

2009 Buck Hill Vineyard Zinfandel

100% Buck Hill Vineyard

Appellation: Sonoma County

Alcohol: 15.0%

pH: 3.49

TA: 6.8 g/L

Barrel aging: 11 months in 100% 1 and 2 year old French oak

Cases produced: 172

This is the third vintage for Sandler at Randy Apel's tiny Buck Hill Vineyard. I was introduced to Randy by one of my favorite growers, Charlie Chenoweth. This was in 2007 when I was looking for a Zinfandel vineyard that would be worthy of a vineyard designation. It's a cooler site for Zin, on the eastern side of Santa Rosa, and it's usually mid to late October before we harvest at Buck Hill. In spite of a cool and rainy harvest like 2009, Randy managed to ripen some excellent fruit, like he does every year.

The '09 Sandler Buck Hill Zin is very well-balanced with its wonderfully ripe fruit, the round tannins and natural acidity. I would say the 2009 is the perfect middle ground between the super-ripe 2007 and the leaner, but pretty 2008 Buck Hill Zins. This is a style of Zinfandel that goes well with a meal, or could be enjoyed on its own. I recommend trying this 2009 Buck Hill Zinfandel anytime, no need to wait. I predict it should drink well through 2015.

