



J O R I A N H I L L

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

2008 JORIAN HILL SYRAH

In the Rhône zone: Jorian Hill



“The 2008 vintage doesn't get a lot of respect, sandwiched in between two very good vintages. But don't tell that to the folks at Jorian Hill. Indeed, at their vineyard, it was a small but concentrated crop of syrah with very low yields per acre. While there are fewer bottles to go around, this syrah shows great intensity. It begins with aromas of red and black cherry, cherry cough syrup, beef bouillon, dry aged beef, iodine, freshly ground coffee and soy sauce. Plenty of intriguing umami (as they call the sixth taste) to go around as well as the traditional berry aromas. On the palate, among the discernible flavors are sweet black cherry and blackberry, dry aged beef, pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg, caramelized sugar (from time in barrels), wood smoke and vanilla crème brûlée, all wrapped in a rich and velvety package on midpalate. The usual back-end tannins are so tightly grained they are unnoticeable. Couple all this with a pinpoint beam of keen acidity that gives it an incredible lightness of being, as if the wine were just suspended in time and floating effortlessly in your mouth, disregarding the laws of physics. Nuanced and substantial at the same time, you could pay twice as much for syrah and not get something as complex.”

Best Buy

-Dennis Schaefer
October 6, 2011