

AS SEEN IN March 2013



All of our 2010's score 91+ points

93 MacLaren

2010 Judge Family Vineyards Syrah (Bennett Valley); \$38

This Sonoma-based winery, founded in 2007, specializes in cool-climate Syrah. Bennett Valley, southeast of Santa Rosa, is certainly a cooler part of Sonoma County, and the cool 2010 vintage has given owner-winemaker Steve Law a great success. The wine just oozes dramatic flavors of blackberry jam, licorice, dark chocolate, grilled bacon, fine herbs and black pepper... — S.H. (3/1/2013)

92 MacLaren (Editor's Choice)

2010 Syrah (Russian River Valley); \$28

This is the least expensive of the winery's four new 2010 Syrahs, but it's the most approachably delicious. With fine, supple tannins and a dry finish, it shows rich blackberry jam, black currant, dark chocolate, anise and pepper flavors, enhanced with sweet oak. Too bad more Syrahs aren't this good. Only 122 cases were produced, but it's worth a search. — S.H. (3/1/2013)

91 MacLaren

2010 Drouthy Neebors Syrah (Sonoma County); \$35

This curiously-named wine, made from Russian River Valley and Bennett Valley fruit, comes from old Scot words meaning "thirsty friends." The winery's club members helped put the blend together. It's a fine Syrah, bone dry, tannic and complex, with blackberry, black currant, licorice, grilled meat and black pepper flavors that drink well now. — S.H. (3/1/2013)

91 MacLaren

2010 Samantha's Vineyard Syrah (Russian River Valley); \$35

Firm tannins and intensity of concentration mark this bone dry, full-bodied Syrah. It's a little hot in alcohol, but the dark chocolate, blackberry jam, cassis liqueur, grilled bacon and black pepper flavors, with a coating of sweet, smoky oak, are delicious. You might want to give this wine a year or so in the cellar, to let everything meld together. — S.H. (3/1/2013)