

**Grey Wolf Cellars****NV Lone Wolf, Red Blend
(Paso Robles)**

Everything you want in a gorgeous, easy to drink blend that is **not** Zinfandel, but is Paso Robles-ripe, awaits you in this nicely crafted wine. The "Lone Wolf" definitely has its place apart from the pack amongst the Grey Wolf assortment. Of all the wines [Joe Barton](#) has made recently, this is the most embraceable since [Soulmate](#), his wonderful GSM blend that had everyone talking at last year's "Passion for Paso" trade tasting. The addition of some Bordeaux character here really gives the wine another dimension, almost like adding an entire basement to an already interesting two-story house. Joe, a graduate of Cal Poly, has discovered he really enjoys doing blends, and has partnered with an outstanding vineyard manager and grower who specializes in Rhone varieties, as well as all the Bordeaux grapes.

This wine has definite Cab notes on the nose with big patches of briar and pepper, with tantalizing spice and meatiness from the Syrah. It delivers flavors of bright cranberries, juniper, cardamom, and hints of nutmeg, and practically vibrates with possibility. There is a very mysterious middle, where the Mourvedre comes into play. It is always such a wolf-like predator, stalking down its prey.

The oak is still unsheathing its dagger at every opportunity. If you want to really enjoy this wine, let it age for a year or two. Right now, however, you could really enjoy this with a lamb salad with quince, fennel, feta and olives with balsamic vinaigrette, or a skirt steak with pepper jack cheese and adobo sauce.

(Alc: 13.9%, Retail: \$15)

Reviewed April 18, 2007 by [Laura Ness](#).

THE WINE

Winery: [Grey Wolf Cellars](#)

Vintage: NV

Wine: Lone Wolf, Red Blend

Appellation: [Paso Robles](#)

Grapes: [Mourvedre / Mataro \(50%\)](#), [Cabernet Sauvignon \(30%\)](#), [Syrah / Shiraz \(20%\)](#)

Price: \$15.00

THE REVIEWER**Laura Ness**

A wine writer and wine judge for major publications and competitions around the country, Laura Ness likens wine to the experience of music. She is always looking for that ubiquitous marriage of rhythm, melody, and flawless execution. What is good music? You know it when you get lost in it. What is good wine? It is music in your mouth.