



HILL FAMILY  
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## 2008 "The Messenger"

Production: 170 cases

Composition: 55% Syrah and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vineyards: Beau Terre, Baker, Hansen and Clarke.

Appellation: Atlas Peak, Oak Knoll and American Canyon.

Elevation: 200 ft. – 1500 ft.

Cooperage: 16 months all in French oak barrels (50% new barrels)

Alcohol: 14.8% alc, 3.65 pH, 0.62 TA

Release Date: September 2011

Release Price: \$40.00

Hill Family Estate is privileged to create this wine for Jared Hamman, who is a UFC fighter known in the ring as "The Messenger." His direct and confrontational fighting style is echoed in this unique blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Blending Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah is not a new idea -- the French in the Provence region have been producing blends of these two top varietals since the nineteenth century. In many senses, it makes intuitive sense, using Syrah to "brighten" the sternness of Cabernet, while keeping two varietals which most feel are two of the three best and certainly the most long lived in the world.

This wine celebrates Ryan Hill's 2011 staining project which involved staining Jared's fighting trunks in the "*Hill Harvest Red*" wine stain.

### **Winemaker Alison Doran's tasting notes:**

Beautifully defined fruit, ripe, rich and intense, with dense, chocolaty blackberry and black cherry flavors that are plus and firmly tannic, showing plenty of vanilla-scented oak.