

SMITH-MADRONE

2010 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2010 was a very cool and late growing season for the Napa Valley. Late spring rains contributed to a smaller-than-normal crop. The summer turned out to be one of the coolest growing seasons anyone could remember, with the one exception of a heat spike in late August. Fortunately, patience paid off and the vintage turned out to be exceptional.

This is a wine with intriguing complexity. The notes of dark berry, anise and crushed bay leaves and the dense, earthy and rich palate erupts with flavors of dark plum, black cherry and pomegranate. The wine is a seductive combination of intense flavors, polished acidity, firm tannins and a lasting finish.

Smith-Madrone's Cabernet Sauvignon is grown at the top of Spring Mountain (1,800-foot elevation), west of St. Helena in the Napa Valley. The vines are planted on very steep slopes (up to 35%) in red "Aiken" soil which is derived from weathered volcanic materials and sedimentary rock. The underlying geology, the Franciscan mélange, is 500 miles long and was created by the Continental Plate grinding off the top of the Pacific Plate as it subducts under the Continental Plate.

At Smith-Madrone our goal is to make artisanal wines which are distinctive and are an expression of both the vintage and us, as vintners, yet above all else, the wines must bring pleasure to the senses. Every year our wine is made from the same vineyards, pruned by the same people in the same way, cultivated in exactly the same manner and harvested at similar levels of maturity, yet Mother Nature stamps each vintage with a unique set of flavors, senses and character. Vintage dating is a celebration of that uniqueness and diversity.

AGE OF VINES:	38 years
APPELLATION:	Napa Valley
SUB-APPELLATION:	Spring Mountain District
FARMING	Dry-farmed estate mountain vineyard
VARIETAL CONTENT:	Cabernet Sauvignon 85%, Merlot 9% & Cabernet franc 6%
TIME IN OAK	21 months in mixed French and American oak barrels
pH	3.62
TOTAL ACIDITY	.63 g/100 ml
ALCOHOL BY VOLUME	14.1%
HARVEST DATES	October 9 to November 4, 2010
FINING	Unfined
CASES PRODUCED:	851 cases
WINEMAKERS & WINEGROWERS:	Charles Smith, Sam Smith & Stuart Smith
WEBSITE:	www.smithmadrone.com

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