

**2014 Macari Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc
"Katherine's Field"**

The 2014 Sauvignon Blanc "Katherine's Field" opens a bit more delicately than the 2013 and with a bit less green, Sauvignon character, but it is, if anything, livelier, brighter and more invigorating. This youngster is rather unevolved. Letting it air and warm paid dividends. When it was too cold, it seemed bland and so-so. Letting it warm to about 58F, changed all that as the wine put on a bit of weight. More importantly, it also showed serious bite and tension on the crisp and intensely flavorful finish. The structure, purity, flavor and acidity made up for the slight delicacy in the mid-palate. In its youth, it is tightly-wound, vibrant and penetrating, with very controlled but invigorating aromatics and beautiful acidity. It's another winner for this grape and this winery, which seems to have a good touch for it. This year's version i...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

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2014 Macari Vineyards Rose

The 2014 Rosé is a dry blend of 49% Merlot, 17% Cabernet Franc, 17% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Chardonnay, 5% Malbec and 2% Viognier. Pale in color and delicate in weight, it still always seems rather persistent and dry. It holds itself together well, not showing serious concentration in the mid-palate, but not seeming to be of unoaked white wine weight, either. Overall, this is very nice, beautifully balanced, clean and concentrated enough to hold up to foods.

This family-run winery is on the North Fork at Mattituck, established in 1994. It is fair to say that they were one of the interesting wineries in this report. In particular, they get that the wines' mid-palate concentration has to balance the tannins. There is a lot of good drinking here. The winemaker is Kelly Urbanik and the consultant is Austrian Helmut Gangl.

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2010 Macari Vineyards Merlot Reserve

The 2010 Merlot Reserve is was aged for 26 months in French oak (26% new, the rest used). Sourced from 20- 25-year-old vines, it comes in at 14.2% alcohol. A nice mouthful, this shows good concentration for the appellation, fine structure and good balance. It is pretty tasty, but there is a slight herbaceous tinge and a bit of char in the background. That blew off with air—but at that point, after some 90 minutes, it wasn't as interesting any more. It had also thinned. Notwithstanding those limitations, this was still admirable for its elegance and finesse, its tightly-wound feel and some complexity. It has a nice, Bordeaux-like finish to it. There were 549 cases produced.

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2010 Macari Vineyards Viognier "Block E"

The 2010 Viognier "Block E" comes in at 12.7% alcohol and with 242 grams per liter of residual sugar. Needless to say, it is a dessert wine. It was aged for 12 months in used French oak. This was tasted from a 375ml bottle. Said Gabriella Macari: "The grapes were picked at 23 brix and put into a freezer on our farm. They were then pressed while frozen (bladder press, very slowly/gently) by our consulting winemaker, Helmut Gangl, from Burgenland, Austria. After pressing, the juice was 40 brix. The wine was fermented in neutral oak." Just luscious, this matches the high sugar content with fine acidity and works it all out in the end. Laced with apricot and peach nuances, it never seems cloying and indeed has a slightly tart edge on opening. That all comes together well as it is focused and lingering as the wine airs and warms. In my experie...

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2013 Macari Vineyards Dos Aguas

The 2013 Dos Aguas is a blend of 49% Chardonnay, 22% Riesling, 17% Sauvignon Blanc and 12% Viognier. The winery's first white blend, it is dry and unoaked. This is just what you want in the style—fresh, fruity and vibrant. With some solidity in the mid-palate, it also offers nice aromatics and a beautifully balanced presentation with some tension on the finish. Ending with tasty and focused fruit nuances, it is a nice success, not overly concentrated, but well crafted and charming. It may hold better than I think, but it is the type of white best drunk young. There were 539 cases produced.

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2013 Macari Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc "No. 1"

The 2013 Sauvignon Blanc "No. 1" is dry and unoaked. With this vintage, Macari began experimenting with a concrete egg—60% of the juice was fermented and aged in concrete, the rest in stainless steel. It seems to have worked out pretty well. This emphasizes the more vegetal nuances on the nose—a touch of broccoli. It is not quite as exuberant as its sibling, the Katharine's Field reviewed this issue. Nicely balanced, however, it is crisp and refreshing. It also has reasonable mid-palate concentration and becomes juicy and very tasty on the finish. It drinks well now and should continue to hold a reasonable time. If it does better than I think, we'll see when we get there. There were 311 cases produced.

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2010 Macari Vineyards Dos Aguas

The 2010 Dos Aguas is the winery's red blend version of this brand, mostly Merlot (81%), with roughly equal portions of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. It was aged for 26 months in French oak (only 24% new) and comes in at 14.2% alcohol. Elegant in the mid-palate but a bit tight on the finish, this is a pleasing Bordeaux blend that has freshness, some complexity and a serious feel to it. It retains its balance all the while. If someone told me in a blind tasting that this was a Cru Bourgeois, I wouldn't be all that surprised. It does "suave" very well, while not calling attention to itself at any point. There were 2,100 cases produced.

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2010 Macari Vineyards Bergen Road

The 2010 Bergen Road is the winery's Bordeaux-style blend: 56% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, 3% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot, aged for 26 months in French oak (only 30% new). One of the winery's long-standing brands (begun in 1997 and only made in 6 vintages since), this was sourced from 19- to 20-year-old vines and comes in at 14.2% alcohol. Quite beautiful, this shows fine concentration and balances its power very nicely. It tastes great, too, and finishes well. Focused and persistent, it has a serious backbone and it should continue to age well over the next decade or so. After a couple of hours in the glass, it was still drinking very well. Gabriella Macari said: "We had outstanding fruit quality—it was a dream vintage. Yields were still kept low, 2-2.5 tons/acre." There were 1,900 cases produced. That sounds like ...

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2012 Macari Vineyards Chardonnay Estate

The 2012 Chardonnay Estate is an unoaked Chard coming in a 12.6% alcohol. Vibrant, fresh and fruity, this lovely Chardonnay is invigorating, perfectly balanced and very tasty on the fruity finish. It feels youthful and it should continue to show well for the next couple of years. At the price point, it is simply impressive, more for its balance and fruit than concentration and power, though. I would drink it on the younger side and advise caution: wines like this do what they do best, be fresh and exuberant, when they are young.

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2013 Macari Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc "Katherine's Field"

The 2013 Sauvignon Blanc "Katherine's Field" is a dry, tank-fermented wine sourced from 19-20 year old vines. A lovely expression of Sauvignon Blanc, this has a touch of grass, gloriously fresh fruit and some stronger vegetal nuances lurking underneath. Well, it's Sauvignon Blanc. Some like it, some don't. This is a pretty good one, though. Showing fine acidity and tension on the finish, it a wine that Sauv Blanc purists should like a lot—invigorating, refreshing, aromatic and pointed. There were 687 cases produced.

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2010 Macari Vineyards Cabernet Franc

The 2010 Cabernet Franc was aged for 26 months in French oak (only 17% new). Sourced from 19- to 20-year-old vines, it comes in at 14.4% alcohol. This is a big mouthful, outdistancing many of the Cab Francs next to it in the flight. Showing both reasonable concentration and a fair bit of power, it controls the typical herbaceousness well and finishes nicely with a sweet edge (mostly oak-derived). If it seemed lush next to its competitors, note that it really isn't all that soft. It is, in fact, a bit on the lean, intense and pointed side, a wine that is clearly a food wine. It has some sharp edges and some astringency. I liked its ideas and general style, though. Just have your expectations in order. There were 793 cases produced.

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