

Domaine de la Terre Rouge

TERRE ROUGE® AND EASTON WINES



2011 Cabernet Franc “Monarch Mine Vineyard”, Sierra Foothills

I have always loved the Loire wines of Chinon, Bourgueil, and Samur-Champigny. Over the years, I have often tasted Cabernet Franc from the Sierra Foothill region that offers similar flavor characteristics and wine profile. The grape obviously does well here and it expresses this sense of place, not unlike our Barbera, Zinfandel, or Syrah. After giving a talk at Foothill Grape Day in 2008 and touting the virtues of Cabernet Franc to the assembled grower and winemakers, I decided to try my hand at making it that harvest. Instead of the Bordeaux or Claret-style that is commonly found in California and the Foothill region, I wanted to make the wine in the more exuberant, fruit forward, lower alcohol style that I personally enjoyed from the Loire. We decided to make the wine *au naturel* using all ambient yeasts, just whole cluster fruit, with the crushing being done by treading. We also employ neutral cooperage to emphasize freshness and place over oak influence. The wine is unfinned and unfiltered. It is enjoyable now and meant for drinking young, but it could be aged for several more years.

The wine has beautiful, aromatic, mildly herbal, Cabernet Franc fruit, with pleasant stem tannins, and a very pure juicy fruit expression from this steep and rocky Monarch Mine site at 2,500 feet near Foresthill. Drink it with some grilled sausages or some charcuterie.

13.5 % alcohol by vol.; 3.6 pH; 6.0 gm./liter total acidity.

Released: September 2013

Cases produced: 197 cases

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