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SPAIN & CALIFORNIA

Small is Beautiful

Just 88 Cases were made of Lavoro's Stunning 2005 Wildcat Mtn. Syrah

In California, Syrah is capable of producing characterful wines in startlingly varied *terroirs*. But the finest wines—those that marry New World richness with Old World restraint—come from sites whose climates most resemble the Northern Rhône. And one of the very best examples we've tasted is the first release from a new label, Lavoro.

Jen and Alex Beloz source their fruit from the high-altitude, windswept Wildcat Mountain vineyard in the western Carneros highlands. Here the vines tough it out through the challenges of a cool climate, constant winds and poor, rocky soil. The growing season is perhaps the longest in Sonoma County, and the result is slowly maturing fruit of great complexity.

But what sets Lavoro apart is the wine's elegance, due in part to the artisanal handling of the fruit. The fruit is completely destemmed, placed in oak barriques and

then worked by hand for extraction of structure, color and aroma. The wine is gently pressed and then returned to the barrels for sixteen months of aging. The result is a Syrah of beautiful aromatic complexity, with uncommonly fine tannins and silky texture.

Jen and Alex have crafted one of the most distinctive New World Syrahs we've yet tasted. But there isn't much of it: **just 88 cases made!** We're honored to have received a small allocation.

2005 Lavoro Syrah



The dark ruby color is followed by a seductive nose of violet, blackberry, earth, coffee, pepper, smoked meat, kirsch and licorice. There is beautiful ripeness and soft tannins on the palate, whose creamy, silky texture and great balance leads to a powerful finish.