



# J O R I A N H I L L

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## SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

### JORIAN HILL

#### **In the Rhône zone: Jorian Hill**

“While I was tasting through some Santa Barbara County Rhône-style varietals, I realized there was a distinct thread that tied the wines together. First I tasted a couple of wines from Beckmen Vineyards; later that week, the wines of Jorian Hill Vineyards. Then it hit me: Both the Beckmens and the Newmans (Jorian Hill) came to grape growing and winemaking from other unrelated industries. Lack of experience hasn't seemed to hurt them; by all accounts, they have been successful in making top-quality wines.

Both Beckmen and Jorian Hill have chosen to concentrate on Rhône-style varietals: syrah, grenache, viognier and others. Both of their vineyards are in the Santa Ynez Valley, up in Ballard Canyon, not too far apart as the crow flies. Both are meticulous farmers, with Jorian Hill utilizing sustainable and organic farming methodology, while Beckmen's regime goes one step further, adding biodynamic farming to its regime. There is one major difference, though. Beckmen has a 365-acre property while Jorian Hill has seven and a half acres of vines. But perhaps the most important commonality is they **both produce delicious wines.**”