

2010 CONTINUUM

Estate Proprietary Red Wine Napa Valley

SOURCE	REVIEWER	RATING
Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar August 2013	Stephen Tanzer	94



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(71% cabernet sauvignon, 14% cabernet franc, 11% petit verdot and 4% merlot; this is 92% from estate vines on Pritchard Hill, the highest percentage to date): Dark red-ruby. High-pitched aromas of cassis, blueberry and flowers. Lush, silky and fine-grained, with complex flavors of dark berries and graphite minerality complicated by sweet oak and piquant notes of rose petal and green apple. At once powerful and suave on the long back end, finishing with firm tannins and lingering minerality. I retasted the 2009 next to this wine with Tim Mondavi and although the '09 is a remarkably rich wine (I rated it 93 again), the 2010 is more vibrant and delineated. "The 2010 is more nuanced by virtue of its cool season," noted Mondavi. "Its delicacy and nerve are due to the cool vintage." Mondavi does what he describes as "more of a Burgundy *elevage*," using 75% oak fermenters (and the rest concrete) to get more breadth, suppler tannins and complex aromas in his wine, with just a light stirring of the lees below the cap.