

## *Merry Edwards*



Many long-term readers may be surprised by this month's *Collector's Corner* selection. Me too. It's no secret that I am not a fan of sauvignon blanc. No, that's entirely true. I am not a fan of the majority of insipid, boring, too-tart, hyper-citrus, overly-acidic sauvignon blanc that... well, you get the picture.

I take a lot of heat when I grumble about the grape from sauvignon supporters, especially the merchants, distributors and sommeliers who sell and serve the wines, and I concede that it enjoys immense popularity among the millions of wine consumers who love the style of sauvignon blancs I avoid. This varietal has many faces, but I've always preferred those produced in France's Loire or from the cool-climate hills of Italy's Veneto region, where the wines offer a richness of flavors that lean more to lemon and melon than grass and grapefruit. In fairness, over the years, there have been a few sauvignon blancs from California I've liked, but none ever came close to those made by Merry Edwards.

No newcomer to winemaking, Merry was one of California's women wine pioneers, beginning her career in the early 70's after graduating from UC Davis and starting her career at Mt. Eden Vineyards in Santa Cruz. She moved on to become the first winemaker at Sonoma's Matanzas Creek before producing her own Meredith Vineyards wines from the Russian River in 1997. She also consults to a number of Napa and Sonoma's top wineries where her work with pinot noir brought the most acclaim.

Beginning with the 2001 vintage, her first signature sauvignon blanc, have been recognized as truly world-class and the 2005, 2006, and 2007 scored particularly well with the critics. Merry *Merry Edwards Winery*, on 24 acres in Sebastopol two years ago. The grapes for this incredibly delicious 2008 wine come from a number of single vineyard sites nearby the new facility. They are 100% fermented in French oak, somewhat unusual for sauvignon.

I missed the chance to try the limited release of the 2007 Sauvignon Blanc, which scored 96 points from Wine Spectator, so when the opportunity to buy some of the 2008 came into the market this month, I jumped at the chance. The wine has not yet been reviewed by the major critics, but it confirmed my belief that sauvignon when grown from the best

clone in the right soil and made in the style of the best of Loire sauvignon blanc, they can be as rich and complex as the greatest white wines in the world.

Merry Edwards produces only a very small quantity of this wine and they are highly sought after. You will rarely, if ever, see them on the shelves of your favorite wine merchant and they are tightly allocated to the finest restaurants. Your best bet is to buy the wine direct.

While it lasts, it can be ordered from the winery for the incredibly low price of \$30. I would place this as one of the top three sauvignon's produced in the world (along with Didier Dagueneau and Peter Michael) and at half to a third of the price of the best!

It's not often that I recommend a wine this strongly, but I think this is one of the finest white wines I have ever tasted and deserves a place in your cellar and on your table. .

Contact Merry Edwards by calling 888.388.9050 or order online at:  
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