



March, 2006

2003 Léal Vineyards Carnavál Meritage, San Benito

Four Stars, Highly Recommended

Round, rich and full bodied, a blend with good depth of fruit (berries, plum) evident new oak, and a long, mildly tannic finish.



RONN WIEGAND

Master of Wine, Master Sommelier

Léal Vineyards is the creation and collaboration of owner Frank Léal and winemaker Dave "Griff" Griffith. Their motto? "Phat wines - no pretense." Their mission is to fashion truly exceptional wines that appeal to connoisseur and novice alike. The scenic 45-acre Léal estate grows San Benito County - appellated Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Syrah, Grenache, and Mourvèdre. Nestled in the rolling foothills of Hollister in California's Central Coast region, the winery was hand built in 1999 with an eye to both tradition and cutting-edge technique. The property boasts a welcoming Tasting Room, open daily, and Lavánda (lavender in Portuguese), a state-of-the-art event and wedding facility. The winery's on-line home is LealVineyards.com - a fun, informative website that reflects Frank and Griff's dedicated yet irreverent approach to crafting world-class vintages. Léal Vineyards:
"Fine Wines and Good Times...It's the Shiznit!"