

Casaeda

2010 Cabernet Sauvignon
Napa Valley

Statistics

Blend:

100% Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

100% Napa Valley

Vineyards

The 2010 Casaeda Cabernet Sauvignon is from two vineyards in Napa Valley, both on the east side of the Valley between the cities of Napa and Yountville. The Alexander Vineyard near Soda Canyon has soils that are light sandy loam with excellent drainage, producing small berries with plenty of extract and a deep ruby color. The other vineyard owned by Heather Pyle, winemaker/owner of Tangles is planted on a southeast facing incline on well drained loam soils. Heather and Jerry Alexander are meticulous in caring for their vineyards. Jerry farms sustainably while Heather's vineyard is certified organic, as well. Both vineyards are in the Oak Knoll appellation in Napa Valley.

The 2010 vintage was a very cool year and was set to be on par with the record cold 2005 vintage, until we had a heat spell in early October, where temperatures pushed over 100 degrees for a few days. The normal crop size then shrunk in size because we lost many grapes to shriveling and they were not even harvested. Harvest was soon after the heat, in mid-October, well ahead of the fall rains.

Winemaking and Tasting Notes

The 2010 Casaeda Cabernet Sauvignon underwent a 4 day cold soak, followed by a 9 day fermentation in small open and closed top fermenters. It was pressed at dryness for optimal fresh aromatics and balanced tannins. The wine was aged entirely in French oak barrels for 16 months (15% new and 85% used French oak barrels).

The goal of my winemaking with Casaeda Cabernet is to make a wine that says "Napa Cabernet" with deep fruit flavors and balanced tannins...a wine that can be enjoyed with minimal cellaring but still has the depth of an excellent Napa Cab.

The 2010 Casaeda Cabernet has rich blackberry and red stone fruit flavors with soft tannins and a plush, velvety mid palate. The 2010 vintage produced wines of softer tannins than usual for Napa Valley and because of this, the wine is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon without the other varietals that I normally add for drinkability. The resulting wine is both approachable now, but could also age well for 5-7 years. The wine was bottled, unfinned and unfiltered in May, 2012. 413 cases bottled.

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P.O. BOX 3017 YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94599

707.257.0567