



2009 STICKYBEAK SYRAH

REGION: Monterey County (57%), Napa Valley (25%), Sonoma Coast (18%)
 VARIETALS: Syrah
 MATURATION: 15 months in French oak (30% new)
 ANALYSIS: 13.9% alc/vol | 6.01 g/L TA | 3.4 pH

VINEYARDS:

Alta Loma - Arroyo Seco, Monterey County: A magical bowl of a vineyard with the Estrella clone of Syrah atop Lockwood shaly loam soils that is tucked away at the southerly foot of the Santa Lucia Highlands. The aspect, morning fogs, and late cooling breeze help keep the fruit here lively and energetic that ultimately impart red berry and black pepper spiciness.

Krupp Vineyard – Atlas Peak, Napa Valley: Knowing the right people helps in this game and we were fortunate to work with a Napa vineyard we’ve always admired, owned by Jan Krupp on top of Atlas Peak and next to his Stagecoach holdings. It’s a rugged, rocky vineyard that receives a lot of summer warmth, producing wildly concentrated fruit.

Rogers Creek – Petaluma Gap, Sonoma Coast: This is a small vineyard that we’ve had our eyes on for many years after tasting some of David Ramey’s wines from the same site. Cooling morning fogs and whistling winds ensure the fruit ripens later here with terrific flavor development such as nice plum and blueberry notes.

TASTING NOTES:

The 2009 Syrah has an edgy, dynamic tasting profile with a vibrant nose of red berry compote, black pepper and spice aromas readily apparent. The palate follows suit adding a melange of cedar, red currants and orange rind to the mix. This is a medium bodied Syrah with quite a sensual mouthfeel - there’s a silkiness and freshness that invigorates the mouth through its persistent finish.

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 their 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 industry folk, it’s hard not to be curious about the stunning vineyards 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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