



Martin Ray

VINEYARDS AND WINERY

2010 RESERVE "SYNTHESIS" NAPA VALLEY

THE VINEYARDS

Synthesis is a blend of our favorite mountain vineyards from three world-renowned Napa Valley sub-appellations: Diamond Mountain District, Stags Leap District and Rutherford.

Our Diamond Mountain District grapes are grown in the spectacular Constant-Diamond Mountain Vineyard, which rises to 2100 feet above the Napa Valley floor. The vineyards (which were originally planted in 1895) are nestled on the northeastern slope of the mountain, where mornings are typically brisk and fog-free, while northwesterly winds continually cool the vineyard throughout the long growing season. This unique mountain vineyard site provides a variety of nutrient-rich soils, superior exposure to sunlight and evening cooling, which produces small, intensely flavored berries and fragrant, flavorful wines.

The Stags Leap District grapes are grown in a collection of tiny vineyard blocks encompassing several row orientations and slopes, all of which are carefully planted to optimize sun exposure. The soil in the Stags Leap District is composed of old river sediment that created a unique blend of loams with a clay-like consistency. This soil allows the vines to retain less water, which produces low yields with great intensity and flavor.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2010 harvest was one of the most challenging harvests on record. This long, slow cold season put us about 3-4 weeks behind schedule and left us with a very small window of time to bring in the fruit. Yet in the end, 2010 produced grapes of exceptional quality. Due to moderate ripening at cool temperatures, the grapes retained good levels of acidity, which resulted in very balanced fruit that achieved ripeness at lower brix. We had lower yields, with optimum alcohol and sugar levels, great color and amazing flavors.

WINEMAKING NOTES

Our Synthesis is, quite literally, the best of the best. We hand picked the best of the barrel lots from our favorite vineyards to make this expressive wine. We cold fermented the grapes in open top fermentation tanks for two weeks with manual punch downs, then aged it for thirty months in top-quality French oak barrels.

TASTING NOTES

This firm, full bodied red blend has an inviting bouquet of oaky vanilla overtones and earthy, wild scents like dried chaparral. The supple palate is wonderfully dense and creamy without detracting from its showcase of red and black berries. It finishes smoothly, while the tannins offer excellent structure throughout.

Varietal Mix

95% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Merlot

Vineyards

60% Stags Leap District
30% Diamond Mountain District
10% Rutherford

Appellation

Napa Valley

Release dates

March 2014

Alcohol: 14.8%

pH: 3.83

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