



Orin Swift

Abstract Napa/Sonoma 2011

The wines of Dave Phinney and Orin-Swift Cellars capture the imagination in a way unlike almost any we know of. It all starts with some of the most intriguing and compelling labels and packaging in the business. These never fail to entice you in as to what lurks beneath the cork!

The wines themselves of course deliver on their promise as well. They are unapologetically full-flavored and intense, yet with a backbone of structure that holds it all in place. Dave is not afraid to mix vineyards, varietals and even appellations to create the desired alchemy for each and every wine. He is ultra strict with his selection, however, and will always de-classify a wine or even skip a release entirely if it is not up to his standards.

The origins of Orin Swift began while Phinney was studying abroad at the University of Florence in Italy. Like so many other college students he was wondering what to do after graduation. Fortunately for Dave, his roommate at the time was from an old wine family in the Sonoma valley and put the germ of a dream in his head: "Why not get into the wine business?"

Dave had come to appreciate wine already and enjoyed the idea of being a part of what he perceived



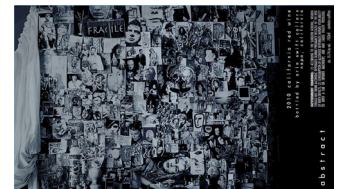
to be an honorable and honest profession. He returned to the States and tried to immerse himself in all aspects of the wine business, which was no easy task being in the middle of the desert at the University of Arizona. He ultimately found a professor in the agriculture department who was also interested in growing grapes. In the spring of 1997 the University planted a one-acre experimental block in the heart of Tucson, Arizona, a project which Dave played an integral

part. Equally important was the experience he gained while working at one of Tucson's finest retail wine shops learning the hardest part of the wine business...selling the stuff.

A few months later, he found himself with a degree in political science and working his first harvest for the Robert Mondavi Winery. Dave worked his way up from the low man on the totem pole and was hooked. The next year Dave started Orin Swift Cellars on a shoestring budget, "with two tons of purchased Zinfandel grapes and one pair of shoes" as his wife likes to say. Orin Swift has grown exponentially over the last few years adding Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc and a blended white and red to the program. In addition, Orin Swift recently purchased forty-eight acres of raw land in the hills above Oakville and they hope to someday build a winery there.

The Wine

Abstract is a blend of Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino Grenache, Petite Sirah, and Syrah primarily from hillside vineyards. The aromas are laced with crushed black fruits and Bing Cherry. A mouth coating entry leads nicely into a mid palate with excellent structure and balanced acidity. Ripe cherry and strawberry dominate the clean and long finish. Aged 10 months in new and seasoned French oak.



<u>Item Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Vintage</u>	<u>Frontline</u>	<u>Discounts</u>	<u>Order</u>
COS010	Abstract Napa/Sonoma (12/750ml)	2011	280	264/2, 256/5, 240/10	_____