

CALIFORNIA

WE HAVE MIXED EMOTIONS ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF A CULT WINE. IT'S JUST THE NATURE OF THINGS THAT SOME FANATICALLY MADE WINES AVAILABLE ONLY IN VERY SMALL AMOUNTS SUDDENLY GET A WHOLE LOT OF ATTENTION - OKAY, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE HUGE SCORES THAT A COUPLE OF JOURNALIST STAR MAKERS BESTOW ON A HANDFUL OF WINES. (WE HAVE FRIENDS WHO ARE ON MAILING LISTS, JUST FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SCORING THREE BOTTLES A YEAR). WELL, WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT ALL SUPER-QUALITY, CELLAR-WORTHY WINES SHOULD BE SOLELY AVAILABLE TO THE PRIVILEGED FEW. HERE WE OFFER SOME CLASSICALLY HAND-MADE CULT WINES AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW, RIGHT HERE. NO MAILING LIST NECESSARY!

KAMEN SYRAH 2005

There are characters and then there are CHARACTERS and Robert Kamen is definitely one of the latter! Fresh from success in Hollywood Robert settled in the Sonoma Mountains and planted vineyards at 1450' elevation. This Syrah was from the first plantings and is the best kept secret from the estate!

#KAM05SY3 \$80

FOLEY CLARET 2006

For those of us who weren't invited to the White House in February for a formal dinner, the good news is you can still get the featured wine, Bob Foley's near-perfect Claret, made from Howell Mountain Cabernet and Napa Valley Merlot. While we're not at liberty to reveal all the conversations, we can confidently tell you that one prominent guest was overheard saying: "I tell you sir, this is one damn fine wine!"

#ROB06CL3 \$123

LINDSTROM CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2005

Before the days of Google Earth, you'd have to ask a local where the miniscule four-acre hilltop Nicali Vineyard of Lindstrom was. Well, it's nestled between Shafer, Joseph Phelps and Stag's Leap Vineyards (not too shabby company!) And here Greg and Carol have carved out twelve gemlike blocks that supply wine-making goddess Celia Masyczek the perfect Cab fruit to make their single offering. Gobs of black cherry and layers of voluptuous dark chocolate. As good as it gets. *Limit three bottles.*

#LIN05CS3 \$110

GARGIULO

G MAJOR SEVEN 2007

Like our friends the Hattons at Arietta, Jeff and Valerie Gargiulo have a love for both music and wine and an appreciation for the subtleties in both. Thus their inaugural G Major Seven, is a compelling blend composed entirely of just four notes; Cab, Merlot, Cab Franc and Petit Verdot. Opulent and polished with a gorgeous sandalwood nose.

#GAR05MS3 \$145

ALTUS BY MERUS 2005

If Merus is the audacious big brother in the family, then Altus is the sweet little sister who greets you at the door, all dressed up and ready to go. As put together by star wine guy Mark Herold, Altus is pure elegant fruit with a nice dose of cassis and plum. Put the Merus in the cellar; invite out the Altus and enjoy right now.

#ALT05CS3 \$110

