

2010 Stolpman Vineyards L'Avion

The 2010 Roussanne l'Avion (from tank) is strikingly beautiful. Mint, honeysuckle and nectarine are some of the many notes that flow from this beautifully layered, impeccable wine. The 2010 has great balance and textural finesse. In 2010, the fruit was harvested in mid-November, which is very late. The wine was fermented in new puncheons. I also tasted the 2004 and 2007. While the Avion can age, it isn't clear to me the wine gains much complexity after more than a few years in bottle. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016.

Stolpman is one of the larger estates in the Santa Ynez Valley. The property spans 220 total acres, 150 of which are under vine. This is a solid set of wines, with a number of highlights. At the same time, I feel an identifiable house style has yet to emerge. This is most evident in the Syrahs, which are all over the map...

- Antonio Galloni (August, 2012)

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2010 Stolpman Vineyards Angeli

Blackberries, tar, graphite and smoke burst onto the palate in the 2010 Syrah Angeli. It is an especially jammy, full-bodied wine endowed with tremendous depth and richness. I find less varietal character here than in some of the other Stolpman wines, but the Angeli is well-balanced, within the style. The Angeli was made with fully de-stemmed fruit. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2020.

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2010 Stolpman Vineyards Syrah

A delicious entry-level wine, the 2010 Syrah is laced with subtle yet expressive dark red berries, black pepper and flowers. This is a fabulous entry-level Syrah from Stolpman with tons of immediacy and terrific overall balance. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018.

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2010 Stolpman Vineyards Syrah Hilltops Estate

Stolpman's 2010 Syrah Hilltops is made from lower-yielding vines, and some newer plantings. It also sees a higher percentage of new oak barrels. Given the extreme elegance and sheer character of Syrah on the ranch, it seems a shame to lather the wine with so much new oak. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2020.

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2010 Stolpman Vineyards Syrah Hilltops High Density Estate

The 2010 Syrah High Density is another full-bodied, opulent wine. The integration of oak is much more successful in the High Density than in the Hilltops. Layers of black fruit, new leather and spices flesh out on the radiant, inviting finish. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2020.

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2010 Stolpman Vineyards Syrah Originals Estate

The 2010 Syrah Originals boasts gorgeous mid-palate pliancy in its expressive varietal fruit. This is another sleek, pretty wine. The 2010 impresses for its length and overall poise. The Original is made from Syrah that was grafted onto existing Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc rootstocks. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2020.

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2010 Stolpman Vineyards Syrah Ruben S Block Estate

I was quite taken with the 2010 Syrah Ruben's Block, as it is one of the purest wines in the lineup. It boasts extraordinary richness and complexity. Crushed rocks, blackberry jam, spices, licorice and new leather jump from the glass of this opulent full-throttle wine. Winemaker Sashi Moorman crafted the Ruben's Block with 100% whole clusters and aged the wine exclusively in neutral 500-liter barrels, an approach that worked beautifully here. Today, the 2010 is quite young. Ideally, it needs a few years for the tannins to start melting away. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2019.

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2010 Stolpman Vineyards Syrah Villa Angeli

The 2010 Syrah Villa Angeli possesses a striking bouquet laced with flowers, crushed rocks, blackberry jam and new leather. The use of whole clusters and Viognier gives the Villa Angeli an attractive lift that the other Stolpman Syrahs don't have. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2020.

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