



Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper Vineyard

Bacio Divino

2010 Bacio Divino Cabernet Sauvignon Janzen Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper Vineyard

92 Points

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The alcohol is 15.5% and it is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from clone 337. The 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Janzen Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper Vineyard, from a site filled with more gravelly loam soils, comes across as a more masculine, muscular effort with a deep ruby/purple color and lots of wet pebble, black currant, blackberry and new oak notes. This medium to full-bodied, broodingly backward 2010 reveals firm tannins, but lots of potential and richness as long as purchasers have the patience to wait it out. It is relatively high in alcohol (15.2%) and was aged 27 months in 100% new Taransaud oak. This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon was fashioned from clone 337.

This project of Claus Janzen and his son continues to turn out a lot of seductive, rich wines that merit serious attention. If you look at his portfolio, Janzen has five separate entities, including Bacio Divino, Pazzo (his value-based blend of Bordeaux varietals with Sangiovese included), Vagabond (Syrah), Janzen (single vineyard Cabernet Sauvignons) and most recently, Lucie (the Chardonnay and Pinot Noir program). Some of the barrel samples I tasted included all the 2011 Cabernets and the Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon under the Bacio Divino label. These all appeared to be successful wines in this difficult vintage. Both the 2011 Beckstoffer cuvees are much lighter than their 2010 counterparts, but the 2011 Cloudy's Vineyard is nearly as seriously endowed and rich as the 2010. The 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve also looked very strong. I'm not sure any of them will merit 90 points or higher, but it's possible. Once they are in bottle, I'll comment on them. The three 2012s I tasted with proprietor Claus Janzen and his son, the Beckstoffer To Kalon, Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper and the Cloudy's Vineyard, were

**BECKSTOFFER VINEYARDS** POST OFFICE BOX 405 RUTHERFORD, CA 94573 phone 707-963-9471 fax 707-963-8849

*Napa Valley, Mendocino County and the Red Hills of Lake County*

blockbuster Cabernet Sauvignon fruit bombs with inky purple colors and lots of crème de cassis, spring flower, graphite and oak characteristics. They are big, thick, juicy, succulent, full-bodied reds with tannins that are largely concealed by the lavish amount of fruit, but I think the structure is there and will become increasingly apparent in bottle.