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Everyday Wines: Raymond Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon

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Raymond Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon 2007

Photo: Neil Rosenberg

Raymond Vineyards, Family Classic Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 \$18.99

In 1970, Roy Raymond Sr. along with his sons Walter and Roy Jr. decided to put their family name on a winery and produced their first vintage in 1974, after working for Beringer Winery for thirty-five years. Since then, five generations of the Raymond family have worked together side-by-side to produce great wines. In 2009, Raymond vineyards became a part of Boisset Family Estates collection of wineries.

With the adapted mantra of "...the three B's - Big, Bold, Balanced - yet with refinement and elegance" the wine making team of [Raymond Vineyards](#) relies on five generations of winemaking and viticulture to produce a progressive classic style. It is unavoidable for the talented winemakers to meld with the brand's 'core foundation' and not influence the identity and personality of the wine, which they have done in the Family Classic Cabernet Sauvignon.

This wine inherently has a layered structure since it is a blend of grapes from three different regions, three different essence of terroir with three different microclimates: Napa 70%, Sonoma County 24% and Lake County 6%....and the resulting wine is classic.

Initial impression of this wine is dominated by its soft layered structure and good fruit concentration that is balanced with moderate soft tannins. The nose has a prominent cassis-like character, forward fruit and adds to the overall softness of this wine.

The finish lingers pleasantly on the palate with a slightly tannic pucker...hints of black plum, currant and cassis are reminiscent of a classic Bordeaux style. When the bottle was first opened, the wine had a slightly smoky finish, but after a while, that gave way to a more jammy character with no smokiness at all.

When the bottle was just about empty, it was hard not to notice how 'easy drinking' this wine really is.

Its style, balance and concentration lends itself to being a wine that pairs well with most red wine foods; grilled steak, cheese and baguette, beef stew or barbequed burgers, rotisserie chicken, an Italian sub stuffed with meat, cheese and toppings....a pasta dish, pizza or BLT sandwich....this is an everyday wine that is a well made wine, certainly a good buy at this price and worthy of purchasing often!

Purchased at Ferreira's Package Store, 1965 E Main RD, Portsmouth, RI 02871-1225 (401) 683-9598