

NEYERS VINEYARDS

2006 Mourvèdre 'Pato Vineyard' – My love affair with Domaine Tempier and their Mourvèdre began in the late 1970's when Alice Waters arranged for us to visit as guests of the owners. I was smitten. No surprise, then, that I found it impossible to turn down Rich Pato's offer of the small crop of Mourvèdre from the 100 year-old vines on his Oakley ranch when they became available in 2006. Mourvèdre is a variety that resists oxidation, making it frequently one of the longest-lived of all red wines. It's uniquely expressive as well, combining elements of fruit, mineral, earth and leather into a package that can be greater than the sum of its parts. I was so impressed with the wine Tadeo Borchardt made from these grapes that I set aside a pallet for myself. If I drink a bottle every five days, it will last me ten years. That should be just about right.

