

TOR

TOR ROCK Grenache Cuvée Cooper, 2009

Blend: 50% Terra Bella Vineyard - Westside, Paso Robles
50% Judge Family Vineyard, Bennett Valley
Production: 100 cases
Release Date: February 2012



Vintage

These two vineyards required the longest amount of hang time from bud break to harvest than any other vineyards we worked with in 2009. No spring frost, the season was long and cool – one heat spike in June – then rain on October 15th, followed by an amazing Indian Summer until November harvest. The long hang time and cool conditions made wines of exceptional balance, color and nuance.

Vineyards

I look at this wine as the best of two worlds. The limestone west Paso viticultural area is arguably now the hottest in California for Syrah, Grenache and other Rhone varietals. Its terrior in years like 2009 promotes healthy sugars with very low pH, and good acidity. In fact, to reach what we call optimum ripeness when there is no greenness to seeds and fruit, the fruit has to be riper than the cooler sites in Northern California, like Bennett Valley, where we also source Grenache from the Judge Family Vineyard. Here the soils are rock, clay and adobe, and seem to like Rhone varietals in particular. These two worlds came together in 2009 for just 100 cases.

Winemaking

In both of these vineyards there are only a few acres planted to Grenache, most are planted to Syrah. But in both vineyards it is the Grenache we prize. We made the decision to make 100% Grenache after almost two years in small neutral barrique. Two barrels of Terra Bella, and two barrels of Judge Family made the final cut. The rest of the Grenache we sold off, keeping only the best barrels to make this wine.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The 2009 Cuvée Cooper shows mostly red fruits - spicy red cherry, incense, spice and earth on the nose. On the palate this is medium weight with youthful bracing acidity, cloves, and mint. The finish is long and complex with lingering notes of smoke, blackberries and BBQ brisket. Certainly drinkable now, this wine is nowhere near its peak. Drink now-2016.

"Tor Kenward was a Rhone wine enthusiast long before those wines became fashionable. In an attempt to emulate some of the top-notch French Rhones, he has sought out cool vineyard sites in the Bennett Valley and southern Napa..."

Robert Parker's
The Wine Advocate
December 2008