



*La Fenêtre*

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## **Pulling back the curtain on La Fenetre | Issue 174**

May 23, 2008

*Calistoga, California*



Check the latest posting of my blog at [Free Run Juice](#).

A couple years ago I met an engaging young man named **Joshua Klapper** at a Pinot Noir tasting in San Francisco. His wines were very solid efforts but unfortunately the vintage was just about sold out. Joshua's background as a Sommelier had led him to explore the winemaking side of the business and it was immediately obvious he knew what he was doing as owner and winemaker. His label is called **La Fenetre** and he bottles under his company, **Timeless Palate**. In the 23 months since that first meeting, I had only been able to taste one of Klapper's wines, of which the allocation was too small for a formal Vinfolio offering.

Production continues to be extraordinarily tiny and I had almost given up on ever getting enough of an allocation to write about. Although it has taken awhile, I am extremely pleased to finally be able to offer the fourth vintage of Klapper's wine. The lineup includes the **2006 La Fenetre Chardonnay Bien Nacido Vineyard Block 11, VF 93, 84 cases** followed by a trio of sublime reds: **2006 La Fenetre Pinot Noir Calmant Creek Vineyard Sta. Rita Hills, VF 93, 35 cases** and **2006 La Fenetre Pinot Noir Le Bon Climat Vineyard Santa Maria Valley, VF 97, 68 cases** and the remarkably well-priced **2006 La Fenetre Syrah Santa Barbara Highlands South Mesa Santa Barbara, VF 93, 150 cases**. Moreover, I was ecstatic to learn that for the first time we could actually provide solid supply on these wines. Klapper, who sources fruit from a tableau of top vineyards, is undoubtedly on his way to greatness.

### **Reviews**

Josh Klapper has produced miniscule quantities of all vineyard-designated wines since the 2003 vintage. Hailing from the Santa Barbara region, the wines are special examples of their varieties, making Josh one of a handful of winemakers poised for greatness. Production is rarely higher than three barrels of any particular wine.



## La Fenêtre



### 2006 La Fenêtre - Chardonnay Bien Nacido Vineyard Block

VF 93

11

USA - California - Santa Barbara - Santa Maria Valley

Sourced from what is considered the top block at Bien Nacido, it shows a leesy, toasty nose with pear, beeswax and apple aromas. The palate is lean and delicate, not what one would expect from CA Chardonnay. It morphs into a firmer apple and pear acid-driven profile with air, showing elegant length. Only a quarter of the French oak barrique was new, which undoubtedly imbues this wine with less of the extracted, oaky character that would otherwise cover up the subtleties that make this wine such a delight. Drink: 2008-2011.

- Doug Wilder, *Vinfolio 174*, May 2008



### 2006 La Fenêtre - Pinot Noir Calmant Creek Vineyard

VF 93

USA - California - Santa Barbara - Santa Rita Hills

This is a new hilltop source in the Santa Rita Hills for the winery and a substantial find at that. Aged in 50% new French oak. Bright pomegranate, violet and herb/cocoa aroma with hints of earth. The palate has a wild fruit character, strawberry, mineral and spice with nice structure to the lean elegant finish. Drink: 2008-2016.

- Doug Wilder, *Vinfolio 174*, May 2008



### 2006 La Fenêtre - Pinot Noir Le Bon Climat

VF 97

USA - California - Santa Barbara - Santa Maria Valley

Le Bon Climat is quickly becoming one of my favorite sites in the Santa Maria Valley, confirmed from my tastings in the last two years at Wine Cask Futures in Santa Barbara. It has been awhile since a Pinot Noir made me weak in the knees like this. I'm talking about Dierberg Steven and Auteur-caliber excitement here. A stunningly sultry Pinot Noir with a nose of peeled blueberry, cardamom flecked honey and strawberry. The palate is delicate and smooth, with supple violet and stone fruit leading to a long finish of mineral and lilac sublimity. A thoroughly fascinating wine. Drink: 2008-2016.

- Doug Wilder, *Vinfolio 174*, May 2008



### 2006 La Fenêtre - Syrah South Mesa

VF 93

USA - California - Santa Barbara

The unprotected site gets hot, leading to very concentrated fruit. Aromas of black fig, caramel and cocoa with pulverized boysenberries. The palate is impeccably smooth with white pepper, sun dried currant and blackberry flavors. Solid acidity too. Drink: 2008-2013.

- Doug Wilder, *Vinfolio 174*, May 2008