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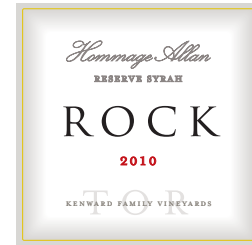
TOR ROCK Syrah

Hudson Vineyard, Hommage Allan Reserve, 2010

Blend: 96% Syrah, Hudson Vineyard; 4% Grenache, Terra Bella Vineyards

Production: 25 cases

Release Date: May 2013



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 lime-stone outcroppings and is evolving into the tenderloin viticulture area for full-bodied, 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 meatier, 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. Bottled again un-fined and un-filtered. This might end up being one of the longest aging Rhone based wines we have ever done.

Only one barrel of this extraordinary wine was held back for another year of barrel age, as a 'Reserve' project.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The nose on the Reserve Syrah absolutely explodes out of the glass with meats, road tar, spicy blackberry and licorice. On the palate it is just massive but still with great lift. This shows all black fruits, grilled meats and tremendous depth and length. The finish on this is amazing with just how long it sticks with you. This is a wine to sip and savor with only your best friends.