



A N D R E W  
M U R R A Y  
V I N E Y A R D S

**THE WINE ADVOCATE #196, AUGUST 31, 2011**  
REVIEWED BY ANTONIO GALLONI

**2010 RGB WHITE BLEND 92 POINTS**

The 2010 RGB White Blend is 50% Grenache Blanc and 50% Roussanne, co-fermented and aged in neutral French oak barrels. The 2010 is a beautifully textured white that caresses the palate with melon, honeysuckle, ripe pears and jasmine. Soft and perfumed through to the finish, the RGB shows tons of personality and sheer class. Simply put, it is a striking wine readers will not want to miss. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014.

**2008 SYRAH TOUS LES JOURS 91 POINTS**

The 2008 Syrah Tous les Jours is a stunning bottle of wine for the money. It is a decidedly flashy, extroverted Syrah loaded with blue and black fruits, licorice and tar, all of which come together in a fat, forward style. Smoke, tar and French oak linger on the finish. This is a superb, entry-level Syrah from Andrew Murray. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014.

**2008 ESPERANCE 92 POINTS**

The 2008 Esperance is a serious, imposing wine. A blend of 60% Grenache Noir, 25% Syrah and 15% Mourvedre, the Esperance impresses for its depth, power and richness. It needs time to come together, but is immensely promising. Tar, smoke, licorice and black cherries linger on the plush finish. The Grenache and Mourvedre were sourced from Paso Robles, while the Syrah was sourced from the Santa Ynez Valley. Some of the Grenache was fermented with whole clusters and the wine was aged in 33% new oak. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018.

**2008 GRENACHE TERRA BELLA VINEYARD 92 POINTS**

The 2008 Grenache Terra Bella Vineyard is a wonderfully perfumed, juicy red that bursts onto the palate with generous dark fruit, licorice and French oak. It shows lovely depth all the way through to the textured, supple finish. Terra Bella is located on the west side of Paso Robles. Murray crafts this wine with 20% whole clusters and uses approximately 25% new oak barrels. There is a small amount (3%) of Syrah in the blend. I would give this another 6-12 months in bottle to allow for some of the oak to integrate. If opened in advance, though, it is pretty striking right now. I loved it. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016.

**2008 SYRAH RESERVE 94 POINTS**

The 2008 Syrah Reserve is an impeccable, layered wine graced with exquisite finesse from start to finish. Beautifully delineated aromatics lead to vibrant dark fruit in this layered, totally classy Syrah. Sweet floral notes add further lift on the long, crystal clear finish. This is a jewel of a wine. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2020.

## WINES OF ANDREW MURRAY VINEYARDS **CONTINUED**

### **2008 SYRAH SYRAH TERRA BELLA VINEYARD 93 POINTS**

The 2008 Syrah Terra Bella Vineyard bursts from the glass with a rush of blue and black fruit, licorice, tar and violets. The Terra Bella clearly shows the ripeness of this Paso Robles vineyard in its super-expressive, racy aromatics, silky tannins and exceptionally long, polished finish. The new oak is present but very nicely integrated. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018.

### **2008 SYRAH MCGINLEY VINEYARD 92 POINTS**

The 2008 Syrah McGinley Vineyard is a dark, earthy wine loaded with personality. Wild dark cherries, licorice and tar are some of the aromas and flavors that wrap around the palate in this bold, racy Syrah. The warm microclimate of this site in Happy Canyon gives the wine terrific depth and more than enough substance to handle a high percentage of new oak. Slightly more delicate notes come through on the finish. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2016.

### **2008 SYRAH THOMPSON VINEYARD 94 POINTS**

The 2008 Syrah Thompson Vineyard makes a fascinating contrast to the Terra Bella. Black pepper, leather, spices, violets and white flowers are some of the notes that emerge from the Thompson vineyard. It shows the freshness and tannic spine of a cold-weather Syrah but with more than enough fruit to provide balance. A long finish rounds things out in style. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2023.

### **2008 SYRAH WATCH HILL VINEYARD 92 POINTS**

The 2008 Syrah Watch Hill Vineyard is deeper and richer than the Thompson Hill. It virtually implodes on the palate with masses of blackberries, blueberries, tar and licorice. This is a decidedly plush style that is first and foremost about the sumptuousness of the fruit, while aromatic complexity and nuance play more of a supporting role. In 2008 the Watch Hill is 100% Syrah. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2020.

### **2009 SYRAH WATCH HILL VINEYARD 93 POINTS**

The 2009 Syrah Watch Hill Vineyard is a distinctly cool-climate wine endowed with considerable nuance. Open, floral aromatics meld into a core of beautifully delineated fruit in this layered, multi-dimensional Syrah. Dark raspberries, flowers, spices and star anise are some of the nuances that linger on the impeccable finish. The Watch Hill Vineyard includes 5% of Viognier (from Grundoon Vineyard) that was co-fermented. The wine was aged in 50% new oak barrels, all of which it handles quite beautifully. Ideally, this could use another year in bottle. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2021.



***Antonio Galloni remarked...***

***"THIS SET OF WINES FROM ANDREW MURRAY IS REMARKABLE FOR ITS BREADTH OF QUALITY AND SHEER VALUE."***