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2004 Kapcsandy Proprietary Red Wine

A breakthrough effort, the 2004 Proprietary Red Wine State Lane Vineyard is a combination of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. Its dense ruby/purple color is accompanied by lovely, evolved aromas of blueberries, black currants, white chocolate, licorice, and pain grille. Medium to full-bodied, elegant, finely etched, and impeccably well-balanced, with abundant amounts of sweet fruit, it should evolve for another 15-20 years. **95 Points - Robert Parker**

This is a new operation owned by the Kapcsandy family, who purchased the old State Lane Vineyard from Beringer and have completely replanted this Yountville site with tightly spaced vines (2700 vines per acre). The goal is to produce Bordeaux-styled wines, and there are approximately 1400 cases of the 2004 Proprietary Red, a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. A tiny amount of 2003 was also made, but I am not sure it will be released. The winemakers are Bordelais Denis Malbec, and the former winemaker of the Napa Wine Co., Rob Lawson. The dark ruby/purple-tinged 2004 exhibits tremendous elegance as well as a sweet perfume of cherries, cassis, gravel, and spice, elegant, medium to full-bodied flavors, sweet tannin, beautiful purity, and a savory, expansive mouthfeel as well as finish displaying a seamless integration of acidity, wood, and tannin. I was surprised to hear this cuvee was aged in 100% new Taransaud barrels as the oak component is subtle. This cuvee will benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age, and should last for two decades. This impressive, beautifully packaged debut release could be compared to a top wine from Bordeaux's Graves region. This estate appears to be an up and coming star.