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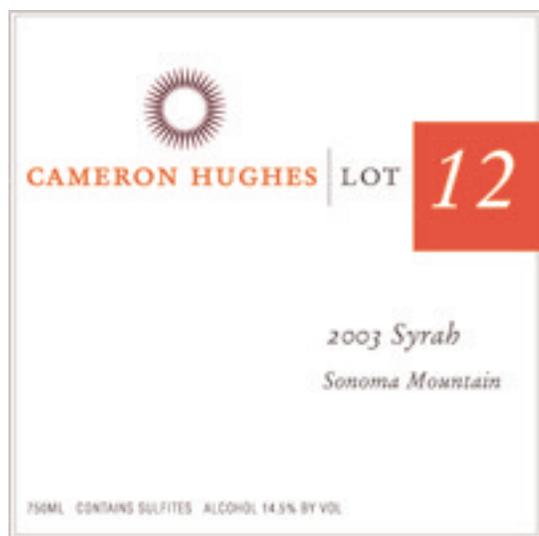
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Cameron Hughes Wine 2003 Syrah (Sonoma Mountain)

Cameron Hughes is a negociant Robin Hood, going around scooping up rich red wines and selling them at working-man prices. Specifically, he works the spot market for barrels or tanks of nearly finished wine – not the cast-off stuff that a winery couldn't sell, but the smaller lots of excellent wine that, for whatever

reason, did not make it into the final blend of something with a brand name. Then he finishes them for near-term drinking and sells them for a song. *His ten-buck 2002 Knights Valley Cabernet ("Lot 5" for those of you who are counting) was among my top value wines for 2005.*

Hughes is up to Lot 12 with his 2003 Sonoma Mountain Syrah, and he's also up to the comparatively lofty price of \$15. Never fear, however, for Robin Hood has been here. *The wine blooms in your glass with all the things that make Syrah Syrah: meat, earth, and blood right along with the red plums, raspberries and black cherries. All the aromas pour fourth into flavors in your mouth, and the wine picks up a sweet vanilla dimension and some pleasing tannic grip past the mid-palate.* The fruit is, as Hughes intends, way forward; yet the wine also has the persistence and finesse in the finish of a \$30 Syrah (which is what this would have cost if Robin Hood had not swept in).

Let's have "Lots" more of these, please!

Reviewed July 1, 2006 by [Thom Elkjer](#).

The Wine...

Winery: [Cameron Hughes Wine](#)
Vintage: 2003
Wine: Syrah
Appellation: [Sonoma Mountain](#)
Grape: [Syrah](#) | [Shiraz](#)
Price: \$15.00

Review Date: 7/1/2006

The Reviewer...



Thom Elkjer

Thom Elkjer has been reviewing wines professionally for more than ten years. He has contributed to Wine Spectator and Wine Enthusiast, served as Wine Editor for Wine Country Living and is Wine Editor for WineCountry.Com. He also writes for newspapers and magazines in the U.S. and Europe and judges at major international wine competitions.