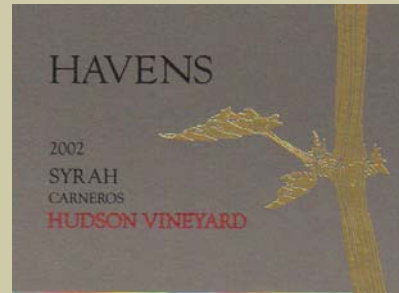
New Releases: 2002 Syrah Hudson Vineyard and Merlot Carneros

2002 Syrah Hudson Vineyard

Our Hudson Vineyard Syrah shows how much site can over-rule weather: it's greater structure, spice, and length express the upper Carneros terroir, even in this very warm vintage.

Again in 2002, we added a little Viognier from an adjacent block, crushing and co-fermenting it with the Syrah. Co-fermenting Viognier actually makes a darker wine, with more aromatic precursors. The resulting tannins are soft and fine, though substantial in total volume. This counter-intuitive trick has long played a part of many northern Rhone Syrahs.

With Hudson T Syrah, the wine starts out its life in cellar very fat, full, and somewhat awkward. But as it ages in barrel it becomes more refined, elegant, and balanced at a higher level. The exotic high tones of lavender and orchid, the white pepper spice, and the long finish develop from what began as an ungainly child. This wine is a telling argument for Syrah in Carneros, and for the proposition that a Syrah of power and structure can still be fine and graceful.



92

Deep ruby-red. Aromas of blackberry, cassis and mocha. Dense, sappy and sweet, with black fruit, pepper, spicy oak and saline nuances. Very youthful, varietally accurate Syrah. Finishes with firm tannins and a licorice flavor.

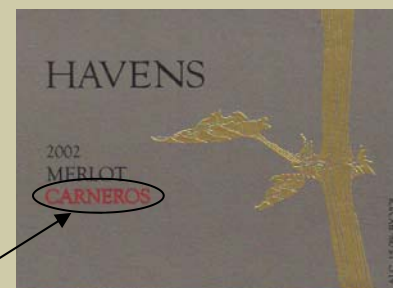
Steve Tanzer
The International Wine Cellar

2002 Merlot Carneros

With a full two years bottle aging before release, the 2002 *Merlot Carneros* is already developed into a stylish wine: dark plummy fruit, subtle notes of baking spices and anise, and a broad-but-firm backbone. This wine shows off 2002's forward, juicy flesh, but will develop complexity over many years. If you appreciate the great wines of the Right Bank but love the explosion of Napa Valley fruit, you will find this Carneros reserve bottling just that magical combination.

New!

If it's reserve, it comes from Carneros. So, with this year's vintage, that's what the label will say!



89

Good ruby-red color. Riper, more roasted aromas of plum and animal fur. Fatter, plusher and sweeter than the Napa bottling, with very ripe flavors of plum, dark raspberry and chocolate.

This expands impressively in the mouth, and finishes big and broad.

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