



RUBISSOW WINES REVIEWS 2004 VINTAGE

WINE & SPIRITS

December 2008

**RUBISSOW 2004 “Rubissow-Sargent Reserve” Cabernet Sauvignon
“Year’s Best Cabernets”**

June 2008

RUBISSOW-SARGENT RESERVE 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

Bosky cherry scents last through this potent, mountain-grown cabernet. The middle is dense with black fruit, the finish potent and robust, ending on a smoky earthiness that brings wild mushrooms to mind. Built to age.

91 POINTS

CONNOISSEUR’S GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA WINE

April 2008

RUBISSOW 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

The attractive brace from the newly reconstituted Rubissow winery shows off the great potential of the family’s Mount Veeder property. This one is the easier to taste for the moment and is bound to enjoy plenty of attention for its cassis and black cherry fruit liberally laced with lashings of creamy oak. Its ample tannins guarantee years of improvement, but it will drink well even now.

91 POINTS

RUBISSOW-SARGENT RESERVE 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

This is the tighter of the two (Cab) wines even though it is also the riper, and that combination will make it the darling of those who like a fair dose of power in their Cabernets. Its cassis and ripe berry fruit tones carry it past its imposing tannins, and a wait of five to eight years is in order.

RUBISSOW 2004 Trompettes - Mount Veeder

Themes of ripe raspberries are met in the nose by touches of spice and syrupy concentration, and the wine’s quite accessible flavors follow suit with a nice mix of berryish fruit and sweet spice. Well-balanced and firmed up by fairly fine-grained tannins, this one is both rich and a little more polished than the varietal norm.

RUBISSOW 2004 Merlot - Mount Veeder

“...the wine delivers solid, well-defined, ripe-cherry flavors that convey a good sense of substance and extract. It is a little more rounded and accessible than its mountain origins might predict, and, even with its youthful tannins sticking out a bit, it can be enjoyed early on.”



ANTHONY DIAS BLUE

February 2008

RUBISSOW-SARGENT RESERVE 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

Fragrant, dense and smooth with exquisite plum and blackberry fruit; big, intense but showing great length, elegance and complexity.

95 POINTS

RUBISSOW 2004 Merlot - Mount Veeder

Smooth, rich and ripe with vanilla, spice and gorgeous oak; long, pretty and lush with excellent acid structure.

92 POINTS + Wine of the Week

RUBISSOW 2004 Trompettes - Mount Veeder

Rich, velvety texture with firm, racy acid structure and ripe plum fruit; balanced, fresh and complex with lovely flavors and seamless style.

90 POINTS

RUBISSOW 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

Lush, smooth textured, dense and ripe with lovely plum and black raspberry fruit; rich, long and juicy; stylish and classy.

91 POINTS

QRW - QUARTERLY REVIEW OF WINES

24th ANNUAL CALIFORNIA BEST OF THE BEST

Summer 2008

“Top Ten Red Blends”

RUBISSOW 2004 Trompettes - Mount Veeder

“... was selected one of the top 10 red blends tasted at the 24th Annual Quarterly Review of Wines (blind tasting)”

RUBISSOW 2004 Merlot - Mount Veeder

Mocha and coffee in the nose; in the mouth, plump and fluid, with black currant, ripe plum and plenty of dark chocolate. If “purple” were a taste, it would fit as well. This wine is made solely from Merlot and is unfiltered and unfiltered (as are all of the Rubissow wines). Purple is, incidentally, Ariel’s favorite color. “I also like milk chocolate,” she says. “This vintage was an interesting one. We got half as much fruit as usual, twice as much heat, and the wines have three times as much flavor!” Adds Peter, “We’re aiming to make somewhat bigger, richer wines than our father made. In musical terms, we’re amping up the volume considerably. We’re looking for sexier, richer, more powerful wines.” If you want muscle, Mount Veeder is certainly the place for it.

RUBISSOW 2004 “Trompettes” - Mount Veeder

Mostly Cabernet Franc, this wine shows off that variety’s charming aromatics - rose petal and



strawberry - and deeply lingering strawberry and red cherry fruit in the mouth that has dancer light-on-its-feet texture. It is a silken texture that nonetheless has depth and a lingering quality that easily enchants.

RUBISSOW 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

Mountain-concentrated fruit that is all black currant and blackberry, with hints of black olive, coffee and menthol for added complexity and interest. This is a rich and oily wine, which coats your tongue with flavor and substance. “Lingering” just doesn’t tell the whole story.

RUBISSOW 2004 “Rubissow-Sargent Reserve” Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

We talk of Colombian coffee that’s mountain-grown, and this wine has all of that utter and dark density. Pure Cabernet Sauvignon (100%), with cassis, coffee, tobacco, mulberry and bloody filet mignon meatiness that is mouth-watering and delicious. The mountain richness is all there, without any of the harsh tannin that was once associated with that inference. Muscular, lush, almost lascivious. You can bank on it.

WINE SPECTATOR

April 2008

RUBISSOW 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

Shows of ripe, vivid black cherry, currant and wild berry flavors that are tight and focused, with a long, rich, detailed finish that keeps the fruit at the forefront. Decant. Best from 2009 through 2014. 587 cases made. -JL

WINE ENTHUSIAST

May 2008

RUBISSOW-SARGENT RESERVE 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

“Big and dense in blackberry, currant, cherry and unsweetened baker’s flavors.. it all suggests ageability.”

90 POINTS

RUBISSOW 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

“Tremendously concentrated, a powerful wine that erupts with blackberry, currant, cocoa, licorice, cola, caramel and vanilla flavors... in need of time in the cellar. Won’t even begin to soften for a couple of years, even though most people will pop the cork way too early.”

ELEANOR & RAY HEALD

Quarterly Review of Wines • Wine Business Monthly • AppellationAmerica.com • Practical Winery & Vineyard • Gannett Newspapers - “Wine Picks”

WINE PICKS - February 28, 2008



RUBISSOW

“In answer to readers who’d like to get an early stake in some limited production wines, we highly recommend the premiere releases of Rubissow. Here’s what’s offered:

RUBISSOW 2004 Merlot - Mount Veeder

Lush and oh so lovely.

RUBISSOW 2004 Trompettes - Mount Veeder

Proprietary Red (cabernet franc, merlot and cabernet sauvignon blend).
Sophisticated, delicious and ageable.

RUBISSOW 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

Layered, complex and ageable.

RUBISSOW-SARGENT RESERVE 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

Rich and bold. Some people dub this style “killer cab.” It is.

BOUNTY HUNTER RARE WINE & PROVISIONS CATALOG

RUBISSOW 2004 Merlot - Mount Veeder

“It’s not often that a winery completely changes its style and gets it done right so early in the game. Rubissow has gone from old-school to flashy just about overnight, and the wines have never been better. This fleshy Merlot comes packed to the gills with brooding dark fruits, cocoa powder and sturdy mountain tannins. This is a serious red wine from one of Napa’s hidden gem districts.”

THE FINE WINE REVIEW

Issue #119 - February 2008

RUBISSOW

Unknown to most, there do exist today some tiny micro-estates in the tradition of those in the 1950s through early 1970s that produce wines in tiny quantities out of passion and without the desire to hit the jackpot with stratospheric prices...and available only through selected restaurants and by mailing list. This producer formerly was known as Rubissow-Sargent, and I have repeatedly praised the wines over the years. Tony Sargent, the former winemaker, has retired and George Rubissow’s children, Peter and Ariel have purchased and are now running the operation, with Timothy Milos making the wine. The vineyards remain the same on Mount Veeder, but the rest of the operation has now shifted to Napa, whereas in the past the offices and winery were in Berkeley. There has also been a handsome redesign of the packaging.

RUBISSOW 2004 Merlot - Mount Veeder • 93 POINTS /A

The first wine that I open is the Merlot. The back label says “Second Generation. NewDirection . . . Bolder, richer, deeper wines.” The stated alcohol is 14.9% which for American wines means that the



real alcohol can be anywhere from 13.4% to 16.4%; as a practical matter, the real alcohol will not be below 14% because if that were the case, taxes would be lower. I shudder. I generally do not like high alcohol wines. I generally do not like “big” wines. Nor am I much of a fan of Merlot, although every so often I come across one that I like, such as the Mayacamas that I recommended in the previous issue. Here goes. . . . Wait a minute! I like this! What’s going on? The wine shows minerality in both the nose and mouth as well as truffled red fruits that typify Merlot for me. No sense of alcohol or bigness in the mouth – there is good acidity here that gives a cut to the wine, and some tannins for aging, although I (not everyone will) find this quite good for drinking already. The tannins are not the overlyrounded, liquid tannins that one has come to expect in California (and some other regions), nor is the fruit in any way confected. Indeed, the wine remains surprisingly fresh, and if asked to guess the alcohol, I would have put it at 13.8-13.9%. Drink now-2025.

RUBISSOW 2004 Trompettes - Mount Veeder • 90 POINTS /A-

The ...Trompettes is the St-Emilion-type blend of 65% Cabernet Franc, 30% Merlot, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Here the alcohol is 14.5%, but again there is no hotness or overripeness. The wine displays mineral black cherry aromas and flavor and is medium-weight, but it doesn’t carry quite the excitement or precision of the Merlot. This wine is ready to drink now, and I see no reason not to consume it in the next 4-5 years, although the tannins could carry it longer.

RUBISSOW 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder • 90 POINTS /A-

The Cabernet Sauvignon will need some more time to open; it has 14.5% stated alcohol and is fairly tannic. Expect to age this wine for some time. Over a period of time, the wine shows spicy dark cherry fruit with dark chocolate as an additional element. The oak here is marked but not overbearing, the texture is smooth but firm, and the wine is medium-weight. 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc. 2014-2020+.

COLORADO WINE NEWS

April-June 2008

RUBISSOW

Rubissow is a small producer of desirable wines made with organically farmed grapes. If you can’t find them locally, contact the winery, it will ship: rubissowwines.com, tel. 707.253.8605.

RUBISSOW 2004 Trompettes - Mount Veeder

A blend of 65% cabernet franc, 30% merlot, and 5% cabernet sauvignon. A sweet, very ripe, round nose of blackberry preserves, loamy soil, bittersweet chocolate, and coffee introduces sweet, ripe, round flavors of blackberry preserves, dark roast coffee, loamy soil, and unsweetened chocolate which finish medium-broad and truncated. Well put together and ready to drink. It will be very popular.

RUBISSOW 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon - Mount Veeder

A blend of 85% cabernet sauvignon, 13% merlot, and 2% cabernet franc. It has inviting aromas of blackberry jam, sweet licorice, plum, chocolate, and smoky oak which continue as smooth flavors laced with juicy acidity and moderate tannin. Everything carries through the long, medium-broad finish. Well balanced, structured, and integrated. Tasty.

RUBISSOW 2004 Merlot - Mount Veeder

Opens with raspberry, cherry, cocoa, and paste black shoe polish before round, soft, flavors of the same



RUBISSOW

laced with nice, fine tannin. The long, broad finish adds an almost charred note and some pepper at the sides..it is well balanced but needs two to three years to come together when the fruit will become dominated by candied cherry and raspberry liqueur. Well put together. Atypical. Tasty.

GREENWICH MAGAZINE

April 2008

SPRING FEVER

Suggested Wines For Spring - Reds

By Anthony Dias Blue

When it comes to spring lamb..you can't go wrong with a nicely structured Merlot. If you've had doubts about Merlot lately, this classic gastronomic match will prove justification enough to return to what has become an unjustly benighted varietal. My favorites are from appellations in Sonoma and Napa, but versions from elsewhere - including even Sicily - can be ripe and delicious with lamb. Spring is all about freshness, so save your long-celled reds for the autumn and winter months. Relatively young Merlots have a vibrancy that will complement the flavors of this favorite culinary time of year.

RUBISSOW 2004 Merlot - Mount Veeder

An impressive reintroduction to this next-generation Napa producer (formerly known as Rubissow-Sargent); rich and ripe with vanilla, spice and gorgeous oak flavors.