



VENGE 2011 BONE ASH VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

This vintage begins with wonderful purple color and aromatics that speak in the blue fruit spectrum. Black and blue berries, jelly jar and jammy notes fill the senses. As this wine opens up, the background notes of French Oak vanillin and earth come forth. This is true Cabernet expression. Great fruit, mid-palate, body and streaming length; it's all in there! The palate is polished and sophisticated. Cranberry, black currant, blackberry and black cherry are all intertwined. The acid and tannin balance is promising. This wine will drink its best from 2015 through 2025.

IN THE VINEYARD

Our Calistoga Estate "Bone Ash Vineyard" is our second of three estate vineyards we own and farm in Napa Valley. Much like are Oakville Estate and our Signal Fire Vineyard, the vines are dry-farmed, or nearly so, with vine age averaging 30+ years.

Harvest took place on October 19th with average degrees Brix of 25.7. 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 29th the wet weather arrived and 3.5 inches of rain ensued. Yields in the Bone Ash Vineyard were actually up a bit to 2.2 tons per acre.

IN THE CELLAR

The fruit was hand sorted and destemmed into small, open top, stainless steel fermentors and time on skins lasted 44 days. The fruit was then lightly pressed, keeping "free run" and "press" fractions separate and aged in 85% 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 unfinned, unfiltered.

525 Cases Produced



100% Estate Produced and
Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon
0.62 g/100mL T.A.,
3.41 pH,
14.9% Alc.

"Sweet, creamy cassis, licorice, and subtle oak and smoke notes are present in this forward, evolved, sexy, full throttle Cabernet. While the 2010 may be slightly bigger, denser and more formidable, the amazing 2011 is certainly one of the stars of the vintage. A gorgeous, long, velvety finish adds to the appeal of this wine, which should be drunk over the next 10-15 years."

93 POINTS

Robert M. Parker, Jr.
Wine Advocate