

2010 "Solus" Cabernet Sauvignon
Santa Ynez Valley

100% Cabernet Sauvignon from the Baehner-Fournier Estate

Cabernet Sauvignon, one of the world's most famous and important grape varieties, is known to produce profound wines in both its ancestral home on the left bank of the Gironde River in Bordeaux as well as in many areas of the New World, Napa Valley being particularly famous. When grown in cooler, more humid areas such as Bordeaux, the wine is often very sturdy, displaying cassis and tobacco flavors with a remarkable ability to develop with several decades of aging. In warmer, drier areas such as Napa, the wines produced tend to have enormous black currant-tinged fruit, low acid and soft tannins. At Baehner-Fournier, in the Santa Ynez Valley, we aspire to a theoretical blend of the two regions, combining some of the power and succulent fruit that the New World is known for with the structure and grace that is more characteristic of Bordeaux.

Made of 100% estate grown grapes from the Baehner-Fournier Vineyard, our 2010 "Solus" expresses the sand and gravelly-clay terroir of 2 blocks planted along the ridge that runs through the property as well as one block planted on a drastically sloped east facing hillside. The high quality French clones 191 and 341 are used exclusively. Fruit, picked at moderate levels of ripeness, is destemmed and gently crushed to small open top fermenters and, after a 3 day cold-soak, spends an average of 18 days on skins to best extract the intense flavors and aromas that the estate vineyard produces. Aging for 19 months in 20% new French oak has resulted in a polished, glossy mouthfeel and highlights of cocoa and white pepper. A light pre-bottling fining with two egg whites per barrel further softens the tannins and brings an amazingly silky feel to the wine

Lifted aromas of bing cherry and cassis give way to grace notes of raspberry liqueur. Similar flavors of cherry dominate the palate along with more of the raspberry highlights. Silky in texture, our 2010 "Solus" Cabernet Sauvignon features delicate shadings of chocolate and vivid acidity on the finish, keeping everything fresh. Lush and drinkable now, this wine should develop tobacco and cedar characters with up to 10 years of bottle age.

Nick de Luca, Winemaker

247 cases produced