



2009 Barrel Blend

Production: 3,540 cases

Composition: 66% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Charbono, 4% Syrah, 3% Petit Sirah, 2% Sangiovese and 1% Malbec.

Vineyards: Beau Terror, Red Door, Baker, Beau Terre, Scala, Lazar, Dulce Vista

Appellation: Napa Valley

Elevation: Valley floor & Hillsides (1200 ft.)

Cooperage: 14 months in neutral 2 to 4 year old French oak

Alcohol: 14.5%, TA 0.55, pH 3.79

Release price: \$25.00

Release date: July 2011

The 2009 Hill Family Estate Barrel Blend reflects the depth and power of Merlot in a cool year. This wine has been put together with the help of Kyle Knox, a great surfer and a wine drinker, who loved the idea of "being in the barrel" as both a wine term, and a surfing term. This wine was blended under his direction, to appeal to surfers, and surfers in spirit, who are always looking for the next great wave, but might want to have a glass of wine in the mean time. The mountain grapes have intensity and finesse and the valley floor grapes have plushy, friendly palates, a great combination.

Winemaker Alison Doran's Tasting notes:

Nose) Bursts with ripe boysenberry and raspberry fruit, offering notes of melted chocolate, toasty vanilla and spice.

Palate) Firm, ripe, concentrated plum, boysenberry and taut fresh strawberry jam, full-bodied and tightly wound, gaining depth and nuance, with firm tannins and a dash of toasty oak.