

San Francisco Chronicle

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

WINEMAKERS TO WATCH

Murray's Passion For Rhones Shows In his Syrahs And his Blends

Andrew Murray, renowned for Rhone-style wines, is the son of a family that ran Mexican restaurants in Southern California. Just after he graduated from high school, the family planted grapes on 15 acres near Santa Barbara.

The land became Murray's passion and his home, except for a stint in Australia studying the making of Shiraz, Australia's version of Syrah, and getting a bachelor's degree in viticulture from University of California at Davis.

Murray, who lives at the winery with his wife and son, has often been singled out as probably the youngest important California winemaker. He'd rather not trade on his

age, but be known for his beloved Rhone wines -- three Syrahs (the Hillside Reserve, Les Coteaux and Roasted Slope Vineyard); a Viognier, and white and red blends.



Andrew Murray, 27
ANDREW MURRAY
VINEYARDS
SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

*Wine he would serve
an important dinner guest:*

1997 Hillside Reserve Syrah (\$32).
"It's the best wine we ever made -- red or white -- full-bodied, rich, with lots of fruit and spice. It's drinkable now, but it will be great in 10, 15 years."

THE CHRONICLE'S TOP 100 WINES

SYRAH

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Andrew Murray Vineyards 1996 Syrah "Hillside Reserve" \$30

White pepper, ripe blackberries, lively fruit with the backbone of a great Northern Rhone Syrah.

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