

Bloom is on the rosé for Arizona vintner

by **Mark Tarbell** - Aug. 13, 2008 12:00 AM
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There's a new star in Arizona winemaking, and his name is Eric Glomski. I've tasted wines made by Eric, so I wasn't shocked at the quality he has crafted into these three offerings, put to market by Arizona veteran wine guy Sam Pillsbury.

2006 Pillsbury Wine Company "Rose," Cochise County (\$16) - I applaud any rosé that weighs in at 11.5 percent alcohol, but add extra kudos because it's from Arizona. This is reportedly a one-time wine because all the vines from the high-altitude vineyard were pulled up after harvest. The color is textbook rose with a little onion-skin sheen to it. The aroma is delicate and balanced with clean, focused fruit and pleasant desert dust. The taste is bright and crisp with good concentration and a riper, warmer, fruit finish. 89 points

2006 Pillsbury Wine Company "Roan Red," Cochise County (\$22-\$25) - It's 45 percent Mourvedre, 40 percent Grenache, 10 percent Syrah, 5 percent Petite Syrah. This Rhone-style red comes in at a modest 13.7 percent alcohol, low by today's standards for classic varietals. The color is lighter than expected, too, with good brightness and

graduation to the rim. The aroma is complex with leather, dark cherry - real bouquet of whiffs. It tastes very classically Rhone, with the fruit making a narrow but forceful run down the palate; none of the jamminess and sugary characters so prevalent today. It's impressive in an old-style-Rhone way. 93 points

2006 Pillsbury Wine Company "Diva," Cochise County (\$34-\$36) - It's 68 percent Syrah, 16 percent Mourvedre, 16 percent Petite Syrah. This is a much bigger wine at 14.4 percent alcohol, and the color shows it. It's deep, vibrant purple/ruby with good concentration. The aroma has concentrated ripe dark berry fruit. The taste has more tannin and wood structure, and the fruit is warm and pleasant with a touch of pepper. 87 points

Another star in the wine world is the trend toward clever names. These three fell into the "loved it" category. My goal was to see whether it's all marketing cleverness or whether there is "real" wine in the bottles.

2005 Murphy's Law Red Wine, Columbia Valley, Washington, (\$14-\$16) - "If anything can go wrong, it will." The cleverly written back label is funny, and textbook reverse psychology. The wine itself is a good, dark red, slightly opaque. The aroma has fruit, but spice and warmth come through. The taste is warm and soft with a

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spicy ripe finish. 83 points

2005 Monkey Business Cabernet Sauvignon, North Coast, California

(\$10-\$12) - This label describes most of the wine business today. The color is solid and concentrated. The aroma has some crafting, red cedar wood, bright ripe raspberry and currant. The taste is full, with plenty of wood tannin, some vanilla, and lush fruit. 87 points

2004 First Drop Mother's Milk Shiraz, Barossa, Australia (\$15-\$16) - Those Aussies have a sense of humor. The comic strip-style label and the "disclaimer" are a hoot. The wine inside is as dark as night. The aroma, at first and at last, is jam-jam-jammy with some plum fruit in the middle. The taste is surprisingly structured and restrained, which belies the ripeness in the nose. Most Shiraz these days is pushing 16 percent alcohol, and this one, at 14.5 percent, actually has balance and structure in the palate. 88 points

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