



2011 Cochon Syrah Phoenix Ranch, Napa Valley (160 Cases Produced)
(95% Syrah, 5% Viognier, **Biodynamically Grown**)

Vineyards: Phoenix Ranch located in the Napa Valley just south of the Stags Leap District and north of Coombsville. We have long been fans of the Syrah being produced from this vineyard and feel extremely blessed to have had the opportunity to start working with grapes from the ranch in 2009. From this beautiful, **bio-dynamically farmed** Syrah vineyard we feature mature clones of Syrah Noir and Estrella River (The Chapoutier Clone). This vineyard benefits from morning fog and well-drained Coombs gravelly loam soil and a long cool growing season. Vineyard Manager and Owner, Brian Phoenix has made a commitment to these clones of Syrah for his site. The 5 acres of Syrah vines are literally his backyard and he tends to them more like a garden than a vineyard. He feels it provides the perfect situation in the right vintages to make balanced, spicy, flavor packed Northern Rhone style Syrah grapes. All these elements, along with meticulous **bio-dynamic farming** practices, produce grapes of the highest quality and flavor complexity at miniscule yields.

Winemaking: The grapes were allowed to hang on the vine until they reached full maturity the last week of October. We harvested in the early morning fog and the grapes arrived cool and pristine at the winery. Both clones of the grapes were gently de-stemmed and placed in to 1/2 ton bins for cold soak and primary fermentation with their own native yeasts. 20% of the Syrah was left whole-cluster for added spice and complexity. Prior to fermentation we added frozen Viognier grapes to aid in the cold soak and highlight the vibrant fruit aromas. The grapes were punched down by hand three times daily for a period of three weeks after which the wine was pressed and transferred to a mix of new, 30 %, and seasoned French oak hogsheads, (300 Liter barrels) for malo-lactic fermentation and aging for 28 months. During this time, the wine was racked only once before being bottled unfiltered.

The Wine: Deeply colored revealing a concentrated perfume of blackcherry, black raspberry fruit and the essence of blackberry liqueur with hints of camphor, charcoal, white pepper, vanilla, toast and savory spices. Displays power and a rich, intense core of ripe black fruit as well as licorice, olive tampanade in a supple, multi-layered, silky textured package. The wine is dense, medium to full-bodied and opulent while retaining a purity and elegance.