

Domaine de la Terre Rouge

TERRE ROUGE® AND EASTON WINES



2008 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 with special character. The grape does well here and expresses a 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, and neutral cooperage to emphasize fruit and place over oak influence. The wine is unfinned and unfiltered. The wine 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. It makes you think of the wines of Catherine and Pierre Breton in Restigné. Drink it with some grilled sausages or some charcuterie.

This is the first of several limited production “Grapehead Club” wines that will mostly be sold to our club members first, and then only to the general public if some wine is still available. Look for our special club Pinot Noir, Barbera, Syrah, Zinfandel, and Grenache Blanc in the future.

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

Released: January 2010

Retail Price: \$20

Cases produced: 60 cases

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