



RUSACK VINEYARDS

www.rusackvineyards.com

At Rusack, we tasted wines with John Falcone, Winemaker/VP Operations, sitting at the dining table in the comfortable family kitchen of the hacienda that was originally the home of winery owners Alison and Geoff Rusack. One of the decorative tiles is the logo of the winery.

Geoff joined us and talked about the major upgrade of the winemaking facility they undertook after purchasing the property in 1995 and the replanting of 17 acres of vineyard in 2003, both geared to achieving their winemaking goals and expanding their estate vineyard program.

Rusack produces Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Sangiovese, Syrah and three Bordeaux varietal wines. The winery's 2005 Sauvignon Blanc awakens the taste buds. John described the 2004 Chardonnay, Santa Barbara County, as "having bells and whistles" but not being a "big butter bomb!"

He continued, "How we make our wines depends on the flavor profile we want. Our wines are managed barrel by barrel for balance of flavors, acidity, and finesse. The challenge is to determine perfect ripeness. We keep track of the chemistry but, our winemaking decisions are based on taste."

Wine Finds:

Very special wines are Anacapa 2003; Cab Franc, Santa Ynez Valley, 2001; Merlot, Santa Ynez Valley, 2002; Pinot Noir, Santa Barbara County, 2004; and Pinot Noir Reserve, Santa Rita Hills, 2003.



Discovering SANTA BARBARA WINE COUNTRY...

By Marilyn LaRocque