



KELLER ESTATE

Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast La Cruz Vineyard 2004

An elegant and cool intense red raspberry and plum fruit nose introduces pure, refined and detailed middle weight flavors that possess fine balance and solid if not exceptional persistence. I really like the style here as it really is unusually sophisticated and the only nit holding this back is a lack of outstanding depth, which in fairness may come with time in bottle

--Allen Meadows, Burghound



Recommendation: 2004 La Cruz Vineyard Syrah

Keller Estate is taking care to get the details right before getting into the glare of major public recognition. The aromas are so sweet, I thought of pancake syrup (syrup came in raspberry or blackberry flavors). There's also leather, cedar, smoke, vanilla, and pretty much everything else a ripe red wine can pull out of skins, seeds, and oak barrels. You get all this as flavors, in a juicy wine that's vivid from the get-go. Though the alcohol is up there, nearly 15 percent this is not a big plush bomber. I found it to be a luscious palate-awakener that gets both the sweetness and ascorbic acid of real raspberries and blackberries. As it crosses the mid-palate the wine also releases Syrah's brambly side, a bit of warm blood, and a touch of raw meat. I have no doubt that this can age a decade, but who will wait that long?

Thom Elkjer

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Syrah Sonoma Coast La Cruz Vineyard 2004

Full with the spicy warmth of alcohol, this shows the maturity of its fruit in scents of violets, raisins and jam. For grilled lamb.

FOOD & WINE



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**2004 La Cruz
Chardonnay**

Take Keller's unoaked Chard, add some well-toasted new French oak, and you get this rich version. The oak stars, putting out buttered toast, crème brûlée and vanilla spice flavors. Down under all that is a wealth of tropical fruit, peach and green apple flavors.