Cakebread Cellars



2010 Vine Hill Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

Vineyards

Our Vine Hill Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon comes from four special blocks of vines – each planted to a different clone – in the acclaimed Vine Hill Ranch in Napa Valley's gently sloping western benchlands near Oakville. We have purchased from this vineyard for over 30 years, and they have consistently produced superb, long-lived wines. Each block is hand-harvested separately at night to preserve the fruit's fresh, pure character, and fermented and barrel-aged separately. After assessing the distinctive personality of each lot, we blend them together to forge a uniquely complex and harmonious wine that speaks eloquently of its provenance.

Vintage 2010

2010 was a notably cool growing season in California. The year began with substantial rainfall, which pushed back bud break, flowering and grape set by several weeks. After an unusually cool summer, heat spikes in late August kick-started full ripening. Cooler temperatures returned in early September, extending the growing season and ensuring that our Vine Hill grapes were harvested with a perfect balance of sugar and acidity.

Winemaking

Cakebread Cellars winemaker Julianne Laks employs traditional artisan winemaking techniques to maximize the extraction of color, flavor and tannin from our Vine Hill Ranch fruit. After the grapes are crushed, the juice from each lot is cold-soaked for 48 hours prior to initiating fermentation with a cultured French yeast strain that enhances texture, depth and intensity. Once fermentation completes, the wines enjoy an extended, three-week maceration on their skins to further extract color and flavor while softening tannins. The 2010 Vine Hill Cabernet Sauvignon spent 19 months aging in French oak barrels, 32% new, before bottling in April, 2012.

Tasting Notes

The 2010 vintage of our Vine Hill Cabernet Sauvignon showcases the wine's typically dense, complex aromas of ripe black fruits, plum compote, earth, slate, mineral and spice. Its intensely rich and deeply concentrated blackberry, fig, boysenberry and dark plum flavors – with undertones of mineral, spice and roasted coffee – are framed by firm, but supple tannins and culminate in a long, beautifully structured finish. Tightly wound in its youth, the Vine Hill is always impressive on release, but handsomely repays up to a decade of cellaring.

Grape varieties: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon Alcohol: 14.5%

Vineyards: 100% Vine Hill Ranch, Oakville Total acidity: 0.67 g/100 ml

Harvest dates: October 13 – October 18, 2010 pH: 3.57

Fermentation: 100% in stainless steel **Bottled**: April, 2012

Barrel aging: 19 months in French oak, 32% new **Winemaker**: Julianne Laks