



## Beekeeper Zinfandel, Madrone Springs Vineyard Rockpile Appellation, Sonoma County 2010

**Grape:** Zinfandel (Zinfandel 89% and Petite Sirah 11%)

**Vineyard:** Madrone Spring Vineyard, Dry Farmed, Sustainably Farmed.

**Appellation:** Rockpile, Sonoma County

**Winemakers:** Clay Mauritson and Ian Blackburn

**Vintage:** October 2010, Bottled - February 9, 2012

**Alcohol:** 15.4%

**Aged:** 15 months in French and American Oak

**Production:** 1308 bottles (109 cases)



Product Info & Orders  
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## About

In 2010, the steep and rocky Madrone Spring Vineyard was 12 years old and really showed its wisdom as it entered the prime of its production life. The cool growing season ramped up quickly with a punctuated and dramatic weekend of high temperatures in early October. The resulting wine was made from very low yields, less than 1 ton per acer and once again showcased the magnificent winemaking of Clay Mauritson.

The 2010 is extremely nuanced and was a joy to blend, I contemplated the assembly for months... the final composition continues to evolve and showcase the vineyards innate qualities; a spicy core, stoney minerality, and lavish fruit intensity. Zinfandel is the grape but the goal is to make a wine of the vineyard and to elevate Zinfandel in the mind of the wine taster... this is not an overripe, jammy, hedonistic, simple wine - this is a complete wine that has balance, finesse, power, style and gives attention to the long-term nature of the wines of the Rockpile Appellation. I hope this effort continues to convert Cabernet, Meritage, and Rhone fans into accepting Zinfandel as one of the more noble offerings of California... we make this wine with all the attention and quality of the great wines we position ourself around and while some may not appreciate the premium effort and costs involved, we are resolved in making great wine that requires some patience and appreciation.

**Winemaker Tasting Notes:** Great wine tells the story of the vintage and compliments its natural attributes, showcases vineyard character, and focuses on varietal definitions. This signature Rockpile wine features exotic spices, dark and intense Zinfandel fruit, and maintains a balance inside of its enormous structure that will age for years to come. The color of mixed blacks and ruby garnet, gives way to a nose of black cherry skins, asian plum and woody underbrush. 11% Petite Sirah expands the wines profile and accentuates the Zinfandels varietal spice, pepper and juicy red fruit core. A balance was established inside the firm acidity, tender tannin and stoney minerality that elevates the ripe fruit character. At the time of release (11.4.2012) the wine has had just under a year in bottle, and continues to evolve slowly and release more and more intricate nuances and flavors but will need a few years to hit its prime.

## Awards



2010 Beekeeper Zinfandel, Madrone Spring Vineyard, Rockpile, Sonoma County

93 points - 2 Puffs Connoisseurs' Guide: 🌸🌸

Intense, deeply fruity, highly ripened and layered in its mix of vital blackberry notes with a light touch of blueberry, caramelized vanilla and hints of mocha, this wine follows in the footsteps of its 3 Star sibling from the 2009 vintage. There is a rich quality here that speaks to first-class winemaking and reminds a bit of top shelf Pinot Noir, but for all that, this wine is exuberantly Zinfandel from first to last and seems likely to last in the bottle for years to come.