



Jeff Runquist Wines

2008 "R" SYRAH, Paso Robles, California



After Zinfandel, Syrah is the most widely planted red grape in Amador County, yet my experience with Syrah is with fruit from Paso Robles and so it is from San Luis Obispo County that we purchase the grapes for the Runquist Syrah from three growers; *Steve Carter, Dan Westigard and Bob Goodwin*. All three vineyards are located in the Estrella River Plain, where the thin soils, warm climate and cool harvest nights help tame the vigorous nature of this grape variety. The resulting wine shows good depth and concentration, with a decidedly strong fruit orientation not unlike the rich, bold style of Syrah from the McLaren Vale of Australia,.

The 2008 vintage has a deep purple color accompanied by youthful bright hues. The aromas are dominated by jammy boysenberry, black raspberry and plum. The bouquet features a unique smoky scent that comes from barrels toasted over a hickory flame. There are also notes of mocha and milk chocolate. On the palate, rich creamy flavors of dense black fruits mingle with those of smoky oak. The texture is thick and rich yet soft as the tannins are well integrated.

For those patient enough to cellar this wine for a year or two, the low pH and slightly elevated alcohol should provide a solid foundation for the development of additional complexity.

Varietal Composition: 100% Syrah		
14.9% Alc.	0.69 g/100ml TA	3.40 pH
Oak Regime: 53% American Oak		38% French Oak
9% Neutral Oak	Released: May 1, 2010	

Producers of Vineyard Designated Red Table Wines