

UNTI

D R Y C R E E K V A L L E Y

S Y R A H

B E N C H L A N D

2 0 1 0

GROWN, PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY UNTI VINEYARDS
HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA ALCOHOL 14.1% BY VOLUME

H A R V E S T E D :
O C T 1 4 ^t h - 1 9 ^t h

B L E N D :
1 0 0 % S Y R A H

ACIDITY: 0.61g/100ml
pH: 3.81
ALCOHOL: 14.1 %

A G I N G :
1 6 M O N T H S
4 5 % N E W F R E N C H
O A K B A R R E L S

B O T T L E D :
M A R C H 1 ^s t 2 0 1 0
C A S E S P R O D U C E D :
4 1 0

W W W . U N T I V I N E Y A R D S . C O M

VARIETAL & VINEYARD: This Syrah comes from a western section of our 6-acre vineyard, located on the Benchland Eastside block. The vines on this little knoll are much less vigorous due to the well-drained soils. Consequently, they produce smaller grapes with more concentrated flavors and tannins versus the balance of the Syrah vineyard. Our typical yield in this section is less than six pounds per vine.

VINTAGE/HARVEST: 2010 was a very cool vintage for all of our grape varieties. A moderately cool spring and summer was interrupted by a one-week heat spell in August. Despite a low-crop set, our Syrah was still 1 to 2 weeks behind normal schedule. We harvested our Syrah between October 14th and 19th. A cool growing season such as 2010 result in a Syrah with more savory aromas and flavors, and lower alcohol levels. You'll note enhanced the pepper, olive and floral aromas—many of the characteristics we appreciate in Northern Rhône Syrah.

VINIFICATION: We fermented our Benchland Syrah in several small 1-to-3 ton tanks and wooden vats. A small portion of this wine was fermented as whole clusters for enhanced aromatics. After a 5-day cold soak, fermentation began with indigenous yeast. The small tank size allows us to regulate extraction between punching down and pumping over. Once in barrel, we routinely stirred lees for added texture and complexity. We aged this wine in 45% new French Oak for 16 months. It is 100% Syrah.

STYLE/DESCRIPTION: Similar to our 2008 Benchland, this 2010 really shows the essence of this vineyard. It is dark and full-bodied with smoky blackberry, cassis and chocolate aromas and flavors. The cool vintage gave us a more structured wine, which should age nicely for 5 to 8 years.