

QUPE

This was Qupé's year for whites. A *W&S American Winery of the Year* four times now, in the past Bob Lindquist's syrahs have always held top place in our tastings of Qupé's wines. This year his work with the white Rhône varieties in the 2002 vintage blew past the reds. Yet either way Qupé's wines stand as some of California's top expressions of the Rhône varieties.

Certainly Lindquist was one of the first winemakers to understand the potential for syrah on the ocean-cooled hillsides of the Central Coast for syrah. His Central Coast syrah, blended from twelve different vineyards throughout the region, has long been one of



Bob Lindquist, winemaker, Qupé

★ 14 Wines Tasted | 8 Recommended

94	'02 Santa Ynez Valley Ibarra-Young Vineyard Viognier \$25 (12/03)
93	'02 Santa Ynez Valley Marsanne \$15 (12/03)
91	'01 Santa Maria Valley Hillside Estate Bien Nacido Vineyard Syrah \$40 (10/04)
90	'02 Arroyo Grande Valley Rancho Arroyo Grande Syrah \$30 (10/04)
90	'02 Santa Barbara County Colson Canyon Vineyard Syrah \$30 (10/04)
88	'01 Central Coast Syrah \$15 (12/03)
88	'02 Central Coast Syrah \$15 (6/04)
87	'02 Santa Ynez Valley Los Olivos Cuvee Red Blend \$22 (10/04)

the great values in California wine, and his Hillside Estate Syrah, from a small parcel in the Bien Nacido vineyard, has scored 90+ in our tastings for five years running. But what made the '02 vintage in the Santa Ynez Valley so good for whites? Lindquist says, "Overall it was a cooperative weather year, and I didn't mess it up — we were able to really nail it with the balance of sugar and acidity."

He's right. The '02 Ibarra-Young Viognier has the depth of a great Condrieu, full of peach flavor, grape-skin spice and firm minerality, while Qupé's '02 Marsanne is a wonder at only \$15: rich, loaded with quince and apple flavor, fresh and potent. Buy a case. Shoot, buy a truckload. You won't be disappointed. — R.I.

Founded: 1982 **Winemaker:** Bob Lindquist **Acres owned:** None **Annual production:** 25,000 cases **Estate grown:** N/A

Owners: Bob & Louisa Lindquist **Known for:** Being the original Rhône Ranger in California's Central Coast **Location:** Los Olivos, CA **Website:** qupe.com