



# SPRING MOUNTAIN

VINEYARD

## 2009 Estate Syrah

**Appellation:** Napa Valley-Spring Mountain District

**Vineyard:** Miravalle (elevation 1100')

**Clones:** Beaucastel and Chapoutier

**Varietal:** 100% Syrah

**Alcohol:** 14.4%

**Aging:** 14 months French oak  
50% new, 50% neutral

**Bottled:** February 2011

**Production:** 470 Cases



## Tasting Notes from Winemaker Jac Cole

*January 2012.* The introduction to this robust syrah is of intense berry fruit and toast. Floral notes and aromas of sweet tea and spice add complexity. Full on the palate, this bright, youthful wine is well structured, its concentrated fruit shaped by prominent tannins. The 2009 Syrah is multi-layered and complex with a lingering finish. Drink 2012 – 2018. In its youth, decant for 1 – 2 hours before service.

## 2009 Vintage

The 2009 vintage is the last in a three-year drought cycle. As a result of the drought, our overall yields were less than one ton of fruit per acre. We were fortunate that atypical May rains boosted our irrigation reserves for the coming season. Unusually cool temperatures through July delayed the beginning of harvest until September 18, nearly a month later than normal. Heat in September brought sauvignon blanc, chardonnay, pinot noir and merlot to ripeness. Heat-loving syrah was harvested in mid-October. By early November, the remaining red Bordeaux varieties were in. Across the varieties, wines from 2009 are lush and elegant, and they seem to be integrating earlier than those from previous vintages are.

## About Spring Mountain Vineyard

Spring Mountain Vineyard is an 850-acre estate on the eastern slopes of Spring Mountain. Over 225 acres of the estate are planted to vine, representing 135 distinct hillside vineyard blocks with many soil types, exposures and microclimates. Originally four individual 19<sup>th</sup> century Napa Valley vineyards, Miravalle, Alba, Chevalier and La Perla are now one vineyard producing estate-bottled wines. A substantial portion of the vineyard is planted in densities of over 4,000 vines per acre. Because of the diverse and challenging terrain, the vines are trained to the ancient gobelet form, a vertical training method invented in an earlier millennium by the Romans. Growing primarily Bordeaux grape varieties, the vineyard yields distinctive mountain wines that consistently display concentration, elegance and longevity. The quintessential wine from the estate is *Elvette*.