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BOB PEPI UNVEILS TWO NEW “EPONYMOUS” WINES

-- Cabernet Franc and Syrah Varietals Join the Label --

Oakville, CA – Being a consulting winemaker for nearly 20 years, Californian Robert L. Pepi has had the opportunity to work with exceptional vineyards throughout the state. As he would drive the back roads tending to his clients’ vines, he would see properties that did not match his clients’ needs, but that excited him with their potential for quality wines. As he has noted “these vineyards were the impetus for starting my own label.”

The first wine he created for himself after his family sold their vineyards, winery and the family name to Kendall Jackson in the early 1990s, was Eponymous Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2000, a single-vineyard wine from a small parcel of land 250 feet above the Silverado Trail on the East side of the Valley just below the Atlas Peak Appellation. Another vineyard that “caught his eye” and his heart was another small parcel of land, again near the top of a mountain in the Mayacamus Mountain range, near the Mt. Veeder ridge on the Sonoma side. From those vineyards, he created Eponymous MacAllister Vineyards Red Blend 2003, with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc grapes filling out the blend.

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In 2009, he was so happy with the Cabernet Franc from MacAllister that he chose to produce a varietal, which he has just released. It is 91% Cabernet Franc, with 9% Cabernet Sauvignon added (also coming from the MacAllister Vineyard).

According to Bob “the complexity and intensity of the aromas are evident from the moment the cork is popped, with aromas hinting of blueberries, spice, violets and orange blossom.” The wine has a nicely-balanced mouthfeel, from entry to finish, a medium body with a tannic structure that is restrained but sufficient to allow for at least five-to-seven years of graceful aging.

That same year, Bob found a relatively young Syrah vineyard east of the town of Napa, on Monticello Road. From this vineyard, he has made a lovely Syrah, with just a hint of Cabernet Sauvignon, that is full-bodied and well-balanced, with good weight and grip that glides evenly across the palate. It has a complexity of aromas that hint of black pepper, rosemary and a touch of smoky, oven-roasted meat dripping character that is typical of the best Syrahs. The flavors follow the palate, with added spice notes and a lingering finish.

As Bob has stated from the beginning of Eponymous, he will continue to extend the label to make the “best-expression” of varietals from various regions in CA, such as a Pinot Noir from Anderson Valley, coming in 2012.

Both Eponymous Cabernet Franc and Syrah are available in fairly limited quantities, at suggested retail prices of \$49.99 for the Cabernet Franc and \$35.99 for the Syrah, and are sold exclusively by Quintessential, the family-owned Napa-based wine import, marketing and sales company with which Bob has been associated since the company’s founding nearly 8 years ago.

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