

WINE IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION

*Donelan*

DONELAN FAMILY WINES

## 2011 Knights Valley Obsidian Vineyard Syrah

A testament to truly distinctive terroir, Obsidian vineyard is a constant variable – dense, concentrated, and enticing. Consistent with the past two vintages, this wine was slow to evolve aromatically and took time to stretch its legs. Despite the comparatively cooler 2011 vintage, this iteration of Obsidian has as much structure and power as the 2010, while offering a fuller mid-palate, making the wine feel more complete than previous vintages. The 2011 Obsidian opens with a fresh and effusive alpine bouquet of cedar and cinnamon sticks, then releases rich and rustic scents of blood orange and beet root. The palate is perky and vivacious with notes of tar and cherry preserves. Like every vintage of this Syrah, the 2011 is bound for a very long life of enjoyment.

### *Vineyard Notes:*

#### **Location**

Obsidian Syrah Vineyard is one of the most unique places we cultivate. A 30+ year old vineyard that grows on a steep perch rising above the Franz Valley floor in Knight's Valley, Obsidian seems to want for water even amid rainstorms. The vines struggle mightily to produce canes and leaves, the berries are tiny, and without dropping any fruit yields are unbelievably low and flavor concentration ethereal.

### *Cellar Notes:*

#### **Percentage New Oak**

33%

#### **Barrel Aging**

22 months

#### **Bottling Date**

September 6, 2013

#### **Composition**

100% Syrah

#### **Alcohol**

14.3%

#### **Production**

300 cases

*-30% Whole Cluster · Native Ferment/Native ML*

**94 pts**

*- Antonio Galloni, Vinous*

**94 pts**

*- Robert Parker,  
The Wine Advocate*

