



**Robert M. Parker, Jr.:** "As I have stated so many times before, Sean Thackrey's limited production gems are among the most original expressions of winemaking in California."

# SEAN THACKREY

Without a doubt, outstanding winemaker, artist/gallery-owner Thackrey is United States' most successful producer of Rhone-styled wines. In a relatively short period, Thackrey has developed an cultish following of connoisseurs seeking highly-extracted, intensely flavored, inky-black red wines that are as immensely flattering while young as they are elegant and powerful through cellaring. Ancient vines, tiny juice yields, careful selection and oak aging have made for miniscule production numbers but remarkable quality levels. Thackrey's wines are sought out by collectors and consumers as some of the most substantially flavored, unique and significantly complex wines currently produced in the U.S.

**"ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S MOST ICONIC AND MYSTICAL WINEMAKERS"** (RMP)

## **PLEIADES** Old Vines

Named for the star cluster, Pleiades is a blend of old-vine Syrah, Barbera, Zinfandel, Pinot Noir, Mourvèdre, and Grenache... maybe more. Thackrey produces Pleiades to bring a meaningful unity to individually-incomplete wines. Blending by taste, Thackrey doesn't keep track of varietal percentages so Pleiades is quite different from one year to the next. Frankly, no one knows the exact make-up of this wine... and we hope that's not a problem.

**RMP on Pleiades XVII: 91 POINTS** "The non-vintage **Pleiades XVII** is a kitchen sink blend of Carignane, Barbera, Mourvedre, Syrah, Sangiovese, and a touch of Viognier. To quote him, "It is designed to offend the wine police." Dark ruby-colored, with a vibrant nose of sweet black cherries, incense, spice box, a bit of pepper and earth, the wine is round, generous, savory, and all that a delicious, seductive, bistro/brasserie red wine should be. It cuts a relatively full, fleshy mouthfeel, but it is vibrant and super-pure, with outstanding ripeness and freshness. Drink it over the next 3-4 years."

## **AQUILA** Eaglepoint Ranch, Mendocino

100% Old Vine Sangiovese from Mendocino County. Big and fleshy with scents of leather and black cherry, slightly rustic in texture, full, good length with solid fruit on finish.

## **SIRIUS** Eaglepoint Ranch, Mendocino

Thackrey's Sirius bottlings are legendary. This wine makes Côte-Rôtie look like your great aunt's white zinfandel.

**RMP on the 2006: 95+ POINTS** "The stunning 2006 Sirius, a Petite Sirah from the Eaglepoint Ranch that produced the gorgeous Sangiovese, is about as good as Petite Sirah gets in California. Long-time readers know I am a big fan of this underrated varietal in the Golden State, which also has a terrific track record of aging for 20-30 or more years when made in the manner such as Sean Thackrey's Sirius. This wine has no hard edges but is stacked and packed with black and blue fruits, camphor, and hints of pepper and spice. Moreover, the purity of the wine, the incremental way it builds on the palate, with no hard edges, creates a lavish, even extravagant flavor profile even for Petite Sirah. This wine can be purchased now for its purity and beautiful fruit, but it will certainly last for at least two decades."

## **ANDROMEDA** Devil's Gulch Vineyard, Marin County

Thackrey's unique take on Pinot Noir. **PINOTFILE:** "A favorite was the 2002 Sean Thackrey Andromeda... a wonderfully lush and velvety wine with just a dab of Bret that incorporated over 15% alcohol seamlessly into a feast of Marin magic."

## **ORION** Rossi Vineyard, Napa Valley

Thackrey's single-vineyard old-vine Orion has been one of the world's finest Syrah bottlings since the early 1990s.

**RMP on the 2006: 98 POINTS** "As for Thackrey's flagship wine, the 2006 Orion from the Rossi Vineyard is a cuvee from a field blend of old vines planted in 1905. This wine, like so many of its previous renditions, has an inky purple/black color and a superb nose of blueberry and black raspberries intermixed with forest floor and floral undertones. Its striking aromatics are followed by a full-bodied wine with a multi-dimensional personality, terrific texture, purity, silky tannins, and a blockbuster finish. Everything is in perfect balance. The wine is superbly pure, very expressive, and a real attention grabber, but at the same time it is classic in every sense. This is a beautiful example of a wine that pays homage to pre-Prohibition pioneers and their field blends, which have fortunately been preserved in this legacy wine. Drink it over the next 15 or more years."

**PARKER on ORION: 2000: 95 Pts / 2001: 94 Pts / 2002: 96-100 Pts / 2003: 95 Pts / 2006: 98 Pts / 2007: 98+ Pts**

*Thank you for your time and for your interest in Connoisseur wines.*