



"One of California's most iconic and mystical winemakers." – RMP

# SEAN THACKREY

*"As I have stated so many times before, Sean Thackrey's limited production gems are among the most original expressions of winemaking in California."*  
- Robert M. Parker



Over the last twenty-five years, winemaker Sean Thackrey has developed a cultish following of thrill-seeking wine connoisseurs, a vini-vanguard in love with these highly extracted, intensely flavored, inky behemoths that are as flattering in youth as they are impressive in maturity. Ancient vines, tiny yields, and generous oak regimen have made for miniscule production but remarkable quality. These wines are widely considered among the most wonderfully ideosyncratic, substantially flavored, and significantly complex wines produced in the U.S.

## LYRA Viognier Noble Vineyard Knight's Valley, Sonoma County

*Sean Thackrey: "Ripeness was all for traditional Viognier; it was a sweet wine, which this is not, but we have done everything in our power to express in our Lyra the same extraordinary voluptuousness of aromas, complex palate of tropical fruits and flowers, and richness of texture that its ancestors must have flaunted. It is not a wine for puritans, oenological or otherwise, and bears little resemblance to most other white wines. Those whom it seduces will revel in the experience."*

perfectly ripened Viognier from the hands of Sean Thackrey, the Bay Area's most celebrated artisan vintner; stone fruit and melon scents are echoed on the palate; appealing, bright fruit, good texture

*Steve Heimhoff on the 2011: **92 POINTS** "Fine acidity and some dusty tannins give structure to this Viognier, grown in a mountain benchland between the Russian River and Napa Valleys. It's ripe with orange, tropical fruit and kiwi flavors and accented with toasty oak influences, yet finishes dry and clean."*

## PLEIADES XXIII Old Vine

Named for the star cluster, Syrah, Pinot Noir, Carignane, Barbera, Mourvèdre, Sangiovese, Viognier... probably other grapes. According to Thackrey, the idea behind Pleiades is to take wines that are incomplete on their own and organize them with meaningful unity. Thackrey blends by taste and doesn't keep track of varietal percentages, so Pleiades can be quite different from one year to the next. Frankly, no one knows the exact make-up of this wine... and we hope that's not a problem.

## SIRIUS Petite Sirah Eaglepoint Ranch Mendocino County

*RMP: **95+ POINTS** "The stunning 2006 Sirius, a Petite Sirah from the Eaglepoint Ranch that produced the gorgeous Sangiovese, is about as good as Petite Sirah gets in California... This wine has no hard edges but is stacked and packed with black and blue fruits, camphor, and hints of pepper and spice. Moreover, the purity of the wine, the incremental way it builds on the palate, with no hard edges, creates a lavish, even extravagant flavor profile even for Petite Sirah."*

*RMP: 2006: **95+pts**; 2003: **93pts**; 2002: **90pts**; 2001: **96pts**; 1991: **93pts**; 1990: **93pts**; 1989: **90pts***

## ANDROMEDA Pinot Noir Devil's Gulch Vineyard Marin County

*Pinotfile: "A favorite was the 2002 Sean Thackrey Andromeda. This was a wonderfully lush and velvety wine with just a dab of Bret that incorporated over 15% alcohol seamlessly into a feast of Marin magic."*

## CASSIOPEIA Pinot Noir Wentzel Vineyard Anderson Valley

Sean Thackrey pursues knowledge – he's a scientist of sorts, concocting experiments with grapes to tantalize the senses. Cassiopeia explores clonal influence and is not a single wine but instead a suite of related Pinot Noir: four single-clone Pinot bottlings from different Dijon clones grafted to identical rootstock, planted at the same time, and farmed identically at Anderson Valley's Wentzel Vineyard. Cassiopeia also refers to a finished blend that demonstrates how idiosyncratic clonal expressions inform and complete a multi-dimensional, unified product. As Thackrey says, *"they are all charming, and can be tasted with pleasure, but I think with less enlightenment than will be the case when they are mature and their full individual characters have bloomed..."*

## ORION Syrah Rossi Vineyard Napa Valley

*RMP: 2008: **95pts**; 2007: **98+pts**; 2006: **98pts**; 2003: **95pts**; 2002: **96-100pts**; 2001: **94pts**; 2000: **95pts***

*Thank you for your time and for your interest in Connoisseur wines.*

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