

DONKEY & GOAT



## 2008 Reserve Syrah, Fenaughty Vnyd, El Dorado

Our Reserve Syrah wines stay in barrel for 36 months and thus far we've changed the vineyard for the reserve each year. In 2008 Fenaughty gets her turn. Wow!

Appellation: El Dorado

Vineyard: Fenaughty

Varietal: Syrah

Clone: Heritage

Age: 31 yrs old

Elevation: 2800 feet

Soil: Decomposed granite with clay loam

Yield: 2-2.5 tons/acre

Harvested: Oct. 3, 2008

Pressed: October 23, 2008

Blend: 97% Syrah (30% WC)+ 3% Viognier

Maceration: 20 days

Barrel aging: 30 months in 50/50 1yr & neutral FO barrels

Bottled: Unfiltered on August 2, 2011

Production: 53 cases

Release date: Fall 2011

### **TASTING NOTES:**

Tobacco, earth and herbs intermingled with violets grab your olfactory immediately. With a moment to breathe, mineral fresh meat and spice box come to the fore. Red fruits like cherry, plum and raspberry tickle the palate. Long, firm structured yet smooth tannins coat the mouth and linger for minutes while you ponder what this wine is and what it will become.

### **WINEMAKING NOTES:**

Our Reserve Label represents a Syrah that is of outstanding character to start and then further develops structure, depth and nuance with extended barrel aging for 30-36 months. 2008 was the year we chose Fenaughty for the Reserve Syrah. Like all of our reds, we ferment in wood vats (we do not make wine in plastic) and we like whole clusters (30% for 08 Fenaughty) and whole berries. From there we crush to our liking via pigeage à pied (foot stomping). Wild yeasts are employed without nutrients or other enhancers. We punch down by hand up to 3x daily which is a good workout with those whole clusters. The cooperage was a 50/50 mix of 1 & 4 yr old French oak barrels. Malolactic fermentation was natural and completed by early summer. The wine stayed *sur lie* for 18 months when it was racked and returned to barrel for the final 18 months of aging until the final blend was assembled in early July 2011. The wine was bottled without fining or filtration on August 2, 2011

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