

# BOUCHAINE

## 2011 SONOMA COAST ROCKIN' H SYRAH



<b>APPELLATION:</b>	Sonoma Coast
<b>MATURATION:</b>	25% new French and Hungarian oak barrels; Completed Malolactic Fermentation
<b>AGING:</b>	11 months
<b>ALCOHOL:</b>	13.0%
<b>BOTTLING DATE:</b>	December 13, 2012
<b>PH:</b>	3.40
<b>TA:</b>	6.1g/L
<b>RS:</b>	<0.5 g/L (Dry)
<b>PRODUCTION:</b>	597 cases (750mL)
<b>RETAIL PRICE:</b>	\$40/bottle; \$480/case

### ABOUT THE VINEYARDS

The Hendricks Rockin' H Vineyard is established on the banks of the Petaluma River near the San Pablo Bay. The site enjoys a very colorful history as a destination for San Franciscans via paddlewheel steamer during the roaring 20s. Viticulture dates back to the late 1800s.

In 1999 the Hendricks family purchased the property and established a modern 40 acre vineyard to take advantage of the cool marine microclimate of the southern Sonoma Coast appellation. It is planted primarily to Pinot Noir with a small amount of Syrah. Though the Pinot Noir is among the first grapes we receive at Bouchaine, the Syrah is among the last. The Syrah produces low yields of very late ripening fruit; plenty of time on the vine to soften Syrah's astringency without compromising the aroma and flavor that can be lost with over-ripening in warmer areas.

### GROWING SEASON

The 2011 growing season was even cooler than 2010. Rain and cool temperatures during spring bloom followed by clouds and morning fog

throughout the growing season set the stage for a rather sparse yield of late maturing variably sized berries and clusters. The vintage is characterized as late and little.

### VINIFICATION

A vintage that barely attains ripeness yields fruit that is more tannic with extreme acidity. This makes for very healthy ferments but gives us wines that require more barrel age to tame the acidity and astringency. Consequently the 2011 Syrah was barrel aged an additional 3 months.

### TASTING NOTES

This is a Syrah with a Pinot producer's touch. Easily the darkest wine we make but with the lowest alcohol. An uncommon freshness accompanies the rich full flavors one expects from Syrah. Not too bold, not too grapey, toasted oak overtones, a bit of savory pepper spice, a bit of bitter sweet dark chocolate.

This is Bouchaine's go-to-wine for Julia Child's Boeuf Bourguignon where she calls for most of the bottle. It's equally at home with virtually any barbecue or full flavored ripe cheeses.