

Garry Crittenden's Catto Nero d'Avola The Wine Front 92/100

I don't yet have a bottle image, but I'll do something in time; it's worth it, the label design is a beauty. This is a new wine from retired-but-you-can't-stop-him wine-maker Garry Crittenden. Garry Crittenden is of course the person responsible for bringing Italian varieties to the masses, so to speak; his work with these varieties was pioneering in this country to say the least. It turns out that, unbeknownst to him, and only recently discovered, his (sadly, late) wife Margaret has Italian ancestry. Her ancestral surname is Catto. This wine is something of a dabble and yet it's also heart and soul stuff, almost by accident.

And what a delightful wine it is. Truly delightful. I'd say that it's arrestingly good save for the fact that it's quieter than that. It has an elegance, unusual for this variety. Leather, raspberry, earth and sweet meat characters flow charmingly throughout, fine fingers of tannin then dancing through the finish. It's the kind of wine you want to buy by the case.