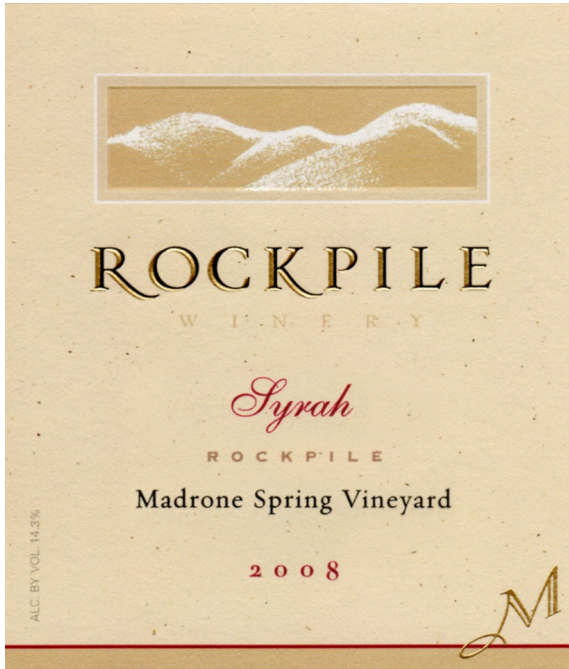


2008 Mauritsen Rockpile Syrah



Production:	Approximately 227 cases
Appellation:	Rockpile
Composition:	100% Syrah
Vineyards:	Madrone Spring Vineyard
Alcohol:	14.8 % by volume
Aging:	15 months in oak barrels 100% French

Winemaker Notes

Our family's Rockpile Ridge Vineyards are located at nearly 1,200 ft elevation in the Rockpile appellation. The Syrah is planted in the Madrone Spring block which is named after a year round spring that flows out of the roots of an old Madrone tree. This block receives minimal sun due to its eastern exposure. It is the last block harvested year in and year out and it shows in the complexity of flavor. We envisioned this site yielding a Northern Rhone style of Syrah and we have not been disappointed.

In general, the 2008 vintage was cooler than the previous one. The Madrone Spring block, with its eastern sun exposure, survived the heat spell that we had in mid September, and as a result, we got an extra 3-4 weeks of hang time. The 2008 Syrah reminds me very much of the 2006: bright, vibrant, and complex. The nose is a mixture of a wild blueberry patch, a stroll through the lavender fields of Provence, and the rich mustiness of fresh cut prime beef. Restrained, yet focused on the palate, our Syrah is a proud relative of the elegant wines of the Northern Rhone region. The tannins are full without being overwhelming, the acid is perfectly balanced, and between every swish and swirl a seemingly endless array of flavors presents itself. It is the subtle nuances that amaze you about this wine. The finish is graceful and powerful, while at the same time, giving you insight as to how the wine will age for the next 5-7 years.

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