

Nicholson Jones Selection

2008 Nicholson Jones Syrah

Vintage:	2008
Varietal:	100% Syrah
Vineyard:	83% Sugarloaf Mt 17% Stagecoach
Aging:	83% New French Oak 17% Neutral Oak Total aging in oak 21 months
Bottled:	Sep-2010
Released:	Nov-2011
Alcohol %:	14.9
Production:	150 cases



Tasting Notes

A glass-staining melange of savory and fruity aromas, pirouetting on vibrant notes of rhubarb, crushed blueberries, strawberries, chocolate mousse and smoked espresso beans. Meaty and gamey undertones play off of spiced hay, blackened red peppers and sugar-powdered pie crust. Blackberries and nasturtiums tiptoe along an active and swelling acidity, skirting from back to front on the tongue with harmony and refreshment. Impressive poise and gracefulness right out of the gate.

Terroir

The far majority of this 100% Syrah comes from the Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard. In very south Napa Valley, south of the city of Napa, the vineyard is positioned high on the hills guarding the entrance to Napa valley. Sugarloaf Mountain is hard, rough and with rocky red volcanic soils. This is a very cool area where grapes take longer to ripen. Standing in this beautiful vineyard, one can see the most northern part of the San Francisco Bay. 17% of this Syrah comes from the Stagecoach Vineyard. Stagecoach soils are very similar to Sugarloaf but the vineyard is about 1000 feet higher and does not ripen every year. In general these vineyards have long hand time and low yields.

Winemaker's Notes

Wild, thick in the middle and elegant off the finish. True expression of the Alban clone in a cold terroir; you can taste the soil between the layers. Dark olive, black current and hints of sage. earthy and warm. True expression of syrah and a rare beauty. For connoisseur only.

Vintner's Notes

A 100% Syrah... Yes this something very new for us at Nicholson Jones. Although we have been making Syrah since 2003 we have never done a Syrah stand alone. In tasting through Sugarloaf Mountain Syrah we found several incredible barrels. So good were these barrels we decided to do a 100% Syrah production. I am an admirer and avid drinker of Hermitage Syrah and have lost interest in many of the new world Syrahs; well this Syrah will bring you back to Napa! Julien has made a new world Syrah that is a horse of a different color; very French in style yet big and balanced, not bodacious. Julien's conservative, traditional wine making lets the volcanic terroir comes through in this beautifully structured wine. Working through the quality cut we only selected 6 barrels to make this wine. Five new French barrels and a one year old French barrel. So this first year our production will be no more than 150 cases. This Syrah has great aging potential. We highly recommend proper decanting before drinking; time brings the beauty out in this wine. The 2008 NJ Syrah is truly a sleeper.

Julien Fayard, Winemaker

Cal Nicholson, Owner/Vintner



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