



2010 Cabernet Sauvignon
Appellation: Paso Robles
Varietal: 84% Cabernet Sauvignon
11% Merlot
5 % Cabernet Franc

pH: 3.40
Alcohol by volume: 14.5%
T.A.: 0.705g / 100ml
Bottling Date: 6/28/2013
Cases Produced: 1226
Winery Retail: \$42.00

In The Vineyard

The 2010 growing season was highly irregular with episodic heatwaves. However, it was generally a very cool growing season. The cool growing conditions on the Central Coast were in sharp contrast to the overall global climate warming. The colder than normal ocean water temperatures in Estero Bay, west of Paso Robles, was the result of an extended ocean upwelling season, buffering the temperatures of the inland growing areas.

Another source of cooling was the volcanic summer that was the result of eruptions of the Eyjafjallajökull Volcano in Iceland. From March to June 2010, this volcano put over 330,000,000 yards of dust and debris into the atmosphere. The volcanic plume rose to over 35,000 feet.

The polar jet stream, which was directly above the eruptions, moved this dust around the northern hemisphere in a matter of days. The fine volcanic dust forced the greatest disruption in air traffic ever experienced from a natural disaster. The fine, abrasive dust could not just clog a jet turbine it also absorbed or reflected solar rays from reaching the earth, causing regional cooling. Ken says, "The last volcanic summer I experienced was in 1991, which was the result of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines. Fortunately, 2010 was less severe." The cooler than normal conditions did extend the growing season and caused us to be very conservative in the size of crop we hung.

Our 2010 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon is a Bordeaux-inspired blend. It features Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot from the Carmody McKnight Vineyard, Cabernet Sauvignon from the Starr Ranch Vineyard and Merlot from Pomar Junction Vineyard.

In The Cellar

Each lot was hand-harvested and processed as a separate component through preparation for bottling. This wine was aged for three years in a mixture of French and Hungarian oak cooperage. It reflects the cooler growing season being more elegant than extractive in its fruit and flavor profile.

In The Glass

This elegant, dark, wine has aromas of black and red fruits, accompanied by tobacco and barrel spice. On the palate, it is medium-bodied with flavors of cherry, blackberry and cola.

Typical to Paso Robles, the tannins are soft, silky and approachable, but provide beautiful structure and balance to the wine. There is a plush, polished quality to the mouthfeel, followed by excellent length from the fine-grained tannins. Consider pairing with Ratatouille, grilled portabella, rich pasta dishes and barbecued or roasted meats.