



HILL FAMILY  
ESTATE

## 2009 Origin

Production: 496 cases

Composition: 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 8% Malbec and 5% Petit Verdot

Vineyards: Beau Terre, Oak Knoll Appellation, Baker and Soda Canyon, Atlas Peak Appellation: Oak Knoll, Atlas Peak and Carneros

Elevation: Valley floor – 1500 ft.

Cooperage: 16 months in French oak

Alcohol: 14.5% alc, 3.76 pH, 0.59 TA

Release date: Winter 2011

Release price: \$45.00

Bottled: 7/20/11

Origin is our chance to create a stylish and intriguing blend from all the possible lots we make. Since we had 14 lots to start with, and 5 varieties, the Origin allows us to use many of the small select lots we make from special sites farmed by Doug Hill and his family all over the Napa Valley. 2009 was a cool year with almost 5" of rain in mid October, but by then the Merlots were in tank, and the Cab was strong enough to last out the rain and ripen at the end of the month. Blending this wine is always a challenge, as expectations are high, and the lots themselves can have strong voices that do not always want to balance the way one would expect. Cabernet was particularly variable in 2009, with many personalities, from feminine to fruity to muscular. Doug Hill has planted an interesting clone of Merlot at Beau Terre called "Raucedo" and the Merlot down at Red Door in Carneros is exotic and rich and adds structure and plushy fruit to the blend. This is also the second year where we have had our own source of Malbec and Petit Verdot. The final blend shimmers and re-forms complex layers that will grow and improve for years to come.

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

Elegant and stylish, delivering a sleek core of Olalla berry, cassis, cherry pie and pomegranate. Full-bodied, focused and wonderfully balanced, ending with a long, pure finish that keeps repeating the polished fruit themes.