



VENGE 2010 BONE ASH VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

Like the 2009 before it, the 2010 is certain to impress. The 2010 begins with wonderful purple color and aromatics that speak in the blue fruit spectrum. It certainly isn't a shy wine. Blue and black berries, fruit preserves, and jelly jar notes fill the senses. As this wine opens up, the background notes of French Oak vanillin and soil come forth. The palate is young right now but will certainly make its way to being sensational. This is true Cabernet expression. Great fruit, mid palate, body and streaming length; it's all in there! The palate is polished and sophisticated. Currant, cranberry, blackberry and black cherry are all intertwined. The acid and tannin balance is youthful and promising. This wine will drink its best from 2014 through 2029.

IN THE VINEYARD

Harvest took place on October 21st with average degrees Brix of 24.9. We were off to a later than usual start to the season because of unseasonably late rains. Then cool spring frost temperatures and midsummer sunburn with dehydration created yields similar to that in 2008. We escaped a large drop of October rains. On October 22nd the wet weather arrived and 3.5 inches of rain ensued. Yields in the Bone Ash Vineyard were actually up a bit to 2.5 tons per acre. The cane pruned vines were 20-years-old that vintage. Comprised of Cabernet Clones #7 and #8, these vines' roots are established very deep which allows the use of minimal irrigation. That struggle makes for wines with excellent flavor, body and overall complexity.

IN THE CELLAR

The fruit was hand sorted and destemmed into small, open top, stainless steel fermentors and time on skins lasted 40 days. The fruit was then lightly pressed, keeping "free run" and "press" fractions separate and aged in 80% new, tight grained French Oak barrels for a total of 22 months. While we do add yeast to finish primary fermentation, we allow the indigenous malolactic bacteria to complete the secondary fermentation. Bottled unfiltered, unfiltered.

325 Cases Produced



100% Estate Produced and Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon

" This wine possesses a dense ruby/purple color as well as a beautifully sweet nose of creme de cassis, blueberries, licorice and lavender. The complex aromatics are followed by a full-bodied wine that reveals some tannin, but its overall impression is one of opulence, luxurious richness and an extravagantly long finish. This terrific Cabernet is a benchmark for what can be achieved in Oakville.

95 POINTS

Robert M. Parker, Jr.
Wine Advocate