

**Fife Vineyards****2005 L'Attitude 39
(Mendocino)**

Let me start with an observation about what this wine does NOT have... *Attitude!* In my opinion, that is all for the good. If you want oenological arrogance and show-off flavors, look elsewhere.

This is a well crafted and modest wine. Not a "little" wine, but rather an understated, interesting wine to explore and "get to know" over the course of a meal. There's a nice meld of berries, tobacco, and earth here - a Rhone-style chorus singing over a soft continuo of tannins and restrained alcohol.

With these varietals sourced from the Mendocino hills, perhaps the wine would be better named *Attitude!*. Whatever the name, it is a real treat to find wines like this for a mere twenty bucks. You'd pay three times as much for real *Attitude!*

Reviewed March 1, 2008 by [Roger Dial](#).

THE WINE

Winery: Fife Vineyards

Vintage: 2005

Wine: L'Attitude 39

Appellation: Mendocino

Grapes: Grenache (38%), Syrah / Shiraz (36%),
Carignane (19%), Petite Sirah (7%)

Price: \$20.00

THE REVIEWER**Roger Dial**

Under various hats
(winegrower/maker/negotiant/writer)
Roger Dial has been tasting wine professionally for 40 years. He regards varietal and regional diversity as the best virtues of wine, and is ever-suspicious of the quest (by producers and critics, alike) for "universal greatness". His tasting regime is simple: Is the wine technically sound? Is it interesting? Warning: he's a sucker for all aromatic varieties.