

Casaeda

2009 Syrah
Sonoma Valley

Statistics

Blend: 87% Syrah

87% Syrah, Sonoma Valley, Sawi Vineyard

13% Petite Verdot, Napa Valley, Alexander Vineyard

Vineyards

The 2009 Culler Sawi Vineyard Syrah grapes are from a vineyard planted by David Sawi, located high (1450 feet) on top of the George Ranch, due west of the city of Sonoma. The vineyard lies on an east facing ridge top of rocky soils and was planted in 2000 to the Cote Rotie selection of Syrah on 1103P rootstock. Given the altitude, the temperatures at Sawi Vineyard are very cool and it is very windy. It is typically one of the last vineyards to be picked every year. The winds and the rocky, hillside soils hold back the growth of the normally vigorous Syrah vines, and contribute to the small berry size and concentrated flavors. The Cote Rotie selection produces small vines and small, very loose clusters in this hillside vineyard.

The Petite Verdot is planted at the Alexander Ranch in a somewhat cool area of Napa Valley. Low yields and sandy loam soils give the wine a rich extract and mid palate.

The 2009 growing season was pleasant and non-eventful with slightly warmer temperatures than 2008. At Sawi Vineyard, the crop size is always much smaller than normal, with both smaller berries and smaller clusters. It averages about 1 ton per acre. The grapes were harvested on Oct 20, which is a bit ahead of normal and at a lower Brix than usual, leaving the wine with a lower alcohol.

Winemaking and Tasting Notes

The 2009 Casaeda Syrah was crushed into open top fermentors, and left to cold soak for 4 days. The must was fermented with 100% native yeast, completing fermentation in 8 days. The wine was pressed at dryness, barreled immediately, and aged for 18 months in 20% new French oak and older French oak barrels. The Sawi Syrah is very much in a cool climate style with plenty of peppery and spice aromatics and a liberal amount of acidity in the palate.

The Petite Verdot from Napa Valley adds bramble berry aromas and a richness to compliment the fresh acidity of the Sawi Vineyard.

The 2009 Casaeda Syrah is a wine which is ready to drink on release, and holds up well to a variety of cuisine, especially rustic foods with plenty of spice, heat and aromatics. The wine will also age well for the next few years. 194 cases were bottled in May 2011.

CULLERWINES.COM

P.O. BOX 3017 YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94599

707.257.0567