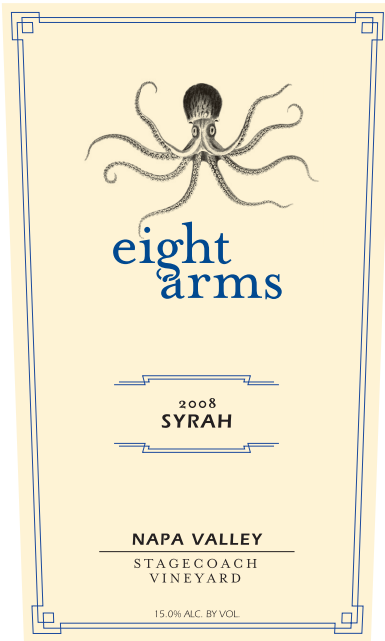


2008 Eight Arms Syrah

Stagecoach Vineyard, Napa Valley



The Wine Spies Tasting (4/2011)

Look: Deep and dark but clear garnet with subtle glistening reflections when held to the light. Garnet along the edges and when swirled initially, tightly-spaced and slow fat legs hang on the side of the glass while subsequent swirls leaves faster and thinner legs.

Smell: Rich and redolent aromas of ripe blackberry and black cherry layer with a solid spice and pepper component, notes of smokey oak and other aromatic woods and hints of floral violets adds complexity.

Feel: This full bodied dry wines is initially smooth then at mid palate the firm tannins, ample acidity and textured minerality grab a hold along with some spice making this wine chewy and expansive.

Taste: Deep flavors of black cherry, blackberry and other dark fruit blend with spice and pepper, smokey oak, shaved dark chocolate and toasted vanilla. Rich and generous that softens as it breathes but still retains its solid tannin and mineral backbone even 24 hours after opening.

Finish: Extremely long with flavorful ripe and plump dark fruit lingering along with the textured minerality.

Conclusion: Like a decadent dessert in a glass, the 2008 Eight Arms Cellars Napa Valley Syrah really delivers a well orchestrated blend of fruit, spice, chocolate and toasted vanilla from the nose through to the finish. We enjoyed this wine with grilled burgers on a lingering warm spring evening. A bold but extremely well balanced wine with dark flavors, deep aromatics and an intriguing textured mouth feel that is sure to please.

