

BLUE * ROCK

Best Barrels is our limited production, flagship wine. True to the name, it is just what it sounds like: Best Barrels is made only when we find something that is both unique and better than anything else.

Blue Rock 2010 Best Barrels Cabernet Sauvignon

The first Best Barrels was discovered by accident. Each year, prior to bottling, winemakers Nick Goldschmidt and Kenny Kahn, taste every barrel in order to rank them. In 2003 we stumbled upon one barrel that was so outstanding that we decided to bottle all of 24 cases. It was the 2003 Estate Malbec from vines that were planted in 1987. Just recently re-tasted after seven years in the bottle, it is still an infant and it delighted us with its depth, purity, and strength.

We think that the 2010 Best Barrels Cabernet is sensational. It was produced from a cool vintage that allowed for long hang time, lower alcohol, and racy acidity. It is a 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from the oldest vines planted in 1987. These Cabernet barrels (100% new French Oak) were deep and rich and loaded with special complexity from the beginning.

One could argue that the 2010 Best Barrels is accessible at present due to its lush, silky tannins. However, it is structured and wants for a few years of bottle age that will allow for the greatness to fully emerge.



Winemakers Tasting Notes:

Kenny Kahn December 2014

The 2010 Best Barrels Cabernet went from barrel to bottle with all the promise to be a great wine and perhaps our finest Cabernet to date. I grew up drinking the great wines of Bordeaux and Burgundy. As a result, I appreciate structure, acidity, and balance and this wine, from a cool vintage, reminded me of the sexy wines of my youth. To the contrary, I do not appreciate the highly extracted, jammy and alcoholic Cabernet that has become typical of California these days.

After a year in bottle my wife and I re-tasted the wine with excitement that turned to sorrow. Gone was the balance and graceful elegance replaced by what stood before us, now a gangly teenager. I thought that I had made a mistake and decided not to release the wine.

Fortunately, great wines - like children- grow up and this makes it fascinating to taste through the stages of a wine's evolution. Not until 2014 did the disjointed elements of oak, tannin, fruit, and acid give way to a feminine beauty with a complex core of black cherry fruit typical of Blue Rock and with a structure to insure both early enjoyment and a long life in the cellar.

Enjoy now through 2030!