

Wine Spectator

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WHAT TO BUY IN 2003 BORDEAUX

An Opulent
Vintage Yields
150 Wines
Rated 90+

Syrah:
California's
New Star

Barbera:
Good Value Reds

Turin:
Italy's Olympic
City



TASTING REPORT | CALIFORNIA RHÔNES

The Rhône Range

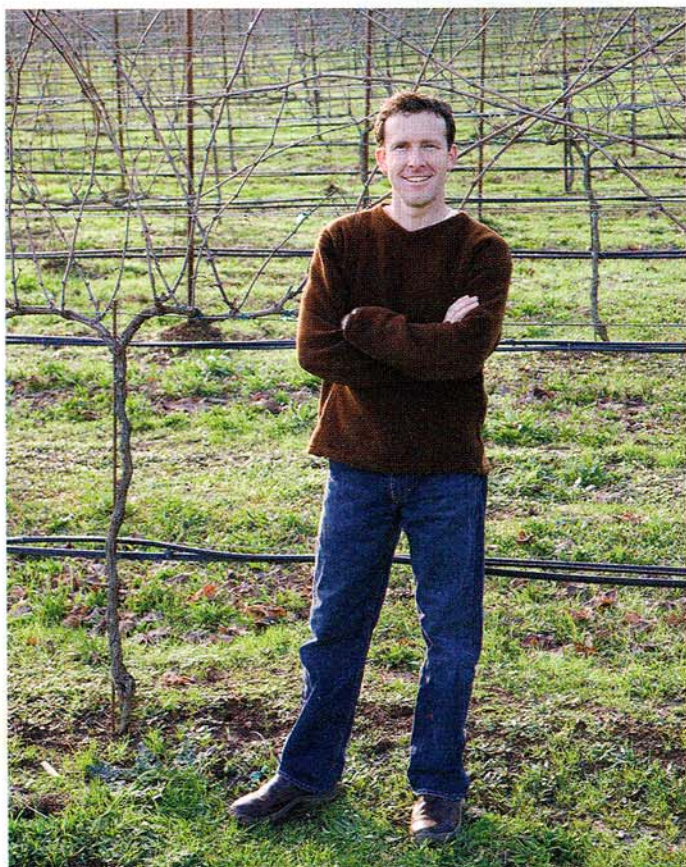
EXCITING NEW SYRAHS FROM AN ARRAY OF REGIONS

By MaryAnn Bovio

Olabisi

Winemaker Ted Osborn points to his English degree as the reason he's now a winemaker. "I have to give it some credit," he says, "It left me conveniently unemployed." Osborn found work as harvest help all over the world, and he is currently winemaker at Piña Cellars in Napa. He jokes that he created his own label as a form of job security, since winemaker jobs can be scarce. With the 2003 vintage, Osborne has three high quality releases: the Syrah Suisun Valley King Vineyard 2003 (91, \$22, 225 cases), the Petite Sirah Suisun Valley King Vineyard 2003 (88, \$35, 107 cases) and the Syrah Knights Valley Betsy's Vineyard 2003 (85, \$22, 195 cases).

Making wines from lesser-known appellations means Osborne has to make the case for them as well. "I have to sell Suisun Valley now," says Osborne. "The vineyard is 3 miles south of the Napa line. That's how you convince people it's OK to drink." In fact, Suisun is one of the oldest appellations in California, and for years growers there sold grapes to Napa and Sonoma. Osborne says that picking a name for a wine label is as difficult as naming a child. He went to a book of names and picked Olabisi, a Nigerian girl's name that means "joy multiplied."



Winemaker Ted Osborne promotes not only his Olabisi line of wines but also the Suisun Valley, one of California's oldest but least-known AVAs.

SUISUN VALLEY
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Suisun Valley One of California's Oldest AVA's

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