



APRIL 2006 NEWSLETTER

FORTRESS
VINEYARDS

SAUVIGNON BLANC 2004



***A shockingly refined wine that can compete
with the finest Sauvignons from the Loire Valley***

Here's a new name for us and we think it's going to make a lot of noise. The Snider family own 340 acres on Benson Ridge in California's Lake County, which is becoming know as a world-class Sauvignon Blanc growing region ala New Zealand. At elevations of 1,200 feet and higher, vineyards in Lake County are primarily planted on unique soils consisting of an array of volcanic, pyroclastic and sedimentary materials. The Sniders call their estate "FORTRESS" because the granite rock hills that buttress the vineyard literally form a wall around the property. This fabulous wine is made from the "Musque" clone of Sauvignon Blanc, which produces the great Sauvignons of the Loire Valley in France. A step above the usual with very distinctive, almost chiseled features of limestone, citrus, buttered peas and a remarkable presence on the palate. It's the best Sauvignon we've tasted this year – this is a virtual Tour de Force.