

# ROBERT SINSEY VINEYARDS

## MARCIEN, PROPRIETARY RED 2014



*Los Carneros, Napa Valley*



- A “Right Bank” of Napa wine, a Saint-Émilion with a suntan!
- Marcien represents best of vintage from RSV’s Carneros Estate Vineyards
- CCOF Certified Organic vineyards
- Select lots of the classic “Right Bank” varieties of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon
- Cave aged approx. two years in select French oak barrels
- Bottled in 750ml, 1.5L, 3L and 6L
- An elegant, subtle and well balanced wine

### ***Winegrowing Notes***

RSV relies on mother nature to replenish the ponds and aquifers through a wet rainy season. In many years, this refresh does not happen. The 2014 vintage was the third consecutive year of drought. Droughts have a profound impact on grape architecture and cluster morphology - a grandiloquent way of saying “stunted growth with smaller berries and clusters.” It might be counter-intuitive, but the drought vintages - especially in the first few years - can create a superlative wine with intensely concentrated fruit, bright acidity, enhanced tension and incredible longevity. The 2014 Marcien is selected from 12 individually fermented lots from RSV’s CCOF certified organic Los Carneros of Napa Valley vineyards. Grapes are hand-picked at night, fermented on feral yeast and the wine is cave aged for almost two years in fine French Oak barrels. The cuvée has a strong foundation of Merlot, tempered with equal portions of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon for RSV’s interpretation of the best of the vintage - the most elegant, complex and pleasurable terroir-driven wine possible.

### ***Tasting Notes***

The 2014 Marcien is sublime. A properly finished cuvée should be greater than the sum of its parts, with each layer integrated in a way that compliments and enhances the individual components. Marcien is a true master cuvée from RSV’s organically farmed Carneros vineyards in the “Right Bank” of Napa.

Aromas and flavors of violet, bramble, tart cherry, blue and blackberry, currant and ripe black plum speak to a seamless marriage of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. The fruit is supported by subtle, enticing hints of French barrel spice while notes of black tea, mocha and bay laurel contribute to its complexity and open up a plethora of food pairing options like roasted winter mushrooms, duck confit, bolognese, or a nicely marbled ribeye to mention a few. The excitement over this wine and this vintage will last for many years to come.

**FINE WINES. ORGANIC VINES.**

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## *On the Right Bank of Napa!*

Is there such a thing as the “best” or the “greatest” when it comes to wine? Some believe the 1947 Cheval Blanc from the Right Bank of Bordeaux was the greatest red wine of all time. It was great not only because of the vintage but because the vineyard was planted with varieties that thrive in that region’s relatively cool climate with clay soil and it was crafted by vigneron who were perceptive enough to nurture an intensely elegant wine from a powerful vintage. However, some people felt the wine was an outlier in that it had higher alcohol and was more port-like than a typical Bordelaise wine of its time and didn’t deserve the acclaim. It came down to personal taste if the wine was perceived as great or not.

To apply a score in an attempt to anoint the best wine of the year is an absurd exercise. There are many great wines. What is one person’s favorite might be another’s swill. It is subjective based on personal taste. Physical limitations - like the amount of taste buds one has, the food being served, how many wines one has tasted, temperature and even bottle variation - can impact the impression one has of a wine.

Rarely is a wine reviewed objectively. How a wine was farmed and crafted should be considered as important as how the wine presents itself. Can a wine be truly great if its farming employs methods that intentionally harm the environment by using potentially toxic chemicals and tillage that releases carbon? A fine wine - especially a luxury wine - shouldn’t hurt your palate and it shouldn’t hurt the planet.

RSV has been farming with a regenerative model since the early 90’s... long before we had heard the term “regenerative” applied to farming. If all goes well, RSV will soon be 100% ROC or Regenerative Organic Certified. We feel it is our responsibility to farm with methods that heal an ailing earth. But it is not a sacrifice to farm this way; we think these methods help us grow and craft a better wine.

We also have learned to listen to what the land wants and not impose our will or force a fit, discovering that the Carneros has many micro-climates and that the upper Carneros region specifically has a lot of parallels with the “Right Bank” of Bordeaux. It is only natural that it can produce world class Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. In our mind, the Vandal Vineyard is in the “Right Bank” of Napa; a micro-climate where Merlot and Cabernet Franc can thrive in its clay soil to produce elegantly powerful wines like Marcien, POV, Libration, Merlot and Cabernet Franc.

Marcien is RSV’s attempt to craft the most expressive, classically proportioned and age-worthy cuvée from our vineyards and the vintage. Is it the “greatest” wine of the vintage? That is for you to determine. If you consider this wine delicious, it is the greatest wine of the year.

