



2010 Vintage Summary

Wine critic Antonio Galloni says "There is no question 2010 is the greatest vintage for Napa Valley in the 2008-2011 time period." The vintage produced wines with extraordinary finesse and elegance – wines that will stand the test of time.

The growing season proved to be a challenge for winegrowers with a wetter than normal spring that was followed by one of the coolest summers on record for California and the Napa Valley. The spring rains caused a lighter than normal fruit set, reducing yields in the vineyard. The beginning of September saw a heat spike which helped finish up the ripening of the fruit. Vineyard managers were kept busy with extra passes to drop any druit that may have been lagging and careful canopy management to ensure quality. The result of all this work, coupled with the long and protracted season is retrained and elegant wines reminiscent of a classic Bourdeaux wine.

Winemaking

Hand picked with careful sorting and a 3 day cold soak at 50 degrees. The whole berries were then allowed to come up to room temperature to begin fermentation. Hand punch downs 2-4 times a day and fermented with native yeast, the fermentation temperature was allowed to rise to 30° Celsius. As always, free run juices were moved directly to barrel and press wine was kept separate. Malolactic fermentation took place naturally and was finished in May 2011. The wine was racked a total of three times, including for bottling.

Vineyard

Ranging between 1720 to 1800 ft elevation, the 32 acre Beatty Ranch sits above the fog and at the heart of the Howell Mountain appellation. So much so that the Howell Mountain appellation came to be with the help of Randy Dunn (Dunn Vineyards), Bill Smith (La Jota Vineyards) and topographic maps of the area spread on Mr. Beatty's dining room table. This vineyard has a long history as some zinfandel blocks date back to before Prohibition. The cabernet sauvignon blocks that we source from were planted 40 years ago making these cabernet vines some of the oldest on Howell Mountain.

2010 Beatty Ranch Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon

This 2010 Beatty Ranch Howell Mountain Cabernet has a nose filled with blackberry, cherry, spices, tea, and black currant with background notes of graphite, black pepper, blueberry, caramel, cocoa, coffee and cinnamon. Mouth filling tannins and good acidity provide the structure for a wine that will reward for years to come.

Vintage: 2010	Harvested: November 5, 2010
Vineyard: Beatty Ranch	
Appellation: Howell Mountain	Alcohol: 14.5%
Varietals: 97% cabernet sauvignon, clone 7 3% petit verdot, Forman clone	TA: 0.62 g/100mL
Cooperage: 100% French oak barrels (80% new) from Taransaud, Sylvain, and Darnajou	pH: 3.7 at harvest
	Production: 150 cases