



Our label depicts a cairn which is a monument of stones created as a landmark. The stones allude to the stony soil composition in our four acre Syrah vineyard.

Four Cairn Vineyard is located on a 5 acre parcel that sits on the valley floor near Spring Mountain in the St. Helena Appellation. Our soil is predominately gravelly loam and sand. Air drainage from the northwest, down the face of Spring Mountain helps maintain a somewhat temperate microclimate for the location.

The Mitchell Family has grown grapes on this site continuously for over 35 years. In the early 1950's (1952 - 1954) the vineyard was first established under the direction of Andre Tchelistcheff. The vineyard was replanted to Syrah in 1992, specifically the Estrella clone, which was brought from France by Joseph Phelps in the late '70's. Most years the vineyard does not produce more than two tons to the acre and if more, the fruit is dropped to that level. The fruit ripens earlier than most valley floor Syrah, likely due to a number of causes-very fast-draining soil conditions, minimal irrigation, the clone, rootstock, and the full solar exposure (no shade). The vineyard produces medium to small berries, somewhat loose medium-sized clusters, fairly thick skins, and exhibits very dark color extraction.

The 2008 growing season produced very low yields in the vineyard with fruit of exceptional flavor and quality. The 2008 Four Cairn Syrah is a dark, fruit driven, full bodied Syrah but maintains balance and elegance. The fruit is handpicked from select vineyard rows, de-stemmed and fermented as whole berries in small bins with gentle manual punch-downs. After gentle pressing the wine is aged in French oak barrels, 50% new.

This Syrah has beautiful aromatics and jumps out of the glass with strong aromas of blueberry and blackberry fruit with subtle, balanced oak. The fruit is enhanced with a rich velvety texture showing dark blue and black fruit with subtle vanilla, chocolate and sweet toasted oak. Refined, soft tannins provide balanced structure and give incredible length to the finish. This is a classically styled new world Syrah. The wine is very enjoyable now but will develop well with a few years of cellar time.

*Production: 125 Cases
Varietal: 100% Syrah
Appellation: Napa Valley, St. Helena
Cooperage: 100% French Oak, 50% New
Alcohol: 14.7%*

*93 Points Wine Enthusiast, August 2010
94 Points Wine Advocate, December 2010*

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