

TOR

TOR ROCK Grenache Cuvée Cooper, 2011

Blend: 95% Grenache, Terra Bella Vineyard; 5% Syrah
Production: 175 cases
Release Date: May 2013



Vintage

It was a cool start to the growing season in West Paso Robles, home to our small hillside limestone soil vineyard source. On April 7th, the appellation had severe frost conditions that wiped out some low lying vineyards, and cut the crop considerably in others. Our Grenache block suffered little damage, due to its western hillside exposure. The rest of the growing season remained cool, pushing harvest back into late October, blessed by ideal Indian summer warmth, and no significant rain. Very long hang time equals excellent balances and flavor development.

Vineyards

The Terra Bella Vineyard, in western Paso Robles, is within sight of the Pacific Ocean, which creates a more moderate climate than found at vineyards further inland. This climate is ideal for red Rhone varietals like Grenache and Syrah, and producing wines with very low pHs, good acidity and excellent sugars. The result is full bodied wines with great color, depth, and balance. The soils are riddled with limestone which restricts growth, sets a smaller crop, and makes for some of the most uniquely distinctive Grenache wines in the world, certainly in California.

Winemaking

Cuvée Cooper is a testament to our love of Grenache. This vintage of the Cooper is perhaps the most dense, rich and best built Grenache we have made for age ability. The smaller yields of 2011 have given it a more intense and 'nervous' palate with great tension and precision. Like all of our wines, this was bottled un-fined and un-filtered to not interfere with the textural qualities of Grenache and the wonderful aromatics that Grenache displays.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The nose on the 2011 Cooper is filled with bright spice, kirsch and cigar smoke - almost the essence of Grenache. On the palate this is full weight with tremendous density, richness and length with loads of red fruits, plums and Christmas spices. With the density and richness of this wine it can very easily be consumed on its own but would also do quite well with richer meat and pasta dishes.