



Truchard Vineyards

2011 Syrah



Vintage: 2011 was the third in a string of unpredictable vintages... Cool and wet springtime conditions affected berry set and reduced yields by 20%. Cool weather continued throughout the growing season, slowly bringing the smaller crop to maturity. Rains in early October forced a quick end to harvest. Despite the challenges, the wines of 2011 have bright aromas and flavors with beautiful finesse and balance.

Vineyard: There are 12 acres of Syrah planted on the Truchard Estate Vineyard. Four acres are in the “Highlands” region to the north, and 8 acres are located at the southern end of the vineyard. These areas are dominated by austere hillsides composed of volcanic rock and ash. The vines range from 13 - 20 years old and benefit from the unique combination of soil, exposure, and cool Carneros temperatures. The result is a full-bodied wine, with flavors and structure reminiscent of the northern Rhone.

Harvest: Oct. 19 – 24 • 24.7 °Brix • 3.62 pH • 7.1 g/L TA

Winemaking: All of the fruit was gently destemmed and crushed into open top fermenters with approximately 20% whole berries. Individual lots were inoculated with Pasteur Red yeast. Fermentations were punched down twice daily, with the temperature peaking at 88° F. After 14 days of maceration, each lot was pressed and allowed to settle in tank before going to barrel. The wine was aged for 10 months in both French (90%) and American (10%) oak; 30% of these barrels were new. Rackings occurred every 4 months until bottling in August of 2012. This wine is drinkable upon release, but will reward careful cellaring for the next 7-10 years.

Wine Analysis: 14.3 % alcohol • 3.72 pH • 6.4 g/l TA

Tasting Notes: Rich aromas of blackberry, plum, and blueberry; with hints of vanilla, earth, and white pepper. The mouth is filled with jammy flavors of cassis, boysenberry, and black cherry; followed by mineral and cracked black pepper. Mouth-filling tannins provide an opulent finish of fruit and spice.

Release Date: September 1, 2013

Cases Produced: 993