

T O R

TOR ROCK Syrah Hudson Vineyard, Hommage Allan, 2010

Blend: 96% Syrah, Hudson Vineyard; 4% Grenache, Terra Bella Vineyards
Production: 200 cases
Release date: July 2012

Vintage

2010 is like 2009 in that it produced wines of great intensity, nerve, and character, but it did so in a very different way. Both vintages were cool ones with long hang time but 2009 started earlier and ended earlier. In 2010, spring was wet and late. Bud break was late, veraison was late, harvest was late, but thankfully September gave us ideal weather to bring our fruit in from Hudson and Terra Bella in superb shape. August was marked by a significant heat blast that presented another twist. We had to thin in the field, removing any grapes affected, and then we had to thin again at the winery. In the end, a very small crop, dense and rich Syrah and Grenache.

Vineyards

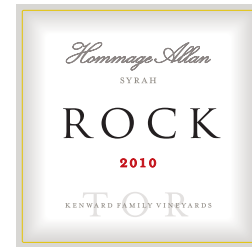
Hudson Vineyard, Carneros Napa Valley. Home to many of the most monumental Northern Rhone styled Syrah's from California.
Terra Bella Vineyard, west Paso Robles. This hillside vineyard has limestone outcroppings and is evolving into the tenderloin viticulture area for fullbodied, darker Grenaches from California.

Winemaking

This vintage of Allan was again fermented utilizing about 35% whole cluster fermentation and 50% new wood. The whole cluster fermentation gives the wine a more meaty/savage quality and serves to emphasize the dark fruit side of the spectrum. Where the 2009 vintage leaned more maybe to the Chateaufort profile, this year's incarnation is more Hermitage with the very serious and dark side to the wine. Bottles again unfiltered and unfiltered this might end up being one of the longest aging Rhone based wines we have ever done.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The nose of the 2010 Allan just screams whole cluster Syrah with earth, spice, roasted meats and damp soil. On the palate this is very rich, dense and packed with extract and stuffing. Black fruit dominated this shows blackberry, black cherries, charcoal and pepper. This is a wine to lie down in the cellar and come back to in a few years if you have the patience. If not, pop and pour with the biggest, richest meat dish you can find.



"An extraordinary effort that is rich, gutsy, dense and powerful, but with a seam of elegance and refinement that highlights the range of stewed beef, pepper, beef carpaccio and bolognese sauce. A fascinating, distinctive experience."

95

James Laube
Wine Spectator
November 2012