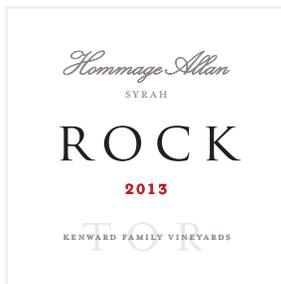


T O R



TOR ROCK Syrah Hommage Allan, 2013

Blend: 100% Syrah
Production: 275 cases
Release date: Summer 2015

Vintage

It is rare, and I look back now on 38 harvests, to have two vintages like 2012 and 2013 next to each other. Both would qualify in Bordeaux terms as vintages of the century. Both started early, had long and relatively even growing seasons, both had average to above average (depending on site) crop levels. Both gave us or most of us the opportunity when to pick when we wanted, which meant levels of ripeness was up to us. Ripeness is subjective in winemaking, but to us very specific. Think of that perfect peach at the farmers market. The grower made sure the tree was not over cropped, sustainably farmed, and that each peach had the opportunity to get sweet and ripe. Ripe meant the fruit was still firm, has good acid and tooth aching sweetness. Like that farmer, we chose to pick the moment just after the seeds lose their greenness and just before the clusters start to soften and lose their magic. It is a small window, and in 2013 we found it again and again. Peachy keen.

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 2013 Hommage Allan is the Hermitage to the 2012 Côte-Rôtie. This was fermented, destemmed and in an open top tank using mostly pump overs. The 2013 Allan was pressed just before it went dry and completed its fermentation in barrel with its original wild yeast and wild malo-lactic bacteria. The vast majority of the new wood was Francois Frères (all 3 year, air dried), and there were only two Meyrieux barrels. Like all our wines, this went to bottle unfiltered and unfiltered.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The nose on this 2013 Allan is all black fruits and spice with crushed black cherries, sage, BBQ smoke. On the palate this wine is extremely dense and thick. The finish on this lasts for at least 30 seconds with only sweetness and silk as it finally falls off. The 2013 Allan is almost a meal by itself with its richness and density. This is a bit more structured than the 2012 and should have at least as long of a life and evolution.