

# Alameda Made

## R&B Cellars



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### SAXY SYRAH AND SAUVIGNON SERENADES

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It's music to winemaker Kevin Brown's ears when someone takes a sip of one of his R&B Cellars vintages, and he observes it striking a harmonious chord that blends conviviality, celebration and pleasure. The musical overtones are no coincidence. Brown is a musician. He plays jazz piano. His wife, Barbara, sings. In fact, it was the challenge of earning a living as a jazz musician in New York City nearly 20 years ago that got him into the wine business. "A friend told me about a wine-marketing job and said, 'you're a good salesman. Who don't you apply?'"

He did—and subsequently worked for 14 years as Rosenblum Cellars' director of sales and marketing. During that time, he and Kent Rosenblum jointly bought a vineyard in the Russian River and, as a side project independent of Rosenblum Cellars, they formed R&B Cellars, initially to produce a high-end reserve Cabernet Sauvignon. "At first R&B was a hobby," says Brown, who bought out Rosenblum's interest in 2003. Brown has subsequently grown the boutique winery by increasing production to include affordable Zinfandel, Syrah, Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Franc.

It was three years ago that Kevin and Barbara, with their sons, Ivan and Ryan, moved into an 1880 Victorian on San Jose Avenue. Brown had been making his wine at Rosenblum Cellars' Alameda facility. Space constraints led him to move R&B Cellars production to Santa Rosa, but their Alameda residence remains the R&B headquarters, where they play their music and offer tastings by appointment. Not only that, but they have fully embraced the Island community with wine dinners and help with sponsorship of, for example, the Alameda Meals on Wheels annual wine-tasting fundraiser.

R&B, in case your feet aren't tapping, stands for "rhythm and blues." The wines have musical names, the labels musical images, and the Browns want the grapes to carry music from our taste buds to our hearts. Blow the trumpet and drink to happy times.

***To arrange a tasting and find out where you can find R&B Cellars wines, call (510) 749-8477.***

***Read more and order online at [www.rbcellars.com](http://www.rbcellars.com).***

***—Wanda Hennig***