



2010 STICKYBEAK CABERNET SAUVIGNON

WINEMAKER : Wayne Donaldson
REGION : Napa Valley - Oak Knoll District and Pope Valley
VARIETALS : Cabernet Sauvignon (78%), Merlot (22%)
MATURATION : 18 months in French oak (40% new)
ANALYSIS : 14.1% alc/vol | TA: 5.6 g/L | pH: 3.68

VITICULTURE :

Our objective is to create a seamless Cabernet Sauvignon - nothing overdone, especially the oak. To achieve this, we sought vineyards from both the benches around Yountville, in the Oak Knoll District specifically, and the high reaches of the eastern hills in Pope Valley. The blend of earthy, fruit driven Cabernet from the valley floor combined with chiseled hillside tannins and acidity is very appealing. This, along with a small parcel of Merlot and a hint of Petit Verdot, gave us our desired palate weight and texture.

WINEMAKING :

After harvest, it's really hands off as much as possible. To get the ball rolling, we start with a brief three day cold soak followed by an 18-day fermentation. We then allow for a two week post-ferment maceration. The varietals are kept separate during their 18-month maturation before final blending and bottling - unfinned and unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES :

Plush red in color, the 2010 Cabernet has exotic aromas of blackberry, cardamom and black pepper with layers of mocha oak. The palate has a deep and brooding concentration, finely structured tannin and soulful intensity with layers of dark fruit flavors.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM :

90 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

ABOUT THAT NAME . . . Ever been curious enough to stick your nose over someone's fence to see what's going on? Or peer through a crack in a front gate, just to get a better look? We have! Some people might say we're busybodies or nosey neighbors although we prefer the Australian term, 'stickybeak.' And being Napa-based wine folk, it's hard to resist being curious about the stunning wines and regions that surround us. In fact, as inquisitive vintners, it seemed only natural that we'd have a bit of a stickybeak in our own backyard to see what we could find.



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