

PAUL HOBBS

2007 SYRAH KICK RANCH VINEYARD SONOMA COUNTY

VINEYARD

- Owners: Richard & Katherine Keenan
- Appellation: Sonoma County
- Clonal Selections: Hermitage, 877
- Vine Age: Planted in 2001
- Site: Gravelly clay loam with lots of exposed red volcanic soil on hillside
- Yields: 4.3 tons /acre

HARVEST

- Harvest Date: October 11
- Harvest Brix: 26.4°
- Growing Season: The 2007 growing season was preceded by a mild, dry winter. Bud break came early and set a crop of tight clusters of small berries. Summer brought ideal weather with warm, even temperatures through veraison. Several heat spikes in August suggested that crush might begin early but temperatures cooled in early September, allowing ample time for phenolics as well as sugars to reach optimum levels. The result was a slow, steady harvest of exceptional quality, with wines showing great intensity and structure.

WINEMAKING

- Hand-harvested grapes
- Fermented in small, open-top stainless steel fermentors with indigenous yeasts
- 5-day cold soak, 19 days total maceration
- Hand-punched cap
- Concurrent, spontaneous malolactic fermentation in barrels
- Aged 18 months in French oak barrels; 67% new
- Unblended, unfined and unfiltered; bottled April 2009

NOTES

- This syrah commands attention with a dense, black garnet hue accompanied by generous aromatics; blueberry, black currant, white pepper and savory notes of pancetta introduce a wine that is big-boned and bold, yet complex and nuanced. Unfolding in layers of blackberry, plum and dried herbs, the palate is still brooding but declares itself with authority, finishing long with firm tannins and notes of cedar and spice. Alcohol 14.9%