

COLUME THIRTEEN OF THE POUR NUMBER FOUR



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MARIMAR TORRES ESTATE 2002 "Dobles Lías, Don Miguel Vineyard" Chardonnay

Marimar Torres' 15,000-case winery, Marimar Estate in Sonoma County's Russian River Valley, is a contrast to the large, international winery her great-grandfather started in Spain, her late father developed and her brother. Miguel.

now heads. The small Chardonnay and Pinot Noir house stands apart from the family business Marimar owns with her two brothers and reflects the independence of its founder, who holds various business degrees (University of Barcelona, Stanford), studied enology and viticulture at U.C. Davis and speaks six languages.

In 2000 Marimar began organically farming the first parcel of her two vineyards, Don Miguel (named after her father), in the Russian River Valley's Green Valley sub-appellation. The new Doña Margarita Vineyard (named after her mother) in the Sonoma Coast appellation near Freestone is also organic. Marimar expects the costs of organics to reduce over time. "We began by purchasing manure, but now the stables next to the vineyard provide that. We also compost grape pomace.

Weeding is the most expensive part. So this year we contracted sheep for weeding at the new Doña Margarita Vineyard in Freestone, where the rye grass from the former cow pasture is especially high."

CONNOISSEURS' GUIDE REVIEW (May 2005)

2 stars, 92 points Marimar Estate Dobles Lías 2002 Don Miguel Vineyard, Russian River Valley Chardonnay: "If already a real head-turner by virtue of its outgoing fruit and wonderfully rich oak, this carefully crafted offering comes with an uncommon sense of reserve and real potency that suggests that it has only begun to impress. A fairly sizeable wine with lots of body and a fleshy palatal feel, it is keenly structured, solidly built and has as much fruit at its heart as any wine in this issue. Set it aside for two or three years if patience allows, but it

RICHARD PARTRIDGE CELLARS 2002 "Napa Valley" Cabernet Sauvignon

As an electrical engineer in Indiana, Richard Partridge was not a prime candidate to start a winery. But when he founded a company repping large electrical generation equipment for hospitals and institutions, he and his wife

Cris moved to Orange County, California. and weekends in Napa led to the idea of making wine. Still keeping his day job. Richard purchased his property in the town of Napa in 1996 and began Richard Partridge Cellars. His collection of Opus One, Joseph Phelps and other heavyhitting Napa Cabs foretold the venture's direction. "I am focused on Napa Cabernet Sauvignon," says Richard, though he does make a few hundred cases of Chardonnay so that Cris will go along with the winery idea. Winemaker Bob Egelhoff has been with Partridge since its first vintage in 1998. That wine was named the No. 2 Napa Cabernet Sauvignon of the year by the Wine Spectator, and Bob and Richard have kept to their basic plan ever since, purchasing fruit from top Napa vineyards and sparing no expense to make their single Napa Cab. They currently source fruit from only two vineyards: Sacrashe in

the hills above Auberge du Soleil in Rutherford and Stanton on the valley floor in Oakville. Richard is developing his own Cab vineyard on 15 acres he purchased in 2002. Growing up, he tended rows of soybeans and fields of wheat near the small town of Rochester, and you can be sure he'll be nurturing his Napa vines as well. "The difference in Napa is, you have deer. They eat everything."

CONNOISSEURS' GUIDE REVIEW (April 2005)

92 points, 2 stars Richard Partridge Napa Valley 2002 Cabernet Sauvignon: "Led in the nose by a very rich mix of currants, cherries, coffee and a hint of woodsy spice, this well-concentrated wine delivers the goods on the palate with deep, but surprisingly accessible, flavors. Supple, keenly focused and quite continuous, it holds little in

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Marimar Estate 2002 "Dobles Lías, Don Miguel Vineyard" Chardonnay —Connoisseurs' Guide (May 2005) 2 stars, 92 points

Continued on back

will shine with richer lobster or salmon recipes now."



OTHER REVIEWS & COMMENDATIONS

Wine Enthusiast, 92 points (Oct. 2005): "...great finesse."

Wine Spectator, 92 points (June 15, 2005): "... remarkable richness and depth ..."

THE VINEYARD

The 60-acre Don Miguel Vineyard in the Green

Valley, a cool Region I site in the southwest corner of the Russian River Valley, provided all of the fruit.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Fruit was handpicked from September 11th to 25th, and yields averaged four tons per acre. "Since we've planted 2000 vines per acre. we prefer to say four pounds per vine for a more accurate picture."

CELLAR NOTES

This wine had extended aging on double the normal amount of lees ("dobles lías" means double lees). After malolactic fermentation it was transferred to 12 barrels (100% premium French oak, 50% new), and lees were added from other barrels. "This year, we did something slightly

different by taking the wine out of barrel to finish aging in stainless steel 'barrels'," says Marimar. This Chardonnay aged 17 months in oak and four in stainless steel, but had an entire year with double lees.

Brix at harvest:

23.7° average

Alcohol:

14.0%

Total Acidity:

0.54g/100 ml

pH:

3.54

Bottling Date:

June 2004

Release Date:

September 2004

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

"I think giving this wine less oak has provided more balance and enabled this wine to age more gracefully. This idea of doubling the lees is unique, although labor-intensive and expensive, especially when bottled unfiltered to perfect clarity. The wine is wonderful, but it will always be a small bottling."

REORDER INFORMATION

Only 295 cases were produced of the Marimar Torres Estate 2002 "Dobles Lías, Don Miguel Vineyard" Chardonnay. It normally retails for \$56. Connoisseurs' Series members may purchase half and full cases for \$45 per bottle. Please call 1-800-777-4443 to place your order.

Partridge, continued

"...a very rich mix of

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Richard Partridge Cellars

2002 "Napa Valley"

Cabernet Sauvianon

2 stars, 92 points

(April 2005)

—Connoisseurs' Guide

reserve, and, while it has the proper structural spine of tannin to develop nicely over the next four or five years, it is so fruity and so seamlessly crafted that it is wholly enjoyable now with juicy cuts of beef or lamb "



OTHER REVIEWS & COMMENDATIONS

Robert M. Parker, Ir., The Wine Advocate, 88-90 points

(barrel tasting) (February 2005): "Softer and more approachable than the 2001..."

THE VINEYARDS

Sacrashe is located on a hillside with volcanic soils in the Rutherford District at an elevation of 1.000 feet. The Stanton Vinevard is south of Oakville and has typical loamy valley floor soils. Yields for both averaged 3.5 to four tons per acre.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Grapes were hand harvested in late September. Lots from the two vineyards were vinified and aged separately. After destemming, fruit was fermented and macerated for a total of 32 days.

CELLAR NOTES

This wine spent 22 months in 100% French oak.

Brix at harvest:

25.6° average

Alcohol:

14.0%

Total Acidity:

0.47g/100 ml

pH:

3.51

Cases Produced:

1.000

Bottling Date:

July 2004

Release Date:

November 1, 2004

WINEMAKER COMMENTS

"There are aromas of caramel, oak toast, dark cherry, briar, blackberry and mocha tastes. The finish is smooth, focused and extremely long allowing all of these flavors to marry on the palate."

REORDER INFORMATION

The Richard Partridge Cellars 2002 "Napa Valley" Cabernet Sauvignon normally retails for \$58. Connoisseurs' Series members may purchase half and full cases for \$49 per bottle. Please call 1-800-777-4443 to place your order.