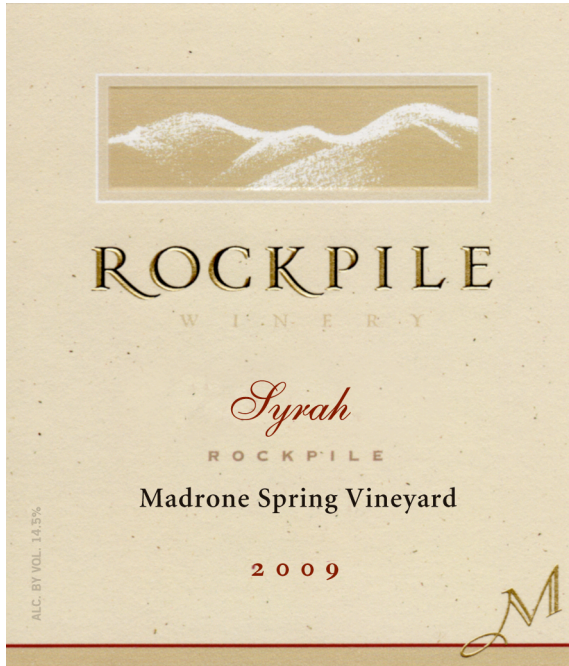


2009 Rockpile Syrah Madrone Spring Vineyard



Production:	Approximately 228 cases
Appellation:	Rockpile
Composition:	100% Syrah
Vineyards:	Madrone Spring Vineyard
Alcohol:	14.8 % by volume
Aging:	18 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.

Our Madrone Spring Vineyard Syrah is one of the last releases from the great 2009 vintage. In a word, the 2009 vintage was spectacular. Characterized by the third year of drought, the crop loads were lower than normal. The consistent warm weather throughout the growing season produced uniformly ripened fruit with intense flavors and ripe tannins. We chose to age this wine in barrels for an additional 5 months to take advantage of the depth and structure of the vintage.

The nose is a mixture of blueberry pie, earthen spice, and cola. Restrained, yet focused on the palate, complex flavors of Dr. Pepper and fresh meat embolden the senses. The tannins are full and lush and the acid is perfectly balanced. The finish is graceful, showing the benefit of the extra time in barrel. While this wine should age beautifully for the next 6-8 years, it is stunning now!

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