

ROBERT SINSEY VINEYARDS

*Abraxas*

VIN DE TERROIR, SCINTILLA SONOMA VINEYARD, 2009



- Single Vineyard Vin de Terroir from RSV's Scintilla Sonoma Vineyard in Carneros
  - CCOF Certified Organic Vineyards
  - Demeter Certified Biodynamic Vineyards
  - Produced from Four Classic Alsace Varieties
  - 2009 Cuveé: 47% Pinot Gris, 23% Riesling, 17% Gewürztraminer, 13% Pinot Blanc
  - Elegant Glass Stoppered 750ml Bottles
  - Cork Finished Magnums
  - Delicate Whole-Cluster Pressed Fruit
  - Fermented Dry
  - No Barrels for a Bright, Pure and True Wine
- Cases Produced: 1664 TA: 6.1 g/l pH: 3.31 Alc: 13.8%

## WINEGROWING NOTES

Abraxas is pure from farm to table, depicting each year's dance of farmer, grape, land and vintage. RSV's organic & Biodynamic farming methods yield beautiful fruit that requires little manipulation. The goal in the cellar is to stay behind the curtain, allowing the grapes and yeasts to create unique, natural beauty that warrants no use of oenological cosmetics.

2009 was a relatively balanced, calm year in the vineyards that resulted in beautiful fruit and a good yield; a welcome circumstance after severe drought concerns, frost pressure, and poor fruit set made the previous two vintages low-yielding and challenging (though ultimately very rewarding).

What about the October rain? RSV brought in all the fragile white grapes (as well as Pinot Noir) in September, long before the storm. The grapes were perfectly ripened, with good flavor at a reasonable brix (sugar) level.

Depending on whom you ask, they either got up early or stayed up late to harvest the Gewürztraminer, the first pick of the season, well ahead of sunrise on August 29th. A week later came the Pinot Blanc and, a few days after that, the Pinot Gris - picked during a breathtaking 2:00 A.M. lightening storm. The Riesling, always the laggard, came nearly a month later. Harvesting cool firm grapes in the chilly wee hours ensures the fruit arrives at the cellar in top condition, with reduced risk of splitting, spoilage, oxidation or premature fermentation. Night harvested fruit helps make fresh, bright crisp wines with haunting aromatics.

Upon arrival, the cellar crew loaded up the press with whole-clusters of fruit and gently coaxed the juice from the grapes. A steel tank kept the juice at low temperature for a couple days to settle out solids before and long cool fermentation. Of course, no oak, not even a cork, and no malolactic fermentation.

## FINE WINES FROM ORGANIC VINES

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## Defining the Undefinable

# Abraxas...

Αβρασαξ

a·brax·as / ə'bræksəs / - noun

1. Egyptian Gnostic god of the 365 heavens. In Gnostic cosmology, the seven letters spelling its name represent each of the seven classical planets: Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. In ancient Greek, the numerical values of the letters that spell Abraxas add up to 365.
2. Ancient Greco-Roman word, thought to be the origin of abracadabra, found on charms, esp. amulets.
3. Santana's defining second album.
4. A unique, vibrant, and complex aromatic white "Vin de Terroir" from RSV's Scintilla Sonoma Vineyard in Carneros.

## TASTING NOTES

This crystalline liquid catches the light and reflects a pale platinum blond color. Verbena-spiked stone fruit leads a lightly floral aromatic blast from a well-swirled glass, joined by lime, mineral and enticing yeasty aromas. It's vibrant and fresh on the palate, but there's some contrasting weight with a sense of richness and concentration in the mouth.

A sip brings to mind rose petals, peaches, lemons and herbs. Tremendously versatile with food, culinary applications abound for Abraxas. A salumi plate works wonders. Nearly anything with pork is a safe bet and Abraxas is not afraid of a little spice, so bring on the Pad Thai, fish tacos and spicy tuna!



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