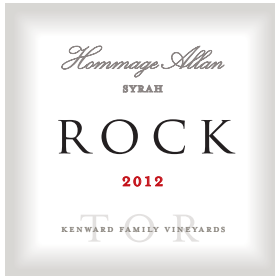


T O R



TOR ROCK Syrah Hommage Allan, 2012

Blend: 100% Syrah
Production: 275 cases
Release date: July 2014

Vintage

It is funny, but “classic” and “perfect” are words bantered about a lot regarding this bountiful, beautiful vintage. To me it was “classic” growing conditions - early bud break, no frost damage, relatively dry spring, with less than an inch in April, then nothing till October, and less than an inch that final month of harvest. One heat spike in June, another in early October, but just beautiful otherwise, with very cool evenings and warm, idyllic days. It was a great year to be a farmer. A vintner had to beware, for after two very short crops in 2010 and 2011 - 2012 set a big crop that had to be thinned many times. By paying very close attention to the crop in each block, I can use the word, “perfect”. Man had to interfere to bring things into balance for what will easily be termed a great vintage.

Vineyards

We are very impressed with this vineyard site. Our Syrah block is a steep climb up the Conn Valley foothills between St. Helena and Lake Hennessey. The orientation of the vines climbing the hill offers good sun exposure, and the soils are restrictive clay and rock. Syrah likes it here, especially when farmed by Jim Barbour, who knows that Syrah clusters and canopy need thinning to bring the fruit to full maturity. Walking the vineyard at harvest, I felt the crop was in balance and the clusters smaller than I see in most California Syrah sites. You will be seeing many more Syrah’s from La Herradura Vineyard.

Winemaking

The 2012 Hommage Allan is the biggest, baddest Syrah for TOR since the 2006 Hudson Vineyard Syrah. This was fermented, destemmed and in an open top tank using mostly pump overs. We left the wine on its skins for an additional 12 days past dry since the wine continued to gain additional richness and nuances as the skins gave up more and more intensity. Like all our wines, this went to bottle unfinned and unfiltered.

Winemaker’s Tasting Notes

The nose on this 2012 Allan just explodes with sage, grilled meat, black pepper and sweet tobacco. On the palate this wine is very rich and full bodied. This shows mostly black fruit, dried herbs and BBQ spices. The finish on this sails on forever and only starts to taper off after 40 seconds. This is a Syrah to take and enjoy with your best friends or pair with your favorite meal. While this is great now it should slowly age and evolve into an even more amazing wine over the next 5 years.