

Wineries to Watch



MacLaren in Sonoma

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Scottish Native Steve Law fell for the wines of the Northern Rhone while working in the electronics business in France. When his career took him to California, he indulged his wine obsession by taking weekend courses at UC Davis and working the 2006 harvest in Dry Creek. In 2007 he went pro, launching MacLaren, and in the past few years his syrahs have turned heads at the annual Rhone Rangers tasting in San Francisco with their savory edges and lively fruit. His 2011 from the fog-influenced Atoosa's Vineyard in the Russian River Valley might be his best yet, it's rich, mouth-coating texture allied with firm tannins, lengthening into a beam of fulsome red-fruited energy. His 2011 Drouthy Neebors blend also includes some fruit from Atoosa; its intense aromas of conifer needles and peppercorn lend it a Sonoma equivalent of garrigue. – L.S.

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