

# SMITH-MADRONE

www.smithmadrone.com

wine**review**online.com

Robert Whitley, WineReviewOnline.com

## *“Long Lasting Napa Valley Cabernets”*



### **2005 Cabernet Sauvignon**

“...a Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon that recently impressed me, the 2005 Smith-Madrone. This is the sort of young Cabernet I prize. It has firm structure, is well balanced, and another five to six years in my cellar would be beneficial. Of course, I expect nothing less from the Smith brothers, Charlie and Stuart, who’ve been making great Cab up on Spring Mountain for the past quarter-century. They are farmers, for one thing, and don’t have their finger to the wind to determine which way the critics—yes, people like me—are leaning. They just do what they do best: get their grapes ripe, don’t overdo it, and sell their wine at a fair price.

I remember when the cost of new French oak barrels spiked a few years ago. Rather than absorb the financial blow and raise prices, Smith-Madrone switched to less costly American oak. “Hey,” Stu Smith told me at the time, “if it’s good enough for Silver Oak.” Indeed, the Smith-Madrone wines are as good as ever. The Chardonnay is ripe but restrained, and the Riesling is among the finest made in America. And if Silver Oak is the model for their Cabernet, well, that’s not such a bad thing.”