

## **Kaena**

All right – listen up, we’ve got a new star on our hands. Could there be a nicer person in the wine business than Mikael Sigouin? He's born and raised in Hawaii --- thus the name and the label – bright Hawaiian flowers and script. Specializing in Rhone varietals, specifically from sites in the Ballard Canyon area (which is ground zero for Rhone grapes). Mikael should be the ambassador for garage wine producers --- and for Grenache in particular --- as his few barrels stand mighty against all comers, especially against the gigantic production of Fess Parker (shhh --- it's his boss...).

A little background: He made a big move this past year, leaving Beckmen and joining the winemaking team at Fess Parker. As an employee of Fess Parker, Mikael looks like the antichrist for allowing fermentations to occur naturally and never adding enzymes or MLB in order to be as native as possible. Must be the Hawaiian in him? Production is capped at 500 cases for Kaena, just where Mikael likes it. The wines are great because Mikael knows what great wine is. We are thrilled to have him recently come over to JMD. With Mikael’s insatiable love for Grenache and his ability to create these special small lot wines under the larger umbrella of Fess Parker --- the future looks very bright, indeed!

### **#79000 Grenache “Camp 4 Vyd.” 2003 12/750 \$225.00/Case \$18.75/Bottle**

I found the wine to be surprisingly dark in color for a Grenache but with attractive cocoa and vanilla notes in the nose, bright raspberries and hints of oak with a bit of that Grenache pepper and spice in the mouth. I really liked the integrated quiet tannins and strikingly rich and full structure overall. It finishes long, with a lovely perfumed aftertaste. This wine will improve dramatically with some age if you can keep your hands off it. “Camp 4” is the newest acquisition of the Fess Parker family. This 1,400-acre parcel of land was purchased in the spring of 1999. The initial 250-acre block was completed and produced its first crop in harvest 2003. Located slightly Southwest from the FP Winery in the Santa Ynez Valley, the warmer climates and loam soils of this site shows great potential for producing fully ripened, mature fruit. Planted to syrah (130 acres), grenache (25 acres), mourvedre (10 acres), roussanne (15 acres) and viognier (25 acres).

### **#79002 Grenache Rosé ‘04 12/750 \$168.00/Case \$14.00/Bottle**

Should you need an introduction to Mikael Sigouin's (assistant at Beckmen) wines, this rosé is the ticket. A cherry block and strawberry nose is inviting, while the typically grenache character of crunchy, snappy fruit comes through on the palate. Not just a quaffer, this rosé doesn't just lie there but shows some scintillating substance, as well.

### **#79004 Hale Red Wine “Paso Robles” 2003 12/750 \$168.00/Case \$14.00/Bottle**

I am very keen on this part Syrah (66%) and part Grenache (34%) from Terra Alta Vineyard which is located at the very northern end of Ballard Canyon. Mikael fittingly calls the wine “Hapa” which is often taken to mean “part Hawaiian and part white.” The

wine is totally dominated by the mere third of Grenache with its sweet fruit, charcoal overtones, and burnt blueberries. While the Grenache lingers the Syrah's minerality, garnered from the calcareous slopes of this vineyard come together to create an intense finish. Reminds me of Beckmen's Grenache-Syrah blend Purisima. This wine is close to Mikael's heart as he is "Hapa" himself.

**#79008 Syrah "Hearthstone Vyd." 2003 12/750 \$240.00/case \$20.00/Bottle**

Has a slightly sweet nose of ripe fruit, with a briary character and some tar and asphalt notes. Seems to have less of what I call a 'warm climate' quality. Plush and chewy. Very nice!

**#79006 Syrah "Santa Ynez Valley" 2003 12 750 225.00 18.75**

Incredible, handcrafted Syrah!. This small lot ( 75 case ) Syrah represents one of the best fruit sources in the Santa Ynez Valley...