

# T O R

## TOR ROCK Syrah Hudson Vineyard, Hommage Allan, 2009

Blend: 100% Syrah  
Production: 225 cases  
Release date: July 2011



This bottling has evolved into our best Rhone wine of the vintage. In the past it has been Grenache and Syrah of different proportions. This year it is all Syrah. We have held back the Grenache for a later release by itself in 2012.

### Vintage

Almost perfection. Unlike the year before, frost was not an issue, weather was ideal for bud break, bloom and set. The growing season as a whole represents one of the most uniform I can remember with a minor heat spike in June, another in August, and none all the way through harvest. The blemish came in the way of a mid-October wet storm, the tail end of a typhoon coming across the Pacific that dropped several inches of warm rain. We hung our block in Hudson two weeks after the storm, until the seeds tasted like walnuts – and the flavors were as fully mature. The hang time was as long as any year we have worked with this outstanding vineyard.

### Vineyard

Hudson Vineyard, Carneros Napa Valley. Alban and Syrah Noir Clones.

### Winemaking

Great Syrah for us is the most labor-intensive wine we make, the fruit has to be thinned multiple times in the vineyard. In years like 2009, with long hang time we introduce whole cluster fermentations; this means we ferment with clusters of grapes still on their stems. This is a very labor-intensive process. After fermentation, the wine is pressed directly to small French Burgundy barrels. Our Syrah's are then aged with little racking for 23 months before being bottled unfiltered and unfinned.

### Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The nose on the 2009 Hommage Allan screams of the Rhone, especially Hermitage. There are roasted meats/game/dark spices/cloves and a remarkable floral quality. On the palate the wine is medium/full weight with great concentration as well a fresh/bright/lifted middle. The combination of the richness and the elegance make this wine unique among the Allan's that we have done.

*"...shows gorgeous varietal definition and nuance...the wine fleshes out beautifully in the glass, showing off its classiness and pedigree, two of the many qualities it has in spades."*

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Robert Parker's  
*The Wine Advocate*  
December 2011