

Jeff Runquist Wines

2011 "R" Syrah



WINERY:

Jeff Runquist launched his own label with the 1995 vintage of the "Z" Zinfandel from the Massoni Ranch in Amador County's Shenandoah Valley. Jeff, a graduate of UC Davis, was the winemaker for Montevina Wines in Amador County, the Napa Valley Cooperative Winery in St. Helena, the J. Lohr Winery in San Jose and Paso Robles and McManis Family winery. In the fall of 2006, Jeff purchased a five acre parcel in Amador County's Shenandoah Valley. He constructed a small winery and tasting room that opened in May of 2008. In the spring of 2010 a larger production-oriented facility was erected adjacent to the tasting room. All of Jeff's wines share a similar theme of fresh fruit reflective of the varietal flavors inherent in the grapes. He has selected his grapes from vineyards that provide rich full flavors without loads of astringent tannins. "By keeping the lots small", Jeff says. "We can treat each vineyard differently with regard to yeast, fermentation, temperature, oak, and how long they stay on the lees. Recently, Jeff was the recipient of the prestigious *André Tchelistcheff Winemaker of the Year Award* from the San Francisco International Wine Competition.

SYRAH:

Syrah is well suited to the Central Coast climate, which is why Jeff sources his syrah from 3 vineyards in Paso Robles.

DESCRIPTION:

The 2011 vintage has a deep purple color accompanied by bright garnet hues. One sniff identifies this wine as a 'New World' Syrah. The aromas of the 2011 Syrah feature bright red and black fruits; dark cherry, boysenberry and black raspberry. The earthy terroir-driven aromas, common in 'Old World' Syrah, are so subtle as to be non-existent in the 2011 "R" Syrah. The bouquet features a unique smoky scent that comes from barrels toasted over a hickory generated flame. On the palate, succulent juicy flavors of red and black fruits mingle with those of flint and mineral. While the tannins of the 2011 wine are moderate in volume, the texture remains soft and supple. The varietal character of Syrah has the last word and contributes a chalky edge to the finish. Jeff does not, in general, suggest wine and food pairings, but short-ribs braised in a liquid featuring wild mushrooms is his favorite with Syrah.

BLEND:

100% Syrah, Paso Robles

COOPERAGE:

78% American and 22% French oak barrels

ANALYSIS:

Alcohol 14.2%, TA 0.73gm/100ml, pH 3.45

RELEASED:

March 1, 2013

PRODUCTION:

487 cases

Arizona Distribution by

Orangewood Wines

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