



B. Kosuge Wines

2010 "The Habitat" Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

"The Habitat" returns after a one year absence. The name of this wine is meant to evoke the place, and more specifically, the environment (but "The Environment" didn't seem like a very good name for a wine) where the grapes were grown. I have long been intrigued by Biodynamic farming. While there are some, even many, who would dismiss it as voodoo, I keep coming back to the notion that everything we do in the vineyard has an impact, if not on the wine then on the land or the health of those who tend the vines. Delving a bit further into that particular kind of understanding seems like a worthy use of my time, and what better way than to make wine from grapes that are farmed according to the principals of biodynamics? I must point out that the wine in this bottle is from two vineyards, only one of which is biodynamically farmed. So I can not claim that this is a biodynamically grown wine, since only part of it is. But I am learning, and in a few years, who knows?

2010 was a tricky year, late ripening, somewhat atypical for California. Difficult for the grape grower, to be sure. But it played right into the hands of those of us who are trying to be more circumspect with respect to ripeness levels, The 2010 Habitat is medium bodied, pure and expressive. The grapes were ripe (this is California, after all) but the wine still has a freshness and liveliness that speak of the cool year (and perhaps the biodynamic farming?). 75 cases made, \$45/bottle