



## Bill McIver's 1998 Sauvignon Blanc

Up in Mendocino, Bill admits that he is stingy with this wine. It was bottled at the Matanzas Creek winery that Bill and Sandra McIver founded in 1977 and sold to Kendall-Jackson several years ago. The last vintage that Bill and Sandra harvested, crushed and produced was in 1999. This particular bottle, the one we will drink tonight, comes from the year before, and there are not many left. It is crisp and dry, matured in French oak. Bill's instructions were to let the bottle "rest" for a week, so the wine can recover from its shipment to us. Well, the week is up and we'll pop the cork tonight. Recently Bill saw an email in which I declared that my palate was not up to the task of assessing this wine, that I would have to depend on Stewart and Michelle and Yoshi to do so. Bill replied: "The SB is a perfect turkey wine accompaniment. I hope your friends like it. By the way, you do so have a palate, we all do. Sandra and I used to give a lecture to small groups at wine and food events. We called it 'Everyone Has a Palate.' And your palate doesn't really need training or experience. In fact, your nose tells you all you need to know about wine, same as it does with food, and I believe fervently that table wine is food. Say hi to Yoshi. That pretty girl doesn't question her palate, I'll bet."

**Jackson Sellers, Christmas 2005**